

**PROCEEDINGS
of
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION**



**Aug. 9–12, 2025
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS
OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

COMMUNICATION

from

**THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT,
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

transmitting

2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO
36 U.S.C. 50308 AND 44 U.S.C. 1332



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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

Jan. 2, 2026

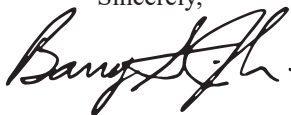
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As business manager of DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and as secretary of its national convention, I hereby certify as to the authenticity of the reports and proceedings of our national convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada August 9–12, 2025, and submit them to you through the office of this organization located in Washington, D.C., to be printed as a House document as originally authorized by 44 U.S.C. 1332 and in fulfillment of 36 U.S.C. 50308.

The national convention proceedings include an independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 2024, as described in 36 U.S.C. 10101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry A. Jesinoski", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant
Chief Executive Officer

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NATIONAL OFFICERS 2025–2026
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

Coleman F. Nee, 1 Leeward Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Senior Vice Commander

John F. Donovan, 135 N. Woodland Drive, Conway, AR 72032

1st Jr. Vice Commander

James A. Procunier, 501 Deep Water Drive SE, Bolivia, NC 28422

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Glenn Hohman, 4330 S Hackberry Drive, Sierra Vista AZ 85650

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Brenda Reed, 225 Madonna Boulevard, Tierra Verde FL 33715

4th Jr. Vice Commander

Adam Greathouse, 33 Eagle Road, Kenna, WV 25248

National Judge Advocate

Michael E. Dobmeier, 404 25th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND 58201

National Chaplain

Debra Varner-Dancer, 404 Lorain Street, Birmingham, AL 35224

Past National Commander

Daniel Contreras, 4702 Halbrent Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025–2026

First District	Deb Olson, Massachusetts
Second District	Michael Martin, New York
Third District	Lisa Sloan, Vermont
Fourth District	Mark Donberger, Alabama
Fifth District	William Hines, Pennsylvania
Sixth District	Nachee Miller, District of Columbia
Seventh District	Thomas Ayala, Florida
Eighth District	Michael Lee Harman II, Tennessee
Ninth District	Willard Cunningham Jr., South Carolina
Tenth District	Ricky Barenbrugge, Michigan
Eleventh District	James M. Bailey, Ohio
Twelfth District	Alfred C. Reynolds, Illinois
Thirteenth District	George Hall, Kentucky
Fourteenth District	Scott Berndt, Minnesota
Fifteenth District	Jamie Jakub, Nebraska
Sixteenth District	Michael Kerr, California
Seventeenth District	John Carmona, Colorado
Eighteenth District	Donald J Brown Jr., Hawaii
Nineteenth District	Harvey Dixon, Idaho
Twentieth District	Paul Shook, Texas
Twenty-first District	Danny Oliver, Oklahoma



Coleman Nee
National Commander
2025–2026
Disabled American Veterans



Daniel Contreras
National Commander
2024–2025
Disabled American Veterans

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2024–2025
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

Daniel Contreras, 4702 Halbrent Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Senior Vice Commander

Coleman F. Nee, 1 Leeward Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

1st Jr. Vice Commander

John F. Donovan, 135 N. Woodland Drive, Conway, AR 72032

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Cynthia Madison, 314 Pebble Creek Drive, Suffolk, VA 23435

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

James A. Procnier, 501 Deep Water Drive SE, Bolivia, NC 28422

4th Jr. Vice Commander

Glenn Hohman, 4330 S Hackberry Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

National Judge Advocate

Michael E. Dobmeier, 404 25th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND 58201

National Chaplain

Debra Varner-Dancer, 404 Lorain Street, Birmingham, AL 35224

Past National Commander

Nancy G. Espinosa, 1369 Country Park Drive, Kaysville, UT 84037

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024–2025

First District	Francis F. Whitty, Massachusetts
Second District	Michael Martin, New York
Third District	Joyce Gaddis, Maine
Fourth District	Mark Donberger, Delaware
Fifth District	Leonard M. Johnson, Pennsylvania
Sixth District	Nachee Miller, District of Columbia
Seventh District	Mary Ann Keckler, Florida
Eighth District	Michael Lee Harman III, Tennessee
Ninth District	Leon Booker, Georgia
Tenth District	Ricky Barenbrugge, Michigan
Eleventh District	Dennis F. Hanneman, Ohio
Twelfth District	Alfred C. Reynolds, Illinois
Thirteenth District	Eric D. McGinnis, Indiana
Fourteenth District	Scott Berndt, Minnesota
Fifteenth District	David C. Gerke, Missouri
Sixteenth District	Michael Kerr, California
Seventeenth District	Jerry D. Estes, Utah
Eighteenth District	Donald J. Brown Jr., Hawaii
Nineteenth District	Brigitte G. Marker, Washington
Twentieth District	Paul Shook, Texas
Twenty-first District	VACANT

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1921–22:	Robert S. Marx, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1960)
1922–23:	C. Hamilton Cook, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1935)
1923–24:	James A. McFarland, Dalton, Georgia (deceased 1942)
1924–25:	Frank J. Irwin, New York, New York (deceased 1942)
1925–26:	John W. Mahan, Bozeman, Montana (deceased 1947)
1926–27:	John V. Clinkin, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955)
1927–28:	William E. Tate, Atlanta, Georgia (deceased 1949)
1928–29:	Millard W. Rice, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980)
1929–30:	William J. Murphy, Santa Ana, California (deceased 1931)
1930–31:	H. H. Weimer, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955)
1931–32:	E. Claude Babcock, Washington, D.C. (deceased 1958)
1932–33:	William Conley, Los Angeles, California (deceased 1941)
1933–34:	Joe W. McQueen, Kansas City, Missouri (deceased 1969)
1934–35:	Volney P. Mooney Jr., Los Angeles, California (deceased 1945)
1935–36:	Marvin A. Harlan, El Paso, Texas (deceased 1970)
1936–37:	M. Froome Barbour, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1985)
1937–38:	Maple T. Harl, Denver, Colorado (deceased 1957)
1938–39:	Owen Galvin, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1956)
1939–40:	Lewis J. Murphy, South Bend, Indiana (deceased 1966)
1940–41:	Vincent E. Schoeck, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1966)
Aug. 16, 1941–	
Aug. 15, 1943:	Lawrence R. Melton, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1978)
Aug. 15, 1943–	
Sept. 20, 1943:	William J. Dodd, Jersey City, New Jersey (deceased 1957)
1943–44:	James L. Monahan, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980)
1944–45:	Milton D. Cohn, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1968)
1945–46:	Dow V. Walker, Newport, Oregon (deceased 1957)
1946–47:	Lloyd F. Oleson, Ventura, California (deceased 1982)
1947–48:	John L. Golob, Hibbing, Minnesota (deceased 1976)
1948–49:	Jonathon M. Wainwright, San Antonio, Texas (deceased 1953)
1949–50:	David M. Brown, Akron, Ohio (deceased 1982)
1950–51:	Boniface R. Maile, Grosse Pointe, Michigan (deceased 2002)
1951–52:	Ewing W. Mays, Little Rock, Arkansas (deceased 1994)
1952–53:	Floyd L. Ming, Bakersfield, California (deceased 1975)
1953–54:	Howard W. Watts, Indianapolis, Indiana (deceased 1977)
1954–55:	Alfred L. English, Shelbyville, Tennessee (deceased 1987)
1955–56:	Melvin J. Maas, Chevy Chase, Maryland (deceased 1964)
1956–57:	Joseph F. Burke, Bayonne, New Jersey (deceased 1970)
1957–58:	Paul E. Frederick Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 2015)
1958–59:	David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)
1959–60:	Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas (deceased 1994)
1960–61:	William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1990)
1961–62:	Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977)
1962–63:	Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado (deceased 2013)
1963–64:	Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan (deceased 1986)
1964–65:	William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982)
1965–66:	Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 2014)
1966–67:	John W. Unger Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970)
1967–68:	Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969)
1968–69:	Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington (deceased 1999)
1969–70:	Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California (deceased 1980)
1970–71:	Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas (deceased 2013)
1971–72:	Edward T. Conroy, Bowie, Maryland (deceased 1982)
1972–73:	Jack O. Hicks, Larue, Ohio (deceased 2021)
1973–74:	John T. Soave, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1984)
1974–75:	Walter T. Greaney, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)

1975–76: Lyle C. Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota (deceased 2013)
 1976–77: Frank J. Randazzo, East Meadow, New York (deceased 2010)
 1977–78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas (deceased 2005)
 1978–79: Billy O. Hightower, Grand Junction, Colorado (deceased 2015)
 1979–80: Paul L. Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 1993)
 1980–81: Stan Pealer, Holts Summit, Missouri (deceased 2018)
 1981–82: Sherman E. Roodzant, Santa Ana, California
 1982–83: Edward G. Galian, New York, New York (deceased 2002)
 1983–84: Dennis A. Joyner, Apollo, Pennsylvania
 1984–85: Chad Colley, Barling, Arkansas (deceased 2021)
 1985–86: Albert H. Linden Jr., Camp Springs, Maryland
 1986–87: Kenneth G. Musselmann, Huntington Beach, California (deceased 2009)
 1987–88: Gene A. Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 1988–89: Billy E. Kirby, Clifton, Texas
 1989–90: Vernon V. Cardosi, Saugus, Massachusetts
 1990–91: Joseph E. Andry, Westerville, Ohio (deceased 2010)
 1991–92: Cleveland Jordan, Washington, D.C. (deceased 2019)
 1992–93: Joseph C. Zengerle, Washington, D.C.
 1993–94: Richard E. Marbes, Green Bay, Wisconsin
 1994–95: Donald A. Sioss, Miller Place, New York
 1995–96: Thomas A. McMasters, III, Sterling Hts., Michigan (deceased 2008)
 1996–97: Gregory C. Reed, Indianapolis, Indiana
 1997–98: Harry R. McDonald Jr., Crestview, Florida (deceased 2008)
 1998–99: Andrew A. Kistler, Franklin, Pennsylvania (deceased 2018)
 1999–00: Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, North Dakota
 2000–01: Armando C. Albarran, San Antonio, Texas
 2001–02: George H. Steese Jr., Fresno, California
 2002–03: Edward R. Heath Sr., Mechanic Falls, Maine (deceased 2005)
 2003–04: Alan W. Bowers, Royalston, Massachusetts (deceased 2024)
 2004–05: James E. Sursely, Apopka, Florida (deceased 2021)
 2005–06: Paul W. Jackson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
 2006–07: Bradley S. Barton, Tualatin, Oregon
 2007–08: Robert T. Reynolds, Alexandria, Virginia
 2008–09: Raymond E. Dempsey, Des Plaines, Illinois
 2009–10: Roberto Barrera, Del Rio, Texas
 2010–11: Wallace E. Tyson, Fayetteville, North Carolina (deceased 2025)
 2011–12: Donald L. Samuels, Gallatin, Tennessee
 2012–13: Larry A. Polzin, Sylmar, California (deceased 2020)
 2013–14: Joseph W. Johnston, Williamsburg, Ohio
 2014–15: Ron F. Hope, Clemmons, North Carolina
 2015–16: Moses A. McIntosh Jr., Hephzibah, Georgia
 2016–17: David W. Riley, Semmes, Alabama
 2017–18: Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Vallejo, California
 2018–19: Dennis R. Nixon, China Spring, Texas
 2019–21: Stephen Whitehead, Rosemount, Minnesota
 2021–22: Andrew Marshall, Palm Harbor, Florida
 2022–23: Joseph Parsetich, Great Falls, Montana
 2023–24: Nancy G. Espinosa, Kaysville, Utah
 2024–25: Daniel Contraras, Sherman Oaks, California

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 103RD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA | AUG. 9–12, 2025

Joint Opening Session

Aug. 9, 2025

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans 103rd National Convention and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 102nd National Convention convened in the convened in the Rivoli A-B, Vendome A-B Ballrooms of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday morning, Aug. 9, 2025, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Daniel Contreras.

COMMANDER DANIEL CONTRERAS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I now call to order the 103rd DAV and DAV Auxiliary National Convention. I'm honored to invite National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski to read the Call to Convention. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT BARRY JESINOSKI: Thank you. The Constitution and Bylaws of DAV, Disabled American Veterans, state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an annual national convention, composed of the national officers, and representatives of our state departments and chapters.

As national adjutant and secretary for this event, I am honored to officially declare the 103rd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened in Las Vegas, Nevada, at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 9th, 2025. (Applause)

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Barry. Please silence your cell phones and other mobile devices. (Three raps of the gavel) Please rise.

Here to present Colors is the Black Mountain Chapter 12 Honor Guard from Henderson, Nevada. Members including Neil Johnson, Ricardo, Portillo, Cal Hagen, Phil Webb, Jan Kopaks, and Kathy Arment. Present Colors.

(Whereupon, the Honor Guard presented and posted the colors.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Ladies and gentlemen, here to perform our national anthem is Navy veteran and violinist Amanda Wirtz. She is a decorated U.S. Navy cryptologic analyst who served in combat deployments in both Iraq and Yugoslavia.

After being medically separated due to a rare, incurable disease, she continued her mission as a researcher with the Veterans Medical Research Foundation, turning personal adversity into public impact.

She's volunteered over 17,000 hours in humanitarian services. Her dedication has earned her a multitude of honors, including California State Assembly Veteran of the Year, and Ms. Veteran of America.

Above all, she is a proud member of our organization, a past Department of California Disabled American Veteran of the Year. She is honored to stand among the resilient, courageous and compassionate community that embodies the very heart of our organization.

Please join me in welcoming to the stage Amanda Wirtz.

(Whereupon, Ms. Wirtz advanced to the stage and performed the National Anthem, followed by a round of applause, after which Ms. Wirtz withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Wow. Thank you, Amanda, for that truly beautiful performance. Now, please remain standing and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by one rap of the gavel.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the Chapter 12 Honor Guard from the Department of Nevada for getting our 103rd national convention started in the right way. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Color Guard withdrew.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would like to call on our national chaplain, Debra VARNER-DANCER, to lead us in prayer.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN DEBRA VARNER-DANCER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. Almighty Creator, it's once and again that we ask of you as we begin this great convention, knowing that your presence is always with us. As we go about our day and the rest of this convention we ask for your guidance, your wisdom, your knowledge, as we participate and encourage and go about our daily being.

We do give you thanks for all of those that have arrived with expectation that this time shall be greater and better. We receive it by faith. These and all things we ask in your name. And the people said—

(Response of "Amen," after which the chaplain withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: (One rap of the gavel) Please be seated. Thank you, chaplain. I would now like to introduce our first speaker, the Nevada Department of Veterans Services Director, Colonel Mary Devine.

Colonel Devine recently retired from the Nevada National Guard after serving for 36 years. Her last assignment with the guard was as Chief-of-Staff to the Adjutant General, prior to that she was the Property and Fiscal Officer, overseeing \$1 billion in federal assets.

Colonel Devine has also served as Brigade Commander in the 991st Aviation Troop Command and Commander of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. As a public servant, she chaired the board of directors for the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra.

Colonel Devine took her post as director following her appointment by Governor Lombardo in March of 2024. Please welcome Colonel Devine.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Colonel Devine advanced to the lectern.)

COLONEL MARY L. DEVINE: Thank you. Good morning, DAV, and welcome to Nevada.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COLONEL DEVINE: Thank you so much for the invitation and thank you so much for the work that you do in support of our veterans. And thank you to your families for everything that they do to support your dreams.

I am blessed to stand before you as the director for Nevada Department of Veterans Services. It's been an amazing ride and one of the biggest honors of my career.

I am also humbled to stand before you as a fellow veteran, a staunch advocate, and a big supporter of what you do, and also as a lifetime member of the DAV. (Applause)

I bring greetings from Governor Lombardo. He would like you to know how deeply he appreciates and how thankful he is for the work that you do, both in uniform and in support of our veterans and their community.

You are an inspiration to so many, including our younger generation who we know will follow in your footsteps and lead this amazing organization.

We, at the department, are committed to never leave a sister or a brother behind. And we are committed to partner with our veterans service organizations.

Governor Lombardo and I would like to say, again, thank you to the DAV leadership and its members, its volunteers and supporters. Your steadfast commitment to improving the lives of our veterans is not going unnoticed.

Our mission at the Nevada Department of Veterans Services aligns closely with yours. We ensure that every veteran receives the care, benefits and recognition they have so earned and deserve.

We can't do that alone. We have to do that through collaboration and partnership. So every step of the way our partners at DAV and other veterans' service organizations are of the utmost priority.

Let's talk a little bit about claims. We know that the power of the claim can change a life of a veteran as we connect them to their earned benefits. This includes the work of our veterans' service officers. They are our very foundation.

They are the backbone of our organization and they serve as change agents in every commitment and contact that they have with our veterans. They make a difference in every phone call, in every email,

and every contact. They are at the forefront of our never-ending, asymmetric battle with connecting our veterans to their benefits.

But our VSOs cannot be everywhere. That's why the partnership and collaboration between all of our veterans' service organizations and their veterans' service officers is so important.

One of the biggest initiatives here in Nevada that we are working on is providing additional training to all VSOs, to all certified VSOs, to make sure that we can bring the best and the most current regulations and training to everyone so we can continue to change lives.

In fact, this partnership is so important to us that—I know he's around here somewhere—Jerome Washington and I talk about this almost every week. He is a steadfast supporter and he helps me and helps our department change lives every day.

We want to make sure that the men and women are not only accredited through the VA, but that the VSOs have the skills and knowledge that they need to be successful to help our veterans with whatever comes their way.

Again, connecting our veterans to their earned benefits takes that one-on-one connection and the time and personal touch that are provided by our veterans' service officers.

We are proud to partner and outreach with the DAV where we make a difference in connections in so many different ways. In addition to filing claims, we work together at many outreach events and our department is a huge supporter of homeless, of assisting our homeless or soon to be potentially unhoused, and working on suicide prevention, among our top priorities.

Like NDVS, DAV is, also serves as an important safety net for our veterans. Among all of the things that you do, you also make sure that our veterans in rural areas have transportation to their medical appointments. We are so very honored to have partnered with you to bring new vans and transportation to our local, to our rural areas.

You also serve as an important voice. I am proud to say and to share that Nevada is expanding our Southern Nevada Veterans Home and through the assistance of DAV and your voice in helping our legislators understand that project of about \$170 million will be coming our way very soon.

We'll modernize that 20-year old facility from a 180-bed facility to a 120-bed facility that will all have private rooms, private bathrooms, and access to many more activities.

In addition to that, your voice has assisted us with building a third home in Nevada, out by the Decatur DMV. That's a \$270 million project that will bring another 120 beds for our veterans and all kinds of activities and amazing amenities to make sure that we get our veterans the support that they need.

Your help and support in the Nevada Legislature is so appreciated. You were there and up to the task and showed up every time we had a significant piece of legislation going in front of that body.

We appreciate your support in making sure that the state veterans' cemeteries in Fernley and Boulder City have the equipment and upkeep and the funding that they need for expansion to keep up with our demand.

As long as there are veterans in need, our work is not done. Our collaboration and combined arms focus to create overlapping areas of support and service are critical.

I want to take a moment to welcome home our Vietnam veterans and all other veterans that served domestically and abroad. You are part of an amazing team and you are part of something that has truly made a difference and makes our country as great as it is. (Applause)

Thank you for turning hardship into hope as we are proud to walk beside the DAV in every mission. Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, your continued leadership in this new chapter of service to others.

I wish you a productive convention and thank you, again, for this opportunity to be with you. I could not be more proud of the people in this room and everything that you represent.

Again, God bless our veterans' community, the great State of Nevada, and this great nation. Thank you so much for this opportunity. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Colonel Devine withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Colonel Devine, for the great work that you do and for all the veterans here in the great State of Nevada.

Our next guest runs the city that is host to this year's gathering, the Honorable Shelley Berkley. Not only is she mayor of Las Vegas, she is also a lifelong champion for veterans.

Before becoming mayor in 2024, she served seven terms in the United States House of Representatives where she was a powerful voice on the Veterans Affairs Committee.

One of her proudest achievements in Congress was leading the charge to build the Veterans Administration medical complex in Southern Nevada, ensuring veterans have access to the high-quality healthcare they deserve.

Throughout her career in public service, from the Nevada Legislature to Congress and higher education leadership, Mayor Berkley has consistently fought for better healthcare access, expanded medical education, and support for those who served.

A native of Las Vegas, she was the first in her family to attend college, graduating from U.N.L.V. as student body president. Mayor Berkley is also a proud mother and grandmother, and continues to serve her community with deep compassion and unwavering commitment to those who served our nation.

Please welcome the mayor of Las Vegas, the Honorable Shelley Berkley. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Mayor Berkley advanced to the lectern.)

THE HONORABLE SHELLEY BERKLEY: Thank you so much. Oh, my goodness. This is an extraordinary turnout. As mayor of Las Vegas I want to welcome each and every one of you to the most extraordinary city on the planet.

We love you. We need you. We salute you. And we want you out in the casinos as soon as this meeting is over. (Laughter) Our economy is a little soft right now so—believe me, this is a sight for sore eyes.

You are in one of my favorite hotels on the Las Vegas Strip. My family has a lot of history here. My son got married here. I love it and I'm so glad to welcome you to Paris Las Vegas in the most exciting city on the planet. (Applause)

I have a deep reverence for the people in this room. And I want to tell you why. I am second-generation American. My grandparents, on both sides, one from Greece, one from the Russia-Poland border, fled Europe before World War II in order to escape the Nazis and certain death. They had no place to go but to come to America.

America not only gave my family the chance to survive, this country has given my family a chance to thrive. I am eternally grateful. It is a country I stand with, I am proud of, and I am proud to represent the United States as mayor of the City of Las Vegas. (Applause)

I wouldn't be here today without the sacrifices that everybody in this room has made. And I have said throughout the duration of my time in public office as a congresswoman and now as mayor how important it is to stand up with our vets and make sure you get every possible—what would I call it—expectation of what you deserve for having served your country and served so well. (Applause)

Healthcare, transportation, job training, mental health issues, everything that needs to be done for our vets needs to be done without sacrificing and without cutting a penny. (Applause)

The new VA hospital in North Las Vegas, which was in my Congressional District when I was serving, was created, in large part, because of this organization. I became very friendly when I was sitting on the Veterans Affairs Committee with the local representative of the DAV.

He was wheelchair bound. He had served his country with distinction. He was injured and in that wheelchair because of his service to the United States. We had no healthcare facilities in Las Vegas at the time he was serving. And there was a time that he needed to seek serious medical help and had to go to another state in order to have his healthcare needs met.

I never saw him again after he left. And I realized at that time that no veteran should have to travel out-of-state in order to get the healthcare they deserve and that we owe them. And we needed to have a hospital here in Las Vegas. (Applause)

So on behalf of the countless of tens of thousands of veterans in Southern Nevada who have had their healthcare needs met at our brand new, state-of-the-art hospital, I thank everybody in this room for making a difference in the lives of veterans who you may never meet, who you may never know, but they owe you and this organization a tremendous debt of gratitude. (Applause)

Now, before I leave—they gave me four minutes. I'm taking a few minutes more—I would be remiss as mayor of Las Vegas if I didn't tell you how much we appreciate you being here right now. Tourism is a little soft and the fact that we've got 2200 veterans, citizens, and my fellow Americans here in Las Vegas makes me so happy I can't even begin to talk about it.

So remember, after the speeches, after the awards, after the scholarship presentations—very, very important thing that this organization does—we have a whole world out there waiting to see you. So enjoy the amenities of Las Vegas: great, great restaurants, great food, great entertainment. And I promise you, if you gamble you will go home a winner. (Laughter)

And in the unlikely—unlikely that you do not win—then just know that the school children in the State of Nevada are very appreciative of your efforts. (Laughter)

On behalf of everybody in Southern Nevada, I want to welcome you. I want to thank you. And I want to let you know how grateful we are to everybody in this room for your selfless service, your contributions, and your sacrifices. They are noted and appreciated every single day. God bless. God bless America. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Mayor Berkley. Thank you for your work in Congress to support our veterans ahead of everything.

MAYOR BERKLEY: Oh, thank you.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you for your gracious hospitality here. But they always say, right, it's gambling, not winning. Right? (Laughter)

MAYOR BERKLEY: Oh, no, no, no. It's definitely gambling.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: It's just gambling. Okay.

MAYOR BERKLEY: Thanks so much.

(Whereupon, Mayor Berkely withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, it's my pleasure to introduce our 2025 national convention chair, Department of Nevada Adjutant Jerome Washington.

Jerome proudly served in the Army's 101st Airborne division from 2001 to 2006. He was medically discharged following a deployment to Iraq. He joined DAV's ranks in 2007 and has held numerous leadership positions since.

Please welcome Jerome Washington to the stage. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the convention chairman advanced to the lectern while people called out "Love you Jerome.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN JEROME WASHINGTON: Love you back. Thank you, Commander Contreras, for that very kind introduction. Good morning, DAV, and the Auxiliary.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WASHINGTON: On behalf of the Department of Nevada, welcome to Las Vegas.

To National Commander Contreras, National Adjutant Jesinoski, national line officers, Auxiliary National Commander Easley, Auxiliary National Adjutant Clos, Auxiliary national line officers, distinguished guests, and my fellow DAV members, it's an honor to be here with you.

There's nothing quite like the feeling you get from being surrounded by thousands of fellow veterans and those supporters committed to a cause much greater than themselves.

I'm pleased to welcome you here to America's playground. I remember last convention in Phoenix, where we were wishing for a city just as hot. (Laughter) I've got two words for you: Jack. Pot. (Laughter)

I am pleased to tell you that there is an infinite amount of fun things to do in this city. From the vibrant nightlife to grand casinos and endless entertainment options, Las Vegas is a landscape like no other.

With over 300 vows exchanged a day, you're officially in one of the top wedding destinations in the world. If you decide to tie the knot while you're here, congratulations and please stop by and visit one of our national service officers for a special wedding gift. (Laughter) They don't have any rice to throw, but they'll absolutely help you update your records with the VA. (Laughter)

For those wanting to escape the neon glow, there's plenty of natural beauty nearby. Some of my favorites include the Bellagio Conservatory, Botanical Gardens, the Red Rock Canyon, and the Cowboy Trails for horseback riding.

For those interested in unique museums and installations, we have the Neon Museum, the Pinball Hall of Fame, the Mob Museum, AREA 15, or Seven Magic Mountains, which is an art installation just outside the city.

As we look ahead over the next four days, there are plenty of ways to stay busy. However, and most importantly, we cannot forget why we are here. This convention gives us the opportunity not just to enjoy each other's company but to reenergize, to reconnect, and to remember the powerful mission we're all a part of.

You will hear several reminders this week of how critical DAV's mission is right now. And it's true. Every voice here matters as we continue to advocate for disabled veterans across the country.

Our promise to men and women of all generations who served and sacrificed for our great nation is one worth fighting for. And we will not stop until it's fulfilled.

So, as you enjoy the lights, the sights, and even an Elvis impersonator welcoming you into marital bliss, keep that mission close to your heart.

Thank you for everything that you do for veterans, their families, our future.

In the city lights, let's make memories that shine even brighter. Thank you and have a wonderful time in Las Vegas. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the convention chairman withdrew from the stage.)

MR. JOHN "ROB" LEWIS: And now your DAV Auxiliary staff and national officers: National Auxiliary Adjutant Bunny Clos of Kentucky; (Applause) National Chaplain Austin Blanton of Arkansas; (Applause) Judge Advocate Paula Raymond of Illinois; (Applause)

Fourth Junior Vice-Commander June Casher of Kentucky; (Applause) Third Junior Vice-Commander Carolyn Harris of Alabama; (Applause) Second Junior Vice-Commander Terry Grabowski of New York; (Applause) First Junior Vice-Commander Kathleen Wenthe of Louisiana; (Applause)

Senior Vice-Commander Melissa Pierce of Iowa; (Applause) your Past Auxiliary National Commander AnneMarie Hurley of Massachusetts; (Applause) your DAV Auxiliary National Commander Christopher Easley of Oklahoma. (Applause)

And now your DAV national officers: your Past National Commander and Chairman of the Board, from Kaysville, Utah, Nancy Espinosa; hailing from Birmingham, Alabama, our National Chaplain Debra VARNER-DANCER; (Applause)

the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, our National Judge Advocate Mike Dobmeier; (Applause) your Fourth Junior Vice-Commander from Sierra Vista, Arizona, Glenn Hohman; (Applause) your Third Junior Vice-Commander from Bolivia, North Carolina, James Procnier; (Applause)

your Second Junior Vice-Commander from Portsmouth, Virginia, Cynthia Madison; (Applause) your First Junior Vice-Commander from Conway, Arkansas, John Donovan; (Applause) and, finally, welcome to the stage from Boston, Massachusetts, your Senior Vice-Commander Coleman Nee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the senior vice-commander advanced to the lectern.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COLEMAN NEE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER NEE: Everybody pumped up?

(Response of "Yes.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER NEE: All right. Well, right now I have the great privilege and honor of introducing my friend, your national commander, Daniel Contreras. Yes, we can clap for Dan. Come on. (Applause)

Commander Contreras is a service-connected disabled veteran from the United States Army. (Cheers) He joined DAV in 1999 and has served at all levels of DAV.

His professional career with DAV began in 2000 as a national service officer. He was promoted to National Western Area supervisor for Area 9 in 2006. And then in 2008 he became the adjutant and treasurer for the DAV Department of California. He's a proud member of Chapter 24 in Ventura.

He served on the DAV National Executive Committee, spent a decade on the DAV National Service Foundation's board of directors, and was also appointed to chair the California-Mexican American Veterans Memorial Committee by both California Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown.

Last year, to our great pleasure, Commander Contreras was elected by you, our DAV members, to lead our national organization at our convention in Phoenix. And he has done an outstanding job. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, even though my good friend Dan roots for a certain team in L.A. that's blue and white (Laughter) and has all the good Red Sox players on them, winning them World Series, I honestly, there is no greater friend to our veteran or someone more enthusiastic about serving you and our cause than this gentleman right here. And it's with my great pleasure that I introduce to you, your national commander, Dan Contreras. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the senior vice-commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern while "Can't Stop the Feeling" played.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Come on. Get fired up. Wow. You know, I picked that walk-on song and I wanted to walk up on that song. Right? (Applause) Thank you, Coleman, and good morning and welcome to Las Vegas.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: It's such an incredible place. It's incredible. The sights. The sounds. So many sounds. Right? (Laughter) So many, many slot machines. And if you know me, that makes me happy.

Matter of fact, Barry, if I'm missing and needed on stage, just send somebody to the Buffalo Grand slots because I'm going to be chasing the triple multiplier. How many of you play the buffalo one? Yes. (Laughter)

But what makes Las Vegas truly incredible to me isn't the spectacle going on around. No. It's you. It's you. It's all of you. This is more than a convention. It's our family reunion. And to spend this time with all of you, well, that beats, that beats a jackpot any day. And it's the perfect end to a year where you so graciously entrusted me to be your voice.

And serving as your national commander has taken me to the tops of mountains and into the heart of our nation's capital. You've invited me into your departments and chapters and into your communities to see the work that you do for veterans. And I was impressed before. But seeing it firsthand, I'm in awe.

And one example of many I could give, I was just in Helena, Montana, and the community there loves DAV. They had over 140 local sponsors for their department's golf fundraiser—140. And you don't get that much support by being anonymous. You get it by being present, by being influential, by owning your footprint.

To all of you, the commitment I've seen you give to our fellow veterans, their families and caregivers in so many ways reinforces why no organization serves veterans better than DAV. (Applause)

And this year you've shared your victories and your personal triumphs. People like my friend Devora Exline, a Navy veteran I spent time with at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. She is one of the most positive, fiercely determined people you'll ever have the pleasure to meet.

For years, she had to use a sit-ski to participate at the clinic because of her injuries. And this year she vowed to ski standing again. Overcoming self-doubt, injuries, medical setbacks, she did it. She stood and skied into the waiting arms of her coach.

(Whereupon, the video of Devora Exline skiing was viewed.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Tears of joy on her face. And she shares a resilience I saw in every veteran at that clinic. And like them all, Devora's story didn't end at the bottom of that hill. It continues. She decided to become a certified adaptive sports coach to help other ill and injured veterans find their own victories. Is there a more perfect reflection of what we represent as DAV?

I've gotten so many opportunities to witness your victories this past year. And to celebrate them with you, man, that's a great feeling for me because hope is infectious and laughter, yes laughter, it brings us together.

And I laughed all over the place and especially in Rhode Island from trying things like scrod and fluff, or even trying my first Buc-ees Beaver Nuggets in Georgia. (Laughter) Delicious, aren't they? (Applause) Go Georgia and Texas. I know I've seen them all over the place now.

But, also, singing karaoke: New York, Nevada, Wisconsin, Minnesota. In fact, what state haven't I sang karaoke in? But, honestly, you know I'll turn any party into a karaoke party. Hit it. No, I'm kidding. (Laughter) But there's the themed convention costumes, too, like the time I showed up in the Department of Mississippi's convention in a ghillie suit. Where's Carol Davis? Hey, you still owe me that push-up contest Carol Davis, wherever you are.

But through all that fun, I've learned a lot. And first, first, I really want you to hear this: The strongest DAV departments and chapters, the ones that are really thriving, are the ones that are super-connected with their Auxiliary departments and units. (Applause) They're the ones that operate as an integrated team.

And as welcome as I've been with DAV, I've been so welcomed by the Auxiliary's hospitality everywhere I've been and grateful to engage with so many of their members. They are doing such a great job of bringing the spouses and the children of veterans in, giving them a deeper understanding of the work DAV does and giving them the opportunity to serve and make a difference, too.

I also have learned a lot from what I like to call "power mingling" and being the last guy in the room. These conversations were some of the most powerful ones I had all year because you elected me to be your voice. And for me to do that, I had to listen first. You shared your burdens.

And off stage and away from any microphones, lights, cameras so many of you have opened up about your own struggles, your setbacks, your frustrations. And from the bottom of my heart I tell you it was an honor and a privilege to hear what you had to say because you trusted me to take those stories and use them to influence our advocacy work.

And there are brushstrokes of every conversation I've had with each of you in every word I've spoken on behalf of this organization because a government of "We the people" needs to hear the unvarnished truth from those who sacrificed to protect it—the good and the bad. (Applause)

And we put that truth out this past year when we released a report called Ending the Wait for Toxic Exposed Veterans. And partnering with the Military Officers Association of America, we laid out a blueprint for the government to dramatically reform how it handles service-related toxic exposures.

Our veterans deserve timely, equitable access to lifesaving care and benefits. And no one should have to wait decades to get it. (Applause)

This report revealed that the average time a toxic-exposed veteran has to wait to receive their full range of healthcare and benefits is just over 34 years. Thirty-four years for formal recognition by the government that exposure occurred and made our veterans sick.

To suffer that long from a life-threatening disease or illness because of being exposed during service is unacceptable and I know you agree with me on that. (Applause)

But, listen, your stories are at the heart of that report. And change will come so please keep telling your stories and continue that fight.

The other battle we fought this past year was with mother nature. Across the country we saw a lot of natural disasters, including catastrophic floods in the South and fires in my home state of California.

And even before the flames were doused and the flood waters receded, I witnessed our national service officers and chapter members rush to support our fellow veterans. They brought supplies and donations and financial assistance and help to those in need. Your compassion for others is unparalleled. Never lose that. Also, never forget you battle buddy. Stay united.

A couple of months ago I was invited by the Robert Irvine Foundation to join 65 other disabled veterans going to Scotland to take part in the Cateran Yomp, an incredible test of endurance and grit.

Our group, along with 1,000 other veterans from around the world, trekked 24 grueling miles up and down the rugged terrain of the Scottish Highlands. It was cold. It was rainy. It even hailed at one point. It was one of the most difficult physical things many of us had ever done.

Little secret: the most I had ever hiked was seven miles on a golf course. (Laughter) But you know what, yes, it was one of the most difficult challenges, but also one of the most rewarding. Because what we all quickly discovered is that the Yomp isn't designed to be completed alone.

It demanded that we encourage each other. It demanded that we helped each other. It demanded unity by a bond, by a common goal. And it was the perfect reflection of the ethos of DAV. Even in the face of trial and adversity, our spirit remains unbreakable and we remain united.

Each year, the person elected to this post is invited to testify in front of a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. We're offered the opportunity to lay out our legislative priorities, the things that matter most to you, before the lawmakers of the nation.

The conversations, the debate, the resolutions, the stories, everything that happens at your chapter, department, and convention meetings, that's what forms what is said into those few, but critical minutes.

And here's something that you may not have known about that time: I barely slept the night before, in bed by 8:30, up at 11:00, then again at 1:00 and again and again. In those quiet moments, my mind kept racing.

It's not like I wasn't prepared, quite the opposite. Because thanks to Barry, Cody, Randy and our team in Washington and at the national headquarters who helped me with that, I walked into that room confident the message we wanted to deliver was going to be heard loud and clear. I was awake because of the energy of our purpose, our mission. That's what kept me up.

I see that same energy in so many of you. You will not fall asleep while you hold the watch. And as long as you have breath in your lungs you will hold accountable those whose duty it is to honor the sacred promise of our nation, the promise that was made to its defenders.

It's never about any individual. And at that mid-winter conference, you proved it. You were in lock-step as you met with lawmakers and shared our priorities. You ensured that there was no misunderstanding of what we are fighting for. You made me so proud to be a DAV member that day. And it was the honor of a lifetime to be there with you.

This year wasn't without its challenges. There's always speedbumps that arise every election cycle. But it was also challenging personally. And many of you know that my wife Teresa is battling Stage 4 cancer. And I've stood by her side as she's endured surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, infusions, and a medical trial.

As you can imagine, it hasn't been easy for her. But I've never been more prouder of someone in my life. (Standing Ovation) Yes. Teresa, the grace and courage and determination you've shown through all you've endured, and even when no one is watching, has been inspiring to me. And with your blessing, it's been an inspiration to others, too.

You and I had many conversations about the running for national commander. We knew what it would entail if I was elected: the frequent travel, the long hours, the responsibility. And you encouraged me anyway, knowing that sharing our experience might help others because we are not alone.

So many of you in this room have faced a similar diagnosis or have a loved one who has. And there are others here who are caregivers or rely on one every day. And I have spoken to so many of you this past year. I've listened as you've opened up about the challenges and the misconceptions people have about your role as a caregiver.

I've also heard about the light-hearted moments, as well, because there are a lot of those, too. You've taught me a lot in these conversations and I've allowed it to shape my thoughts. And I hope our family's story has helped you, as well.

And please know that you are not alone. You are not invisible. I see you. We see you. And DAV is here to walk alongside of you. (Applause)

I am so proud of how DAV Caregivers has been a place people turn to for that help and is a community that continues to grow.

I was able to participate in caregiver events through our adaptive sports program and hearing from these unsung heroes and seeing the impact of our efforts to support them is a part of my term and DAV history I will treasure forever.

DAV is invested in this for the long-term.

It was a great honor to have been your national commander when DAV Caregiver Support was elevated to the program level at our national headquarters. It shows the special focus DAV is directing toward this important new service initiative. It's a huge win for the veterans we serve and a major victory to the thousands who deserve and need this transformative support.

To every caregiver in this room: thank you for your service. You are not alone. (Applause)

And please, if there's only one thing you do this entire convention, sign up for DAV Caregiver Support. I promise it will make a big difference in your life.

And as I close, I just want to say how inspiring this past year has been. It's been incredible to be around this organization such a long time, as a member, a service officer, and a department leader. I don't belong to any other organizations except for DAV. Never have and probably never will. (Applause)

Getting to see it from the perspective as national commander reinforces that feeling entirely. It's been clear to me that we are in a position to serve more veterans, more families, more caregivers, and more survivors than ever before. (Applause)

We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I'm confident as we elect our next leaders this week we will remain focused, driven, and most importantly, successful in taking care of ill and injured veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

And, lastly, I'd like to acknowledge some very important people in my life who have helped me along this journey. And, once again, first and foremost, my wife Teresa. (Applause) Teresa, you have been my steady light, graceful in your struggle, unwavering in your love.

And even when facing your own pain you lifted me, you believed in me, and made space for my dreams. Your courage inspired me. And your love, given so freely, will forever live in my heart. I'm endlessly thankful for your strength, your laughter, and the quiet way you've always stood by me. Thank you, baby. (Applause)

To my son Robert, who couldn't be here, grandchildren, busy stuff, you know. But he was with me last year. I look forward to catching as many championship Dodgers, Number 1 team right now in the West, better than the Red Sox, (Laughter) but, anyway—guess what? I'm going to have a lot more time to do that.

He has blessed me, us, with four beautiful grandchildren. And he is an awesome father. I think that's his greatest gift and so I'm so proud of him.

My three brothers, Ruben, Andrew and David, thank you for your service. And if you were all here, I'm also apologizing for teasing—I'm so bad—last year.

Thank you to them and my sisters, Betty and Irma, for their guidance and support.

To my Chief-of-Staff Enrique Ramos, (Applause) thank you for your incredible support. And you know what? I must admit in the toughest moments it's good to have a Marine by your side. (Applause)

Thank you to everyone at the Department of California. You continue to serve our state, our chapters, and members so well. Thank you for everything you do.

To our national line officers: Coleman, John, Cynthia, Jim and Glenn, always remember in DAV we make a life by staying in the room, by holding space for stories that break your heart, by standing in the gap when someone's world is falling apart.

You are the "boots on the ground." You are the hands that heal, the heart that reminds someone that they still matter. Thank you for the year of great support. I know you will all do great things. (Applause)

To my good friend, our National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski, I cannot express how much your leadership, mentorship and friendship has meant to me over the years. Thank you so much, Barry. (Applause)

To National Headquarters Executive Director Cody VanBoxel and your team in Erlanger as well as Washington Headquarters Executive Director Randy Reese and your team in D.C.—a lot of time in Washington—you all were so gracious with your time, support, and counsel during my tenure. From the preparation to execution to every detail in between, there is no better team of people helping veterans every day. Every day. (Applause)

To you, thank you, our members, for all the work that you do in your own communities because that's where the work gets done. You're here for a purpose. We are a family but I know that you have some cousins that you haven't met yet.

So, honestly, when I say I'm a voice for you, if I can and I will, I will stop and talk to you. And the last man in the room thing, I will try but, honestly, take advantage of this time. Let's get fired up. This is DAV and we're going to have a good convention, aren't we? (Applause) Thank you.

God bless you, the DAV, and the United States of America. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)
(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the senior vice-commander returned to the lectern.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER NEE: Oh, my God, except for the Red Sox, what inspiring words. (Laughter) Commander, your fierce and passionate leadership has been an inspiration to this entire organization. I can assure you that.

Most importantly, I just want to say I think what the commander did is he brought fun back to this organization because it's been a long time since the pandemic and everything else.

Throughout your long tenure as a DAV advocate and leader, you've never wavered. You've always put the needs of our veterans and families first in all that you do. Thank you for your mentorship, Dan—I really mean that—your generosity, and really for you just for setting such a high bar for us behind you. It means a lot and it means a lot to the organization and we will do your proud.

I move to accept the national commander's report. May I have a second?

MR. ENRIQUE RAMOS: Enrique Ramos, California, seconds that motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER NEE: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Whereupon, the senior vice-commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: And now let me introduce the governing body of this fine organization, your DAV National Executive Committee. Ladies and gentlemen of the National Executive Committee, please stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the members of the DAV National Executive Committee stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: And I ask that the Auxiliary National Executive Committee stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the members of the DAV Auxiliary National Executive Committee stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you. It now gives me tremendous pleasure to introduce a friend to all our nation's veterans and their family members, Auxiliary National Commander Christopher Easley. (Applause)

His dedication to DAV and the Auxiliary began early on. He grew up going to Unit 5 meetings with his mother and grandmother in San Antonio. It was here that he learned the profound meaning of being an American from the veterans and their families, shaping his lifelong commitment of service.

Chris' extensive involvement within the DAV Auxiliary spans decades and multiple states. In Texas he held various unit and district office positions, including all elected positions in Texas District 5 and served on numerous state committees. His leadership role escalated to include state chaplain, junior vice, senior vice, and, ultimately, state commander of Texas.

Nationally, Chris contributed significantly as a member of the National Executive Committee for District 20 and chaired the National Finance Committee during his second term, also serving on the interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Beyond Chris' leadership, he is an accomplished musician, playing the violin—or fiddle, depending on which part of the country you came home from. He's even performed at the Grand Ole Opry.

An Eagle Scout, he has also dedicated his time to mentoring future Eagle Scouts, embodying his belief that the organization must use its collective voice to champion the rights and benefits of disabled veterans and their families.

Ladies and gentlemen, your DAV Auxiliary National Commander, Christopher Easley.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the DAV Auxiliary commander advanced to the lectern amid a standing ovation.)

AUXILIARY COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER J. EASLEY: Good morning my DAV and Auxiliary family.

(Response of "Good morning.")

AUXILIARY COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER J. EASLEY: Thank you, Commander Contreras, for that warm introduction and for your leadership, compassion and clear vision. It's been a privilege to stand beside you during a year filled with growth and unity. Together, DAV and the Auxiliary have deepened our commitment to the veterans and the families we serve.

This year as Auxiliary national commander has been an indescribable honor. As I prepare to step away, I want to share a piece of my heart that truly reflects what the DAV Auxiliary means to me.

My journey with the DAV Auxiliary didn't start when I became a member. It began before I was born. My grandfather, a World War II veteran, passed away in the hospital while my mom was in early labor with me. In that moment of profound loss, DAV was there within 15 minutes, guiding my grandma through her darkest hour. My grandma never forgot that support, and neither has our family.

Just two months later, in June, I attended my very first DAV meeting. I literally grew up in this organization. San Antonio was my home, and my entire social circle consisted of my mom and my grandma's friends from the Auxiliary.

To me, it was simple: you served, you got hurt, and then you came back to help others who served. They taught me what it meant to be an American, the meaning of patriotism, and the depth of sacrifice. This deep personal history is why the power of family and the next generation is so important to me.

For years we've heard that if we can bring the spouse, we'll get the veteran. And while that's true, I've always believed if we can get the children involved, we'll get the parents. (Applause) Junior membership isn't just about numbers. It's about building the foundation of our future.

The veterans and families who are the future leaders at DAV and the Auxiliary are younger. Both the veterans and their spouses are very busy building careers and raising families. It might not be until later in life that they truly feel the impact of their service and seek the support that they need.

If we can show them the involvement in DAV and the Auxiliary is open to them, a place where your kids are welcomed and engaged, then we open the door to supporting the entire family unit.

Imagine the impact of kids encouraging their parents to attend meetings, families participating in our programs together, and a new generation growing up with the same understanding of service and sacrifice that was instilled in many of us. This is how we ensure the legacy of the DAV Auxiliary continues to thrive.

My theme for this year, "One Voice, United in Service," speaks directly to this. Just like a single voice can inspire a chorus, involving our youngest members strengthens our collective voice. It allows us to speak louder and more clearly for those veterans who can't speak for themselves.

Thank you for being part of my family and welcoming me and for your unwavering dedication. Let's continue to be the welcoming home for all of our military families, ensuring our voice remains strong and our future is bright. (Applause)

It is one of the greatest honors as Auxiliary commander to announce our Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year. And for 2025 we truly have a gem. She's not only a past State of Georgia commander, but she's also the absolute best of the Auxiliary.

Veterans across the Atlanta metro area are living better lives because of this year's honoree. For years she's been the driving force behind the Fort McPherson coat drive, saving us all from our "avalanche of forgotten parkas" while helping those in need.

She's always there ready to lend a hand for stand-downs at the Atlanta Regional Hospital. She even spearheaded the very first clothing closet for homeless veterans at Fort McPherson. And staying with my theme of family and the next generation, she brought in her unit's first junior member, who happened to be her niece.

Her list of community service is truly extensive. But really, but what really defines her is her quiet demeanor paired with unshaken determination. Simply put, she is the best among the best.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct privilege to present the DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year, Mrs. Larether T. Colbert. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the Auxiliary Member of the Year advanced to the lectern.)

MRS. LARETHER T. COLBERT: Good morning, DAV, DAV Auxiliary. Thank you all for being here today. And, of course, I'm a little nervous but I'm on the big stage so thank you all.

To the DAV national commanders, staff, members, and all who took time to put this together for your leadership it has been an honor and a privilege to work with you through a tremendous year of service and advocacy for the men and women who have served our great nation.

Thank you all, again. And may God continue to bless veterans, their families, DAV and Auxiliary. And to my family and to Georgia, where you at? (Cheers) Thank you all. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mrs. Colbert withdrew from the lectern and an official photograph was taken, after which the Auxiliary commander returned to the lectern.)

AUXILIARY COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you, Lorether. And thank you, Commander Contreras, for your leadership. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you throughout a tremendous year of service and advocacy for the men and women who have served our great nation.

Thank you all, again, and may God continue to bless our veterans, their families, DAV, and the Auxiliary and, as always, may God bless America. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the DAV Auxiliary commander withdrew from and the DAV commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: It is my great honor to introduce a leader who has dedicated his life to service, both in uniform and in government.

As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Doug Collins brings not only a deep understanding of policy and public service, but a fierce commitment to the well-being of our nation's veterans.

A former member of Congress and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Secretary Collins has long championed the needs of those who served, ensuring they receive the care, support and respect they have earned.

Under his leadership, the VA has continued to modernize, expand access to care, and address some of the most pressing challenges facing today's veterans and their families.

Please join me in welcoming a friend to all who have served, the 12th Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Secretary Collins advanced to the podium amid a standing ovation.)

THE HONORABLE DOUG COLLINS: Well, hello, everybody.

(Response of "Hello.")

SECRETARY COLLINS: Oh, come on. I know it's Vegas and last night was a little just short-term but, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SECRETARY COLLINS: There we go. I bet my marines are in the house. (Hoo-ah) All I got to do is say, "Marines" and I hear a bark. We're all good. Look, it's great to be back here with you because you know almost six months ago I gave my first speech to any of our VSOs to any other place we have in Washington, D.C., to DAV. (Applause)

So today let's just call it a six-month checkup or check-in, however you want to look at it. But before I do that I do have to recognize, you know, your National Adjutant Barry but also Randy Reese who has been a friend and one up in D.C. with us.

But I also have to say, Daniel, your leadership, your heart that came through so clearly in just a few moments ago with your family and your beautiful bride who is here, I just want to say from my perspective as the Secretary, thank you for what you have meant to this organization but, more importantly, what you meant to our country. I think it's time for one more round of applause for Daniel. (Applause) Thank you.

But I did see something as I was looking there, Daniel, I do have to bring up an issue. Did you all see the pictures with the Dodger hat on? (Laughter) I just happened to be from a little place called Atlanta and America's team is the Braves. Okay? (Laughter) Or, also, if you're getting ready for football season, Go Dogs. (Barking) Oh, I got my barking going here. Did I honestly just hear barking?

(Response of "Yes.")

SECRETARY COLLINS: God, I'm so happy to be here. (Laughter) I tell you what, when we deal in an organization the size of the VA and the things that I look back on six months ago when I spoke to you in Washington, I'm here to tell you that my commitment has not changed. It's not wavered.

In fact, if anything it has gotten stronger, that I am totally committed that the VA is a service organization with only one service that it has and that is to take care of the veterans of the United States of America and that is all we're going to be about. (Applause)

Now, we can go through a lot of things. And, look, the one thing that I have found out is that when you improve one area, somebody else didn't get improved and so we're still struggling. You say, well, it didn't happen for me. All I can say is this, I got six months in. We've done some good stuff.

In just this past six months we have opened over a dozen new clinics and facilities across this country, putting people in places closer to the people and our clinics closer to where you need to be.

We've taken the seriously—taken the idea of taking and spending \$800 million and improving our facilities across the country that are making it easier for our veterans to give but also to do the one thing that we're supposed to do and that was something that surprised me when I first came in.

And what surprised me when I first came in was that we are the largest healthcare organization in the world. What I found out, though was, is we are not acting like it.

And I'm going to tell you as secretary the one question I have had all along, anybody that comes to see me, is why not because our veterans, our only people we serve deserve nothing less than the

standard for healthcare to be found at the VA, not looking at somewhere else and asking why. We are going to continue to make sure you are taken care of. (Applause)

Now, I can count some blessings and I can count some successes and I will continue to do so. I will have to say, though, this does bring me back to my old Southern Baptist pastor days. (Laughter) I have the congregation. And I have the choir. (Laughter) Please rise and get to turn to Number 464 in your hymnal. We're going to sing—no. (Laughter)

You know, when we look at what we can do and I count those blessings, and how many days do we not do that? I think about so many times—my bride is here, my wife, Lisa is here. And she's kept me going for 37 years and is within—I think about in our life how many times we don't count our blessings.

And I have my staff who tell me, "Doug," he said "we're glad"—Mr. Secretary. They call me Doug and they say, "Doug, look, these are some good things. Why are we not celebrating?"

I say, "We're not celebrating. I don't do a good job celebrating because there is always what's to come." What's next? We've made it here. Can we make it further? So let's just for a moment pause for the first six months and talk about some good things.

One of the things we've done on the VHA side, our healthcare side, is just in the past couple of weeks we took your referrals to community care and lengthened them in 30 more specialties from six months to one year so we can have better continuity of care and not have to keep going back and forth to get you what you need to get. (Applause)

Now there is going to be more to that and I'm getting to it. And for some of you already know, well, if the doctor wants to do something else I've got to run back to the VA. Don't worry. I'm on it.

We're going to make a system where our VA healthcare is the world class model that it is but we're also going to be in partnership where you would want your healthcare in the community and make sure that if the VA is paying for it, then, by gosh, it's going to be the best that you can get and we're going to hold them accountable to it. (Applause)

Now, something else that we looked at with community care is we decided also—I was hearing from a lot of you and I was in Congress when we passed choice. I was in Congress when we passed the MISSION Act. I've been in Congress when Congress tries to do what Congress does and I was there and we were doing everything.

But we always in Congress sometimes tend to overemphasize things that we can measure and I call it the "Big color crayon" issue because in Congress and some of you are laughing because I can talk about them because I was one. We like big color crayons and we like small paper. Can I get an amen from my Marines again? (Hoo-ah) There we go.

And so it's easy to measure stuff and so we wanted to measure wait times and how long was it getting done and these kinds of things. You know what it is? If we offer and tell you that if you need community care service and you want a community doctor, then you know we looked at it and we said, you know, what? We're still going to have those. That's what the law says.

But we're also going to add best medical interest so that you and your doctor can decide what is best for you. And if that means staying in the VA, you get to stay at the VA.

And if that means going to find a doctor, best medical interest overrides it and sends you to the doctor that you need to be at. That's just end. That's an easy way to look at that. You, as the veteran, deserve the choice and we're going to give it to you.

Now, at the same point, I'm also challenging all of our hospitals. I tell you a funny story. It was funny for me. It wasn't funny for them. About a month ago we had a big meeting in Dallas. Now, the funny part was is I had all of our hospital directors, all your VAMC directors, and all your vision leadership come in to Dallas, Texas, and we told them that they were coming in to discuss, you know, what's going on and they were getting their training and, you know, just different stuff that's going on.

What we didn't tell them was that I was coming. (Laughter) And, amazingly enough, and for those of you who have been around Washington long enough will get this last, this next statement. It did not leak that I was coming. (Laughter) At the VA we do not leak, we are an open sieve. (Laughter)

And so we get there in Dallas and they all come in. They get their meal. They do their Pledge of Allegiance. They do their National Anthem and then all of a sudden the voice of god behind the scenes says, "And please welcome to the stage the 12th Secretary of Veterans Affairs." You could have heard a pin drop. (Laughter)

And half of them got up and half of them said, do I stand up? Do I not get up? I don't know what to do. You know. I spent two-and-a-half hours explaining my heart to where I want to see them grow and where I want them to take care of you.

And when they left, they left with these messages: Number 1. They're senior leaders, act like it. Don't keep putting off things that you can do then. I told them, everyone, in your own facilities if you have

issues, fix them now. For those of us who have been in the military, what level do you fix problems? At the highest or the lowest?

(Response of "Lowest.")

SECRETARY COLLINS: Lowest level. And I had center directors thinking that they had to wait on the high from D.C. to do something. Bull. Do you job. You're a senior leader. That was the first thing that I said to do. (Applause)

If it gets to my desk it better have billion dollar implications and better be worth my time. And I don't mean that arrogantly. I mean it honestly. We've got to get back to management system within the VA.

And so for two-and-a-half hours I reminded them of one thing. Number 1. Motion causes friction and change is never easy. And that's true. And over the past few months we've had a lot of change.

Now some of those changes have been understood; some have not been misunderstood but I'm not going to stand before you and tell you that what we're doing is something I wouldn't do over because we've had, as I shared in Washington, D.C., six months ago, we've had one pattern that we've looked at and that was Washington telling you, the veterans—excuse me—Washington tell you, the veterans, what is best for you.

We've had a lot of, "We're going to put more money and more people" and then, really, if it makes it better, it doesn't make it better, it's okay because next year we'll just put something or more money and more people at it.

What we found was is that wasn't working because your wait times were going up, your backlogs were getting deeper and we wasn't moving. So, yes, we did have a look, as the President asked us to do, to change the structure and the force of the VA.

But I am here to tell you, also, that RIF is now over. We're not doing any more of our reduction in force. In fact, we were able to accomplish it, although contrary to popular opinion and what people talk about me in the media, we've fired no one to get there.

This was done through voluntary early retirement or separation for those who wanted to go somewhere else and through attrition. And we did so while still protecting 350,000-plus positions in our hospitals and our VA disability benefits and also in our NCA to make sure that if they're working with our veterans that those continuity of care is there.

You want to know what's happened in those last few months as I've been getting the reports? The wait times across the VA in our hospitals has went down in most areas. Our mental health has dropped almost 22 days for referrals during this same time.

And, also, here is you a good one for many of you who have dealt with this for years, the disability backlog claim was at 260,000 when I spoke to you in February; I'm here to tell you that it's just above 160,000 today, less than six months later of 125 days. We are doing what we said we would do. (Applause)

I come to this place saying I am on your side. I come to this place saying I want the same values as all of our VSOs and especially DAV has wanted. And, that is to get honest assessment of your disability claims and honest assessment of your healthcare and making sure that you can do it yourself.

I have a goal that in my heart there should be no veteran—and I mean this. And this may make you uncomfortable so I'm glad you're all sitting. This may make you uncomfortable and I think it should be true.

There should not be a veteran who has served this country who has earned the benefits of the VA that has to go to anybody, anywhere to get the veteran services that they earned. It should be simple enough and easy enough that they can put it together and get what you have already earned. We've got to make it simpler to earn and do the benefits that you have. (Applause)

I'm tired of putting out forms that we don't need. I don't need your military history. Just tell me your name, your Social Security Number and your DD-214. Guess what? I can find your military history. (Applause) I don't need for you to continue to fill out forms over and over.

And, by the way, we're looking at your health claims. Why do I have to go back and look at claims and then say, well, we didn't get this piece of paper in but it clearly says in the medical record that your benefit should have been awarded?

You know what? We're going to start looking at it now and we're going to go straight to the medical record instead of doing a lot of things that we're doing. We're doing it by electronic. We're doing it by AI. We're doing it by people looking at it and saying, how can we make this better?

I only have one goal and one desire is to make our veteran's life easier for the benefits that you've already earned and I hope you can get along and help me with doing that. (Applause)

Why do we make it hard? Because in our society today we like control. From my desk I only have one control and that's the veteran. I only have one thought, it's does it make our veterans lives easier?

Because now, for the next few minutes, and I can talk about the things we've done but, frankly, you can read that. I'll send you a paper. (Laughter)

I'm going to spend the next few minutes sort of outlining, Daniel, what you and others have wanted for this organization, but, also, I want for all those who served with me. I want a rebirth in how we look at the veteran population in our country.

I'm tired of the veteran population in our country feel like that they have to go and beg or borrow and get what they've already earned. (Applause)

I'm tired of the veteran population—and many times out there in public when they come up and they tell us, "Thank you for your service" because they don't know what else to say, I'd rather them say, "Thank you for keeping us free. Thank you for raising your right hand. Thank you for doing what we would not do. We are thankful that you went and did it." I'm ready for veterans to stand up and be proud of what they have done. (Applause)

No longer do I want to see veterans portrayed as a victim or be portrayed as somebody who can't do it. You are powerful. You are strong. Your disability does not define you. You define you. And you have a Secretary who believes in you. (Applause)

I need your help. I don't want anybody looking down on us. I don't want anybody to take our families and our friends, our caregivers in this room and feeling sorry for us. No, we have the greatest country in the world. We raised our right hand. Our families, in essence, raised their right hand.

And this is the VA that says the VA is no longer about a group of 450,000 people; it is 450,000 people committed to one thing and one thing only: to taking care of the greatest people in this world. And you represent them. (Applause)

So I will take the heat. I will take the comments. If you really want to know cute ones, go read my comments on all my social media. My wife still loves me and my shih tzu thinks I'm a pretty good dog dad so I'm okay.

But I will never let—and for some of you who notice this—I will never let Congress, the media, or anyone else lie about the VA or in any way do anything to our veterans without having to answer to me first. I'm tired of the day that the VA is the whipping post.

I'm tired of the day that we are just going to blame it all and say, "Oh, the VA did this. We'll fix it." No, I'm ready to for mid leaders and elected leadership to stand up and help us do what we need to do and that is to take care of veterans and quit blaming other things and get together and say what is best for the veteran and that is our only standard. (Applause)

So, yes, I'm going to fight for you. We'll agree and we'll disagree. But ain't that what a family is for? I never had—I have one brother. Sometimes he wishes he was an only child but that's okay. (Laughter) I'm the oldest. They were so happy with me they had him so that's what I tell him. (Laughter)

But you know David and I don't always get along. You don't always get along. In your units when you were back in service you didn't always get along but you know what? If somebody picks on David, they picked on me. And we, as a group, together, have to start encouraging each other and our organizations come together.

You have my commitment that my heart is right. My intentions are good. And that I will do anything we can under the statute—and where statute needs to be changed, I will try to fix it. But you're going to see more and more things at the VA change.

You're going to see more and more things of policy and regulation that when they come to me and they say this is what we're doing I tell them why and if they can't answer me why, they better look to start understanding that we're going to change some stuff because if we're doing it just for our own sake, then those days are over.

Because when I look at this, I look at this as four years under President Trump who gave me the ability to do this, who wants an economy for everybody, who wants to rise all ships, but when he told me he had one thing, he said, "Doug, go take care of my veterans." I took it very seriously. That's my one standing order: take care of veterans.

And so I'm not wed to a system that I grew up in. I'm not wed to an organization that I deeply love. And there is not a VA employee that I will not defend when they're doing their job right. There is also not a VA employee that I will not hold accountable when they are not doing their job right.

Because it's not about us. It's not about a jobs program. It's about a service organization that says our one and only mission is you. So you're the grassroots. You have leadership that's amazing. But I need you to go back into your communities and I need you to help me.

I need you to find other veterans who may have been left aside, other veterans who don't have the community and family that you do have, that you have here at this convention.

Because we're still losing too many of our sons and daughters every day to those who see no light at the end of the tunnel who have decided that no longer what they served and what they committed to serve is enough for them. They feel alone. They feel desperate. And they are taking their own lives in numbers that are untenable and not sustainable, in my opinion.

I am right now doing a complete rewrite of our suicide prevention program. I'm doing a complete rewrite on how we're spending money. And we're going to everywhere we can, every nook, every cranny, every dark alley, to find every veteran we possibly can and say, please understand that your service is valuable and that we're not going to let—over 60 percent of the people who are taking their life by suicide have never been touched with the VA.

I will not sleep until that number changes but I need your help. I need you to reach out to your battle buddy. I need you to reach out to your wingmen. I need you to make sure that you're contacting those around you because without your help don't complain about what's happening if you're not helping.

Don't complain about the number if you haven't reached out to somebody who needs a cup of coffee or just a phone call or maybe a text. I commit to you right here on this stage that my job will always be to look forward. I will look forward to how we can help our veterans. I will look forward to how we can make the VA the most efficient organization that it possibly can be and be the standard.

As Randy and I were talking about backstage, be the standard of healthcare in this country. And our benefits will be one in which you are helped and not always the, as I heard when I first came in, "What do you get at VBA?" "No." Guess what? I don't deal with no if we can get the yes. And we're going to do everything we can to make sure that that happens.

And for our cemeteries, we're going to make sure that dignity still prevails. And that your families are there and they're taken care of.

So for me, thank you for listening. For me and my family and the family at the VA, we only have one purpose and one purpose only and that is to serve you. That is to make sure our veterans get what they have earned. I tell this all the time. You ought to see the press' face when I say this.

I tell them, "I'm tired of hearing what veterans are given. I'm tired of hearing about what veterans have been given." I remind them every day the veteran is not given anything. The veteran has earned every bit of it when they raised their right hand. (Applause) God bless you. Thank you so much.

(Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Secretary Collins withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Secretary Collins. Thank you for your invitation to have DAV at the table and also for your continued passion to put veterans first.

Now it's my pleasure to bring to the stage Coyle Render from the Ford Motor Company.

(Whereupon, "Ford Truck Man" played as Mr. Render advanced to the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Coyle Render, Commercial Vehicle Growth Manager at Ford Motor Company, has been part of the organization for nearly eleven years. Prior to that, he served for six years in the Marines, reaching the rank of Sergeant.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Mr. Render advanced to the lectern.)

MR. COYLE RENDER: Thank you National Commander Contreras. It's truly an honor to be here today at the DAV National Convention. On behalf of Ford Motor Company I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to stand among the brave men and women who have served our nation with honor, courage, and unwavering dedication.

My name is Coyle Render and I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps (Hoo-ah) and I currently work at Ford Pro where I am the Commercial Vehicle Growth Manager and I also serve as the Community Pillar lead of our Veterans Employee Resource Group. (Applause)

I have been fortunate to spend over ten years at Ford and could not be more excited about the 100-plus year partnership that has been built between the DAV and Ford Motor Company. (Applause) Our partnership with DAV is not just a corporate initiative, it's a commitment.

I have been incredibly impressed by the work that the DAV does day-in and day-out to help improve the lives of veterans and their families. From providing thousands of rides to medical appointments each year to filing claims for benefits, and consistently advocating for the rights of our service men and women. Your work is so important.

I'm here on behalf of Ford Philanthropy, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company. And we cannot think of a better partner to collaborate with to evolve our relationship around transportation access.

The world is in the midst of a transformation in the auto industry, including emerging new technologies, electrification, and autonomy; but it is important to view these as opportunities,

opportunities for us to innovate and collaborate together to solidify the next 100-plus years of impact, service, and partnership.

Ford believes in the freedom of movement for all, which is the same service that you bring to people in uniform.

On behalf of more than 88,000 Ford employees in the U.S., I want to thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your continued support of our nation's heroes and their families. I also want to thank you, the members of the DAV, for supporting Ford.

We know when military families and veterans buy new vehicles they prefer Ford trucks, utilities and cars over any other brand. (Applause) Our partnership not only amplifies the service that you provide to veterans but provides savings to you as members. Our Ford X Partner Plan Recognition Program is just a small way we can say thank you for all that you do.

And our 100-plus year partnership is unique. The fact that this has been built on trust, collaboration, and service that started with Henry Ford and 50 Model T's at the second national DAV convention is truly special.

Together, Ford and DAV have made an incredible impact in supporting our veterans over the past century; and we look forward to leveraging collaboration, innovation, and mobility solutions as we chart the next 100 years.

Ensuring veterans have access to transportation for medical care and other fundamental needs means so much to us. It embodies who we are as a company, the idea of freedom of movement, and provides so much for our service people.

For more than a quarter century Ford has supported the DAV Transportation Network. And we are proud to have donated a total of 274 vehicles across all 50 states and Puerto Rico. (Applause)

And today I am proud to announce that we are donating five new Ford Explorers for five VA medical centers across the country. (Applause)

Ford and Ford Philanthropy are proud to continue to support the DAV. The Transportation Network continues to fill a substantial need, delivers a powerful impact on local communities, and proves to have great value.

This year's Ford Explorer donation recipients are Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System, Prescott Arizona; (Applause) San Francisco VA Healthcare System in San Francisco, California; (Applause) Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia; (Applause) G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi; (Applause) and the Eastern Colorado Healthcare System in Denver, Colorado. (Applause)

I'd like to ask National Commander Contreras and National Adjutant Jesinoski to please join me on stage.

(Whereupon, the commander, and adjutant joined Mr. Render, at which time an official photograph was taken with a ceremonial check, after which the commander and adjutant returned to their seats.)

MR. RENDER: On behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee I'd like to present you with this ceremonial check which represents the value of our donations and commitment to increasing transportation access.

Again, I want to personally thank you for your bravery, your loyalty and your service. We know our freedom depends on it. Please enjoy the rest of the convention. Thanks for having me. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Render withdrew from stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: DAV scholarships teach young men and women about the importance of service and recognize their efforts on behalf of disabled veterans.

DAV is honored to provide an incentive to these young men and women. DAV scholarships encourage volunteerism and connect future leaders with veterans, building a lifelong bond to our cause and the heroes we represent.

Now, let's get to know one of these young leaders, this year's top recipient.

DAV National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst, please join me on stage. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as Mr. Kleindienst joined the commander on the stage the video "Scholarship Winner" was viewed.)

MR. LEWIS: Nihar Kummetha is a 2025 graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and is entering his freshman year at the University of Pennsylvania to study biochemistry. Nihar has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Charlotte VA healthcare system's summer youth volunteer program.

In his more than 375 hours of volunteer service, he's educated veterans on technology usage, provided hygiene kits and comfort items to veterans experiencing homelessness, and created a Veterans Wellness Project.

(Whereupon, Mr. Kummetha joined the commander and Mr. Kleindienst for the presentation and who were joined by the adjutant at which time an official photograph was taken, after which the adjutant and commander returned to their seats and Mr. Kummetha advanced to the lectern.)

MR. NIHAR KUMMETHA: Good morning, DAV members, honorable guests and our standing veterans. I am Nihar Kummetha from Concord, North Carolina and I'm honored to be here with you today.

It's truly humbling to be in the same room as all of you who have served and sacrificed so much for our great country. I'm extremely thankful for DAV for inviting me here and presenting me with this remarkable scholarship.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank Ms. Kimberly Davis, a retired Air Force veteran and the Charlotte VA Center for development and civic engagement coordinator for being such an incredible mentor who has fostered a supportive environment for volunteers at the VA, enabling us to give back to veterans even more. A round of applause for her, please. (Applause)

I'd also like to thank Mr. Lesley Eason, Mr. Franklin McCombs, and Mr. James Martin who were part of the larger Salisbury CDCE team. (Applause) I'm also grateful for my fellow volunteers and summer teen volunteers at the Charlotte VA with special thanks to volunteer Mr. Roy Wilkins. He's an Army veteran and National Wheelchair Games athlete with whom I've had the great pleasure of working with.

Finally, I'd like to thank my parents for all of their support.

I'll always remember my first day volunteering at the VA during the summer after my freshman year of high school. My task was to escort veterans in wheelchairs and help them, and wait with them until their rides arrived. While waiting, veterans would often share stories with me, stories of grandchildren, losing loved ones, life during war, traveling the world, and more.

Initially, I thought I was helping veterans. But by the end of the summer, listening to the veterans' stories helped me become more empathetic, resilient, and truly a better person.

Inspired by the stories I listened to that summer, I've gone on back to the VA every summer after that serving those who served us. I found fulfillment participating in and leading projects that benefit and engage veterans, including healthy living initiatives, mental health drives, a hygiene kit drive, technology lessons, and fun activities like trivia and art.

I've even gone back and worked with my local county and state governments to try to advocate for veterans' mental health needs.

I have also enjoyed mentoring my fellow teen volunteers and passing down the lessons I've learned while listening to veterans like you.

I'm truly grateful to each one of you for continuing to inspire all of us.

Thank you again, DAV, for the scholarship. In the fall I will be studying biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania as a Vagelos Molecular Life Sciences scholar. (Applause)

I plan to continue volunteering and giving back to veterans at the Philadelphia VA near my university, possibly working with the DAV as well, and carrying forward the lessons of empathy, leadership and service that have shaped my journey.

I am not certain where my journey will take me. But one thing I am certain about is it will be my privilege to continue serving those who served us.

Thank you, again, to this wonderful veteran community for your service and God bless America. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. Kummetha withdrew from the stage, and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Yes we have, just what a great program our DAV scholarship program is and it's just so enlightening to see how it impacts someone and it drives them to support veterans and learn more about the sacrifices our veterans make.

DAV and the Auxiliary's shared mission of ensuring promises are kept to America's heroes and their families relies on the compassion and generosity of thousands who volunteer their time to honor the sacrifices that make our freedoms and way of life possible.

Whether in VA hospitals, on the road as volunteer drivers, or in countless communities across this beautiful nation, their compassion for our veterans and their continued efforts to keep our promise to those who served is what defines us as an organization.

Today we honor two individuals who have made service to those who served their life's calling.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to announce the 2025 DAV Volunteer of the Year, Van Karg of Hutchinson, Minnesota. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. Karg and Mr. Kleindienst advanced to the stage to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. LEWIS: Over the past 30 years Van Karg has logged more than 15,000 lifetime volunteer hours helping veterans in need. As a DAV Transportation network volunteer, he often drives more than 30,000 miles a year to ensure veterans access to healthcare.

He also delivers medical equipment like wheelchairs and medical beds to veterans throughout the Land of Lakes. Mr. Karg is the adjutant of DAV Chapter 27 and has organized veterans benefits seminars to extend DAV's services to veterans and families in his community.

MR. VAN KARG: First of all, I'd like all of our delegation from the Minnesota, please stand up and be recognized, all the Minnesota group.

(Whereupon, the delegation from Minnesota stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. KARG: I have to say—I have to say thank you to the entire delegation because in some way they have touched my heart. They are all responsible for a lot of the volunteering that I do because we have our own transportation system.

We have medical equipment. I pick up and deliver medical equipment, whether it's hospital beds, lift chairs, whatever. I'm on the road five days a week for sure and sometimes seven.

When people need transportation, everyone has my number. (Laughter) So whether it's after hours at night or weekends or whatever I go take care of them. And everybody asks me, "Van, why do you keep doing what you're doing and when are you going to slow down?"

My answer is this, when I was coming home from Vietnam it was my birthday, August 9th. I had a talk with—I didn't know who at the time but it was God. God said, "Van, I pulled you out of a lot of sticky situations over here in Vietnam." He said, "When you get home, I want you to take care of the veterans and their families." And I'm still doing that. I haven't fulfilled that promise. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the membership sang "Happy Birthday" to Mr. Karg, followed by a round of applause.)

MR. KARG: Thank you. I want to thank Stephen Whitehead for turning in my application for this. He did a great job with it. All the members from the national have done a great job. And I want to thank anyone that had anything to do with this. Thank you very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Karg and Mr. Kleindienst withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Van. It is now my pleasure to introduce this year's DAV Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year, Hattie Lambert of Dewitt, Virginia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Lambert, Auxiliary Adjutant Clos, and Auxiliary Commander Easley advanced to the stage, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. LEWIS: Hattie Lambert is a member of Auxiliary Unit 47 in Petersburg, Virginia, and has accumulated nearly 18,000 volunteer hours helping veterans at the Richmond VA Medical Center. The staff of the medical center looks to her as an instrumental part of their team.

Forty hours a week you can find her there, pushing wheelchairs, answering questions, planning events, and assisting staff with their needs. Additionally, Ms. Lambert encourages and recruits other members of Auxiliary Units to give their time.

MS. HATTIE LAMBERT: Good morning, commanders, and everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. LAMBERT: I am not a spouse. I served 32 years, 2 months, and 2 days in the Army. (Standing Ovation) And I just turned 81 two weeks ago. (Applause) I'm at the VA eight hours five days a week.

When I don't show up, they call, check on me. I've had two calls since I've been here so far. (Laughter)

I would like to thank everyone that had a hand in giving me this award. It's a great honor. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Lambert and Mr. Kleindienst withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Many of you here are familiar with our longtime friend of DAV, Golden Corral. Since 9/11 veterans have been blessed with many companies who offer special gifts or discounts around Veterans Day. We're grateful to be in partnership with the first company to offer a free thank-you meal to veterans nationwide.

Through Golden Corral's annual Military Appreciation Night, which will be held on Veterans Day this year, the company has made a significant impact on DAV chapters and departments.

As most of you in this room know, every Golden Corral location graciously allows DAV to collect donations in a two-week period leading up to Veterans Day. This opportunity is unlike any other for DAV members.

Since 2001, Military Appreciation Night has raised more than \$20.5 million to support state and local service programs. (Applause) Also, in that timeframe, Golden Corral has served nearly 6.7 million free meals to current U.S. service members, military retirees, and veterans. (Applause)

Not only that, DAV has also had the honor of joining our friends at Golden Corral in supporting Camp Corral since it was founded in 2011.

Here is a look at this special program that extends an important service to families in our community. (Whereupon, the video "Camp Corral" was viewed.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: This summer, with DAV's support, Camp Corral will once again provide thousands of children with one-of-a-kind experiences that recognize the unique needs of our kids who share in the sacrifices their parents have made for our nation.

To aid in this mission, DAV established the Just B Kids program to provide scholarships for more children to attend Camp Corral.

So far this year, DAV departments and chapters, along with the Auxiliary and DAV Charitable Service Trust, have raised significant funds to get kids to these camps.

In recognition of their efforts, I am happy to present a check totaling \$1,387,000 to Camp Corral. (Applause) To note, this gift includes a special contribution of \$187,000 from the DAV Department of New York to support the Just B Kids Scholarship program. (Applause)

Please welcome to the stage Camp Corral's Phil Kowalczyck, Auxiliary National Commander Chris Easley, Charitable Service Trust President Marc Burgess, and DAV Department of New York Commander Judy Russell.

(Whereupon, Mr. Kowalczyck, Auxiliary Commander Easley and Charitable Service Trust President Burgess, and Department of New York Commander Judy Russell advanced to the stage for the presentation, at which time an official photo was taken.)

MR. LEWIS: Phil Kowalczyck, CEO of Camp Corral as CEO since 2022 brings 25-plus years of leadership in global business and non-profits. Through his passion for supporting military families he's doubled camp attendance. He's also a mentor for DAV Patriot Boot Camp, supporting veterans and spouse founders while encouraging growth, learning and community impact.

MR. PHIL KOWALCZYCK: Thank you, National Commander Contreras. To the DAV, to the DAV Auxiliary, all the departments and the chapters, this is a record level of support and it makes my heart swell. It leaves me a little speechless, which, for those who know me, that's rare. (Laughter)

It's an astounding number. But what's really important is what that money does. And so I thought the thing to do was to really start with a letter from one of the moms, a Camp Corral mom with two twins, longtime campers, at our just-mentioned New York camp. And here is what she writes:

"Dear Camp Corral Family, I'm writing with the hope that these words find their way to the hearts of the people who make Camp Corral what it is. The ones who work behind the scenes, who raise the funds, who support the mission, and believe, truly believe, in the power of giving military children a place to be seen, to be safe, to be celebrated.

"Camp Corral, you gave my children a gift I never could have given on my own. You gave them freedom. Not just the kind of freedom that comes from splashing in lakes, though you gave them that, too, but the freedom that comes from the invisible weight that they carry as the children of a Purple Heart veteran.

"For one sacred week each summer you gave them a break from being 'resilient,' from being 'strong,' from carrying more than any child should.

"You gave them a place where they didn't have to explain, a place where they weren't defined by their story, but supported because of it.

"You gave them a chance to simply be kids: wild, messy, silly, fearless kids. That is a kind of priceless gift I'll never be able to repay.

"You may never meet my children, but I promise you what you've done for you will live in them forever.

"With love and endless gratitude, Aubrey Lee Minkler." (Applause)

You did that. At Camp Corral our mission is to help transform the lives of children of wounded, ill and fallen military heroes through camp, advocacy, and enrichment programs.

That transformation word is so important because it is real. Transformation can come from the 12-year-old girl who hardly talks at home but at camp she talks all the time and cannot believe the number of friends that she has at camp.

And transformation can get real heavy real fast, like the young man who told his story in confidence. He literally is alive today because of Camp Corral. As a child he was considering suicide.

But his first experience of a camp and a week with other kids from other military families helped him see he was not alone. And that he can make a difference. Now he is a camp counselor, making a difference for other children. Yup. (Applause)

Yes, transformation comes in many variations.

And we love what we do. We are grateful to be able to serve. And we could not do this without you.

On behalf of the military children we serve through summer camp across this country, thank you. The lives of these children are changed because of your hard work and generosity. We are grateful for your support and, importantly, for more than 14 years of DAV partnership with Golden Corral.

The Golden Corral Corporation is such a powerful supporter of veterans. And they love DAV. They provide support not only through their fall campaign and military appreciation night, but through the powerful collaboration where DAV and Golden Corral owners and managers come together to raise funds to support our program to send children of veteran families to amazing camp experiences.

It is that partnership of Golden Corral and DAV that super charges what we do.

Now, I know there are literally thousands of you to thank, and I'd hug absolutely every single one of you, but I would like to give a shout out this year to Fred James, a retired Army veteran, and his wife Brenda. I have learned a bit about what the chapter does in Ohio.

And their fundraising efforts include bike and basket raffles and a lot of other efforts in partnership with Renee Sears of the Golden Corral store. This is a photo of Fred presenting Renee this award. And it's just one example of the many partnerships your chapters build in supporting Camp Corral.

The funds you raise mean that a child gets to attend high-quality camp, to make friends, to build skills, to learn about independence and, frankly, just be a kid.

There is no cost to these families because you are raising the funds for those families and that, while deserving, likely could not afford this life-changing experience.

This year, we have more than 2,800 children from nearly 50 states attending summer camp. (Applause) Absolutely.

And since our founding in 2011, Camp Corral has sponsored more than 35,000 children and DAV's support alone has provided experiences for more than 7,500 of them. That's amazing. (Applause)

And we know our program is having the intended impact because we ask the kids, we ask counselors and their parents. We conduct academically-accredited research in a few specific areas.

One is the connection is vital. You know, when we ask veteran parents if their children have friends who understand what it's like to be part of a military family, 78 percent of the parents answered no. But when they come to Camp Corral, they are surrounded by kids who get it, who have lived it, and who share in it.

That's why 89 percent of our kids say they made friends at camp and they think those will be long-lasting relationships.

Look, all of that is important. It's how you should hold us accountable. It's why I come and report back every year how we are using the money that you raise and ensure it's being invested well.

But to be perfectly honest, I think we're most struck by the comments from the campers on the importance of Camp Corral being their place. Quotes like:

"I feel seen. Back home I'm the only military kid in town. But everyone here at camp understands what it's like to lose a parent mentally or physically. Everyone here knows what it's like to move around a lot."

Or the child who wrote: "I feel like I belong at Camp Corral. It's my home-away-from-home. I can talk to the counselor or staff about anything. I learn new things about myself every year."

Your effort helps ensure these children have a place to belong year after year.

We are continuing to grow and expand. Our summer camp program will grow from its current 20 camp locations because we're going to be adding two more camps: one near Houston, Texas; (Applause) yes, Texas; and one in Pennsylvania. (Applause)

And in addition to the summer camp, we offer the spring and fall family camps, where kids of all ages and their families can create the experience of the magic of camp and create memories together.

This year we will serve more than 100 families in our family camps. And we're hoping to add an additional camp in South Carolina, bringing our total to seven family camps. (Applause) Go South Carolina. I hear it out there. (Applause)

We're growing. And your commitment has grown with us. And we cannot thank you enough.

In addition to growing the number of camps, we're also growing our impact over the lifetime of a camper and that's something you've asked us to do.

Last year many of you heard directly from Khord Cooksey, a longtime Camp Corral camper who shared his story with you. Many of you spent time with him at our table in the convention center. He is among our first graduates from Camp Corral's SALUTE Leadership Program.

When we asked him originally why he wanted to participate in the SALUTE program, Khord said, "I would like to help campers learn self-confidence. I hope to be a teacher after college and want the skills to help teach with compassion while helping others."

Now, we recently caught up with Khord and we asked him to provide you all a little bit of an update on his progress. Here is what he shared:

"Thank you so much for my Camp Corral experiences, those memories that will live with me forever, just like the opportunity to speak to the DAV conference in Phoenix.

"Since I last saw you in Phoenix, I completed my second season as a drum major and our team placed first in our state competition.

"I've graduated from Greenbriar High School in May and decided to attend the Georgia Military College where I will be studying Business Administration. (Applause)

"Don't worry, I still have a goal of becoming a band director or history teacher but first I'd like to work in the music industry and then take those skills to the classroom where I can spread my knowledge and enthusiasm with my students."

Khord is just one of thousands of children you have helped create memories and experiences through the opportunity of Camp Corral.

But our work isn't done because the number of children eligible for Camp Corral programs is well over three million. Our wait list this year alone, over 400, so there is clearly more work to be done. And we know that an investment in children is an investment in our future.

As I close, I wanted to share one thing with you that really struck me. It's a quote that I saw from a publication in October of 1950 and yet I think it resonates even more today. And the quote is this:

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Thank you, DAV. (Applause) Just remember in your heart that you are important in the life of many children from military families across this country. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Kowalczyck, and Charitable Service Trust President Burgess withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Another round of applause for the great work that we are doing for Golden Corral and what they do for our children. (Applause)

It's now my privilege and great honor to welcome a leader who continues to shape the future of our organization, National Adjutant and CEO Barry Jesinoski.

Barry began his DAV journey three decades ago. He's used the past year to showcase his steady, forward-looking leadership and deep commitment to DAV's mission. His guidance has reinforced what many of us already knew when he was chosen to take the helm: that DAV's future is in capable, visionary hands.

Back in the 20th Century, something the kids are now saying to make us Gen Xers feel old, Barry started on the front lines as a national service officer, working directly with veterans and their families to secure the benefits they earned.

He went on to lead in our most critical positions, including serving as executive director of Washington Headquarters and then National Headquarters, the first veteran to do so.

In every role Barry has answered the call. He meets challenges head-on and turns them into opportunities for progress. He builds on the strength of what came before and applies relentless energy to making it better for our members, our staff and our nation's veterans.

From the start of his leadership as national adjutant two short years ago, he's demonstrated real results and continued momentum. And if the past year is any indication of what's ahead, then our best days are yet to come. If you need evidence of that, just listen to the report this Marine is about to deliver.

Ladies and gentlemen, your national adjutant, our national adjutant, National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon the commander withdrew from and Adjutant Jesinoski advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you, Commander. Thank you all for your service to our fellow veterans and for all you do to bring our mission to life in your communities.

You know, I have a say in the speaker lineup here so why I continue to subject myself to following Phil, I'm not sure. (Laughter) But to make things a little easier and to kick things off, I'll play a short video looking back on the accomplishments over our last year before I give the rest of my remarks.

(Whereupon, the video "The Year in Review" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I hope that look back brings all of you great satisfaction for your role in our cause that transforms the lives of so many veterans, their families, their caregivers and their survivors.

Today, I want to get back to some basics and discuss the promise our nation has made to those who have defended her.

This year, as we mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of our beloved Marine Corps, (Hoo-ah) for perspective we can look to one of the most decorated veterans in history, who happened to be my drill instructor's favorite Marine of all time.

Major General Smedley Butler served for 33 years. He lied to enlist at 16 years old to fight in the Spanish-American War. Then came the Boxer Rebellion in China, counterinsurgency operations in the Philippines, and a handful of Banana Wars before he finally made it overseas for World War I.

Service took an enormous toll on his body and his mind. He suffered a moral injury so great that he asked to turn down the first of the two Medals of Honor that he was awarded. But he was ordered to accept it.

I'm probably not the only service officer in this room who works an internal benefits calculator when I hear an individual's military history or see a portrayal on TV or in films. It can ruin your train of thought. Or, as my wife sometimes says, it can ruin the movie. (Laughter) I can be a real pain in Muscle Group 17. For those of you who are unaware, that's the lower backside muscle. (Laughter)

Where are our service officers out there? Raise your hand, please?

(Whereupon, the service officers raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I know you guys do that. You can't help it because it's in your blood. Even though we're never supposed to say this to a client, advocating for Smedley Butler would have been a "slam dunk" case. (Laughter)

I can imagine myself going through his records with him. Are you the same Smedley from the running cadence? I knew it. It says here your name was "Old Gimlet Eye." Can I call you—never mind. No problem, sir, I'll just stick with "General."

Let's see, bullet to the leg—by the way. I'm looking at an old-school claims file here, not a computer. (Laughter) Bullet to the leg; dysentery; bullet to the thigh; another gunshot wound, this one to the chest; Malaria; nine months down with a severe bout of influenza. Sir, are you getting any help for any of this?

Come on, I'm not the only one does it, right, service officers? (Laughter) It does not leave your conscience. I'll share my combined ratings on John Rambo and Forrest Gump some other time. (Laughter)

Smedley Butler was one of the most famous veterans of his day. He was featured in comic books and sought out as a speaker. He was one of us and then some.

During the March of the Bonus Army, he joined his fellow veterans and spoke out in their support. Other generals, who would become household names in World War II, were responsible for forcibly evicting our demonstrators.

When it came to his military career, he famously said:

"War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious racket. It is the only one international in scope and it's the only one which profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.

"A racket is best described, I believe," he said, "as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small 'inside' group knows what it is all about.

"It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes." He said.

He went on to very candidly talk about how his service in Mexico advanced American oil interests, how operations in Haiti and Cuba helped National City Bank, and how other battles that he fought to benefit financial interests that seemed beyond the scope of national defense to him.

He concluded, "Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do in his racket was to operate in three districts. I operated on three continents."

It's very sobering to hear a veteran describe his service with such bitter candor. But Smedley Butler earned the right to his cynicism.

We may not agree that war is a racket—or not always a racket—but the cost of war has always been borne by a relative few, by all of you.

In the last half-century our defense has been provided by an all-volunteer military. Civilians are asked to sacrifice less and less. And as we look ahead to the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, for most Americans, not all, the greatest change in daily life has been TSA screenings.

In fact, after the Trade Center was hit, Americans were encouraged to go to Disney World and to enjoy themselves, to show the terrorists they could not disrupt American life.

For most people in this room, the wake of wartime service is something that is relived on varying levels every single day.

To the majority, who elect the few, who determine when and where we are called to fight, that decision and its consequences are more remote than at any time in world history. That is not a knock on everyday Americans who have shown tremendous support and dedication even when they don't have direct ties to the military.

But the fact is that we, as a nation, have asked a great deal out of our veterans. We've sent them into combat and we've demanded they be capable of inflicting incredible lethality in unimaginable situations.

We are able to find people willing to answer the call not because they are promised profit, but because we have a very basic deal. It's based on the most sacred obligation our government has to those who serve in a time of war.

We are called to appeal to the nation's conscience and make our brothers and sisters who are changed in service whole. DAV exists to make sure this promise is kept.

It's the reason why our preeminent service is benefits advocacy, service officers. All of our service officers are on the front lines everyday fighting for our fellow veterans. The work we do day-in and day-out shapes our advocacy on Capitol Hill and delivers life-changing outcomes.

It's also the reason for our structure. Of course, our chapters and our state departments are in communities nationwide to provide services and to fill gaps so our brothers and our sisters do not fall through the cracks.

But they also provide DAV with a direct line into veterans' experiences and into the challenges that they face. As do our volunteers who cast an even wider net to deliver veterans the care they've earned and augment services in and outside of VA facilities.

We help more than a million veterans every year in substantive and lasting ways. That's a sound bite you hear quite a bit, but I want you to think about it. We help over a million veterans in many ways every single year.

Our caregivers program gives new life to America's unsung heroes. It restores dignity and strengthens families while informing public policy and preventing burnout. It also saves taxpayer dollars by helping veterans stay in their homes longer—not that taxpayer dollars are what's most important when it comes to staying in our homes longer as veterans.

By connecting veterans with careers, we see first-hand the successes and the shortcomings of our federal readiness and employment programs. Our efforts to empower disabled veterans help them overcome barriers, achieve their potential, and create jobs—good jobs. They also show us how federal programs affect veteran entrepreneurs and the hurdles they face in government contracting.

After all, if someone is going to become a millionaire or even a billionaire by doing business with the federal government, it might as well be someone who sacrificed for our country. I think even Old Gimlet Eye would agree with that.

Our expanding partnerships with institutions like Save A Warrior and Boulder Crest Retreats are transforming veterans in their most desperate moments. They also inform our push for emerging care and treatments that replace hopelessness with renewal. And they connect us with others who further our cause and equip us to find better solutions.

If we look back on the near quarter century since our nation was attacked, DAV has been incredibly successful advancing policies that have expanded benefits and services to millions of veterans. That is the beauty of being involved in DAV; it is the clarity of our purpose.

Our stance on any issue transcends partisanship. It's determined by you, the leaders in this room, and the veterans and the families back home who donate your time and talents to ensure our brothers and sisters get what they earned.

In an increasingly polarized Washington, DAV stands as a national institution that always puts veterans, our families, and caregivers, and our survivors first.

Ours is a powerful voice in the nation's capital that comes from communities across America. We stand, resolved, to remind our fellow citizens of the promise we have made to those willing to give their lives for our country.

We're constantly looking for new ideas to strengthen care and policy. And we need to be efficient and responsive to evolving needs. But too often of late we hear opinions driven by interests that do not put veterans first. And with a century of experience, we know the challenges of advancing or even holding ground on care, benefits and services once the parades are over.

For 25 years, landmark legislation like advance appropriations, the PACT Act, the Elizabeth Dole Act, the Blue Water Navy benefits, the Deborah Sampson Act, and community care have all been shaped and enacted because of DAV's focus and perseverance.

As access to care has expanded, so has the cost. But we must thoughtfully remind our fellow citizens, and leaders, our elected leaders, why. The 4.5 million Americans called to serve since just 2001 have faced a near-continuous combat tempo, fatigue, and toxic exposures. They do so with their head held high. We fought two long wars plus countless lesser-known Global War on Terror missions.

Expanded care for 3.4 million aging Vietnam veterans, also, represents long-overdue justice. And many underserved women are just now getting access to the benefits they earned after years of feeling invisible—not that we're there yet.

Of course, this era hasn't been without shameful chapters—vermin-infested housing at Walter Reed, the Phoenix waitlist scandal—but only recently have we seen editorials calling veterans' benefits, quote, absurdly generous, or proposals for means testing and privatization.

In the years ahead two things are very clear. First, as time passes from our most recent wars, the needs of veterans we serve will grow. Ask the Vietnam veterans here who now make up nearly half of our population.

Second, as these wars fade from public consciousness, we'll face even greater challenges maintaining the momentum we've built. We'll represent a smaller share of the electorate and face competing federal priorities.

Now, the sky is not falling, but keeping the promise will not get easier.

Fortunately, we have the structure in DAV, we have the purpose, and we have the talent, much of it right here in this room, to meet uncertainty head-on. (Applause)

As the veterans hear about reductions in force and recognize patterns of history repeating themselves, many are hearing the call to continue their service through DAV. As we grow our membership we'll be joined by more who recognize that DAV's mission is focused on achieving justice for our most deserving Americans.

They'll build upon our shared legacy and uphold the most timeless value of military service: never, ever leaving our own behind. (Applause)

And they'll know, whether or not they've heard of Smedley Butler, whether or not they believe war is a racket, that keeping our promise to all those who served is and always will be a sacred calling and our fight will continue.

Thank you for your contributions to our cause, the hope that you instill, and for making DAV part of your life's mission.

Commander, this concludes my report. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Jesinoski returned to his seat and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Barry, for that important look at such a successful year. I know we have many ahead of us under your leadership. Thank you so much. (Applause) The chair will entertain a motion to accept our national adjutant's outstanding report.

MR. LEROY ACOSTA: Leroy Acosta.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: May I have a second?

(Whereupon, the motion was seconded by a member from South Carolina.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you. Each year DAV recognizes a veteran who steps up, goes above and beyond and serves as a shining example of fulfilling DAV's commitment in supporting the men and women who served, all despite their illness or injuries. And this year's veteran is certainly no exception.

Ken David was drafted into the Army in August of 1969. By May that following year Ken was involved in a fierce battle in Vietnam, and despite being wounded he continually exposed himself in an effort to draw enemy fire away from other American soldiers.

Each time the enemy concentrated their attack on the wounded soldiers, Ken would jump up from his position, yelling to protect his injured comrades.

He saved 17 American that day. And last year, he was awarded with the nation's highest award for valor on the battlefield—the Medal of Honor.

Transitioning back to civilian life was a challenge for Ken, like so many other veterans. He isolated himself, holding within the emotional scars of war. But that began to change when he found DAV at Chapter 11 in Warren, Ohio.

Despite the long-awaited recognition, Ken is known to help any veteran regardless of background. In the eternal words of his mentor, Sam Lanza, a Marine Veteran of the Battle of Okinawa, "A veteran is a veteran."

Now let's get to know Ken a little bit better with this video.

(Whereupon, a video about the Disabled American Veteran of the Year was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Ladies and gentlemen, for his consistent service to his fellow disabled veterans across Ohio, it is my distinct honor to introduce Ken David, our 2025 Disabled American Veteran of the Year and DAV life member of Chapter 11 in Warren, Ohio. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from the lectern as Mr. David advanced to the stage for an official photograph, after which he advanced to the lectern for remarks.)

MR. KEN DAVID: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. DAVID: Who's from Ohio? O-H.

(Response of "Ohio.")

MR. DAVID: O-H.

(Response of "Ohio.")

MR. DAVID: O-H.

(Response of "Ohio.")

MR. DAVID: Aw, not many. (Laughter) Thank you very much, Commander, for this great honor. It's always been a blessing to represent my fellow DAV members. It's been said that I am a man of few words—it's true. Just like I told the Pentagon, I don't like to brag about what I did. I let others tell my story.

However, if I could leave you with any message, it's that never, never say no to a fellow veteran (Applause) and never, never give up on them. (Applause) Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to anyone who served. It's DAV that follows through on that sacred responsibility and pushes our leaders to do the same.

And I want my leaders at the Department of Ohio, I want to especially thank them for nominating me for this honor and everybody involved for the packet that was presented to national. And please know I am here to do whatever is needed to help our fellow veterans.

Thank you. I salute you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. David withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Our next guest represents a company that goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve those who have served, USAA.

USAA's commitment to veterans and their families runs deep. From financial readiness programs to disaster relief, to supporting critical initiatives like DAV's mission of service, USAA continually demonstrates what it means to stand beside those who've worn the uniform.

Today, to present DAV with a generous donation of \$600,000 we welcome to the stage retired Major General Johnny Richardson. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Retired General Richardson advanced to the stage for a presentation, at which time an official photograph was taken, then Retired General Richardson advanced to the lectern.)

MR. LEWIS: Johnny Richardson, senior vice president and head of military affairs at USAA, leads a team of 50 veterans nationwide who promote the brand, protect the association's reputation, drive military advocacy, and ensure USAA is the top choice for the military community. A West Point graduate and retired major general, he served 33 years in the Army, commanding from platoon to division, and completing five combat tours.

RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL JOHNNY RICHARDSON: That must be my walk-on music. (Laughter) Well, good morning, DAV and the Auxiliary. It is quite an honor to be here and how humbling it is to stand in the footsteps of Ken David who was just up here. What an inspirational story.

The commander did a great job of summarizing his citation but I would encourage you all, if you have an opportunity to read it again. I saw him back stage and I said to him, "You are the epitome of the American soldier." And it was quite an honor to meet him. (Applause)

And if I could just take a moment to ask all the Vietnam veterans if you're able please stand and let me be the one that says to all of you, "Welcome home."

(Whereupon, the Vietnam veterans who were able stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL RICHARDSON: As Chris Easley was telling his story on his early memories of the DAV I was sitting in the crowd and I was thinking to myself, "What is my first memory?" And it's a pretty powerful one to me.

I had three great-grandfathers that served in World War I. One was a draftee, made it to the rank of sergeant in the trenches. Two were West Pointers and one was seriously wounded on the battlefields of World War I. That was my great-grandfather Spencer.

And I knew him. And my first memory of DAV was 1976. I was eight years old and he was in his 80s and my grandmother took me to visit him. And he had moved out of assisted living and he was now in the hospital. And we went to visit him.

And they didn't bring very many of his belongings to the hospital room—pictures of families, a couple of books that were important to him. And then there was the Garrison Cap sitting on his side table. The Garrison Cap that I see many of you wearing today.

And I was eight and I thought it was cool. I thought it was—it must be an Army thing. I knew he had been in the Army. I wanted to be in the Army. And so I took it off the table and I put it on my head and I'm marching around the room.

And I walked over to him and he took my hand and he squeezed it. He wasn't really verbalizing much at this point. And I asked him, I said, "What's this hat?" And he squeezed a little bit tighter. And my grandmother is the one that actually answered it.

And she said, "This is an organization that supports veterans. And it has supported your great-grandfather for his whole life. And it's why he is going to pass with dignity." And for that reason it is such an honor for me to be here representing the 38,000 employees of USAA and the 14 million members that we serve. (Applause)

And as I prepared my remarks I thought to myself, I am inspired by history. I get so much inspiration from those who went before us. And so I wanted to find out a little bit more about DAV and I was stunned at the parallels between the origins of DAV and USAA. Both stood up right after World War I to fill a need.

For the DAV it was Captain Robert Marx, a disabled veteran from World War I who was determined to ensure that veterans received the medical care that they had earned, vocational training, and employment opportunities. And it has grown to this, this juggernaut that supports our veterans.

USAA stood up two years later, in 1922, to fill a need. Service members were not getting car insurance from insurance companies because they had raised their right hand to serve their country and were now considered high risk. And so 25 officers got together and they pooled their money and they said we'll ensure each other. And USAA was born.

In both cases there was a need, there was a gap, and then there were leaders that took action. They took action to build better lives for our veterans, their families, and the caregivers.

And I will tell you our CEO is laser-focused on what's important to USAA when it comes to advocating for veterans. And it falls into three buckets: meaningful careers, financial security and overall well-being. And I can't think of a better partner to move forward with in those three buckets than the DAV. (Applause)

You have been critical partners with us in Face the Fight, a national coalition that is determined to reduce veteran suicide, who has already prevented thousands of losses and is predicted to have saved 6,500 veteran lives by 2032.

We have walked with you in your 5K. And we have been the title sponsor for the last ten years and we are so proud and committed and enthusiastic to continue this shared mission with you all to better the lives of our disabled veterans, those who served, their families and their caregivers.

Thank you so much for the noble cause that you are on. And for everybody in this room, thank you for you service to this great nation. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Major General Richardson withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you for your leadership General Richardson and for USAA's unwavering commitment to those who have served this great nation.

Created in 2005, the DAV Bugle Award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions as members of the media for disabled veterans. Today, I have the distinct pleasure to introduce you to an individual who has gone above and beyond to amplify veteran voices and is most deserving of this recognition.

Craig McKee is a U.S. Air Force veteran, having served for nine years as a military journalist. When Craig transitioned to civilian sector, he kept his commitment to continue telling compelling stories that matter.

His broadcast journalism career has been fueled by a passion to support his fellow brothers- and sisters-in-arms and to advance the interests of veterans nationwide.

Prior to his recent move to Arizona, Craig was an anchor and journalist for WCPO 9 news in Cincinnati, Ohio. Through his exceptional "Homefront" series, Craig became one of the most effective and compassionate media voices advocating for veterans, especially those served by DAV in our founding city and region.

His journalism goes beyond storytelling. He actively refers veterans to DAV for help with benefits, particularly in complicated cases where his guidance can make a critical difference.

His powerful ride-along story with our DAV Transportation Network highlighted the urgent need for volunteer drivers to help veterans reach critical VA medical appointments, led to a surge in local volunteerism, resulting in more than 50 new potential volunteers stepping forward to serve. This is but one example of the tangible and lasting impact of his work.

Please look to the screen for a montage of his outstanding “Homefront” series.

(Whereupon, a video montage from “Homefront” was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Ladies and gentlemen, for his compelling storytelling, hands-on advocacy, and unwavering commitment to veterans, it is my honor to introduce our 2025 Bugle Award winner, Craig McKee. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. McKee advanced to the podium and joined the commander and national adjutant for the presentation and an official photograph.)

MR. CRAIG MCKEE: Hello.

(Response of “Hello.”)

MR. MCKEE: First, I have to thank the most beautiful person in this room, and that is my wife. Twenty-eight years ago-ish, I looked at this woman, an Army soldier (Cheers) and I fell in love. Eleven months later we were married. And I know she married me for better housing. (Laughter) But, fortunately, she did fall in love with me later so thank you.

My son is also here today so thank you for being here and supporting me, sir, an aerospace engineer, possibly going into the Navy. We'll see.

(Response of “Go Navy.”)

MR. MCKEE: There you go. Go Navy. A lot to be determined there. A shout-out to my girls, as well, my girls who have supported me through this crazy journey.

You know, the DAV was not something I was very much aware of, actually, until I was in Cincinnati and I kept going to the Cincinnati VA and they said, “Hey, have you ever checked on your disability status or anything?”

And I'm so glad that they asked that question because, of course, I said, “I don't have any issues. I'm good.” You know, both arms, both legs, et cetera. I was not in combat. I don't have any issues. And they said, “BS.” (Laughter)

So Todd Sledge and his team literally dragged me down the hall to the DAV representative. And within a half-hour I was not only in the system, I had my appointments made to go to my evaluation, et cetera. And thanks to the DAV and the hardworking group there in Cincinnati, I am now a lifetime member of the DAV. (Applause)

So I'm honored and humbled, obviously, by today's award.

To Commander Daniel Contreras, members of the DAV, of course, Mr. Rob Lewis, Dan Clare, Cody VanBoxel, all those in Cincinnati, the headquarters, thank you so much. I've worked very closely with you in many of those stories, of course, to bring me here today.

It's an incredible honor to stand before this room filled with such strength, sacrifice and service. When I first heard about receiving this award, I was humbled and, frankly, I was a little overwhelmed because, truthfully, telling veterans' stories has never, ever been about recognition. It's been about a responsibility.

I've spent nearly 30 years as a journalist. But before I ever stepped into any civilian newsroom I served as a broadcaster in the United States Air Force. In that experience—Hoo-ah—where are my Air Force? Where are my blue? (Cheers) A little blue on today to represent. But that experience not only shaped my career, but my sense of duty to keep serving, even after that uniform came off.

The challenges, as we all know, do not end when the deployment does, they just shift. Too often, the battles continue, whether it's access to care, benefits, housing, employment, or simply just being heard. And that's why I've made it my mission to use whatever platform I have to shine a light on those stories, to make sure America sees and hears its veterans, not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

I've certainly had the privilege of meeting veterans from all walks of life. I'm now an honorary Manchus—any Manchus in the house? From World War II heroes who never spoke of their service until their final days to young men and women navigating the invisible wounds of modern war, every story has left a mark on me.

I've learned that sometimes the most impactful journalism isn't breaking news, it's breaking silence. And when a veteran trusts you with their story, it's not just sharing memories, they're entrusting me with the truth, the dignity and, often, pain. That trust, of course, is sacred.

Standing here today I'm deeply aware that this award is not just about my work. It's about the power of storytelling. Journalism, at its best, is about—is not about headlines, I should say, or ratings. It's about truth. (Applause) And so oftentimes, you know, it's about being the voice of those who can no longer speak for themselves.

In fact, one of the first veteran profiles I ever did years ago was about a Marine who said, "I don't need a parade. I just want my brothers and sisters to be okay." That struck me because that's the heart of our veteran community—the selfless, driven by service, and always looking out for one another.

We have a common thread right here. I'm your brother. To everyone in here who served, we have that common thread. We're all related. You are all my battle buddy and I am yours, whether you live in California, or New Jersey.

I've received those phone calls. When I've had certain stories run I've received those calls or emails saying, "Hey, can you help me?" And I've been able to refer to the DAV. I've been able to pick up on that phone and say, "Hey, I have a vet. We need to send him a lifeline." And we make it happen.

DAV, of course, embodies all of those spirits that I spoke about. What you do every day here, advocating, empowering, and supporting, is the very definition of leadership, of course. So to be recognized by DAV is deeply meaningful.

This award, of course, may have my name on it, but it belongs, just as much, to every veteran who has trusted me with their stories. To the producers and photojournalists who help bring them to life. And, again, to my family who inspires me to do this work with integrity and heart.

I accept the Bugle Award not as a symbol of achievement, but as a reminder we still have so many more stories to tell. We still have battles to fight. And I will continue to stand with you, shoulder to shoulder here, as we work to make sure every veteran gets the respect, the resources, and the recognition they deserve.

Thank you, again, DAV for this honor and for never letting our veterans be forgotten. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. McKee withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Craig, for your service to our nation that has continued as a civilian storyteller.

I will now ask our national adjutant to read DAV's Statement of Policy, to list committee advisors whom I have appointed and who received the approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting, and to make any further announcements.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: With all the technology we have I'm not sure why our team can't make my voice sound like Craig's. (Laughter) I'll now read into the record national commander Contreras' appointed convention committee advisors: for the Committee on Credentials, Assistant National Membership Director Doug Wells and National Judge Advocate Mike Dobmeier;

for the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership, Associate National Legislative Director Joseph Lemay and Assistant National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis;

for the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights, National Legislative Director Joy Ilem and Deputy National Service Director for Training, Scott Hope;

for the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, Inspector General Ed Hartman, Deputy Inspector General Ryan Burgos, and Past National Commander Rob Reynolds;

for the Committee on Employment, National Employment Director Lamarr Couser and Assistant National Employment Director Jeremy Yost;

for the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services, National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst and Deputy National Legislative Director John Retzer; and, lastly,

for the Committee on Nomination of National Officers, Past National Commander Joe Johnston and Executive Director of the Department of Connecticut Al Church.

Advisors can pick up their Committee folders from the Resolutions Office located in room Normandy 2 located on the fourth floor of the Horseshoe –Versailles Tower.

I'd also like to read the DAV Statement of Policy.

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

"1. High quality hospital and medical care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's armed forces.

"2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.

"3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.

"4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.

"5. Adequate compensation to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"6. Enhanced outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people understand and respect the needs these veterans encounter as a result of their disabilities.

"It, therefore, follows that we will not take any action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents, which are based upon other than wartime service-connected disability.

"We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

"And while our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled veterans, their surviving spouses and their dependents, we shall within the limits of our resources assist others in filing, perfecting, and prosecuting their claims for benefits.

"Since this represents the principle upon which our organization was founded and since it is as sound at this time as it was in 1920, we hereby reaffirm this principle as the policy for the Disabled American Veterans."

I do have a few other announcements. Sorry for the delay there. I forgot my spectacles.

At 2:00 o'clock this afternoon this year's Service and Legislative Seminar is also, there is also going to be a special live taping of DAV's podcast. It's an Ask Me Anything format so don't miss this unique opportunity to hear directly from members of DAV's service team and legislative team.

Those who are interested in attending should be in their seats by 1:45—please be in your seats for the 2:00 o'clock seminar by 1:45 so that the seminar can begin promptly at 2:00 o'clock. Please review your program for details.

Beginning this afternoon at 4:15 convention committees are scheduled to meet. Those of you who have been elected to our convention committees are asked to be on time in the room assigned for your meeting. We ask that the committees complete their work as soon as possible but, of course, more importantly, as thoroughly as possible.

Those who plan to attend the Introduction of National Officers and Dinner on Tuesday evening must RSVP for the gathering. We have, unfortunately, reached capacity for the event. But those who wish to be added to a wait list for the meal must register no later than tomorrow afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

Tickets will not be issued for this event. Instead, an email will be sent by Tuesday morning to attendees who RSVP'd noting their assigned table number and further instructions regarding how to check in at the entrance to the dinner. We will also inform those on the wait list should additional seats become available.

Check your program or the convention app on your phone for more information, please, on all of our events and links to view and download photos, videos, reports and other content.

Every year A&W celebrates National Root Beer Float Day on August 6th and in exchange for a free root beer float, A&W asks their guests to pay it forward. Together with franchise partners, they have raised over \$650,000 for DAV since 2017—\$650,000 from A&W. (Applause)

Thanks to our great partners at A&W, immediately following our opening session—so you can ruin your lunch—free root beer floats will be made available to you all in Concorde A.

We are giving away three—I'm almost done. We're giving away three—boy, I really messed up with the glasses thing today. We're giving away three \$50 gift certificates that can be redeemed at the DAV store online or here during the convention.

All registered convention attendees are eligible but must be present to win: Ann Puck, Christine Nelson, and Larry Gray. If I called your name and you are in the hall, please see Assistant National Membership Director Doug Wells up here near the front of the stage as soon as we adjourn. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Jesinoski returned to his seat and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Barry. Ladies and gentlemen, if you are able to, please rise and I will ask Chaplain VARNER-DANCER to lead us in a closing prayer. (Three raps of the gavel)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. Almighty Creator once again we come to celebrate all that has gone before us, all those who have received great rewards and made great donations.

We ask that your continued blessing be upon them as we continue to forth in this convention, knowing that you are leading and guiding us on the right path and the right truth. So as we continue we

ask that you continue your grace with us with wisdom and knowledge and understanding. These and all things we give thanks. And the people of God said –

(Response of “Amen;” whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The convention stands in recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:55 o'clock, p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025.)

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Aug. 10, 2025

The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 103rd National Convention convened in the convened in the Rivoli A-B, Vendome A-B Ballrooms of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, Sunday morning, Aug. 10, 2025, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Daniel Contreras.

COMMANDER DANIEL CONTRERAS: The convention will please come to order. As a reminder, I would like to ask everyone to please silence your cell phones and portable devices. (Three raps of the gavel) Please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Chaplain Debra Varner will now lead us in prayer—Dancer, Chaplain VARNER-DANCER. Let's do it right. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN DEBRA VARNER-DANCER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. Almighty Creator, once again we thank you that you've allowed us to assemble ourselves once again. We ask for your guided spirit to continue to take us throughout this great convention.

We ask that you richly bless those who have been honored and appreciated today for all that they have done. We ask that you allow us to walk in your wisdom of discernment and a balance and your guidance in doing all that you required us to do, that we may continue to be committed in all of our endeavors through the vision that has been given until us.

These and all things we ask in your name. And the people of God said –

(Response of "Amen;" whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern and gave one rap of the gavel.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: In order for a delegate to be heard at this convention you must first be recognized by the chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. They must state their name, chapter number and the state they represent.

Comrades, the convention rules are a continuing part of our Bylaws. They are part and parcel of Article 3 and remain in effect continually. They are subject to amendment as provided in the Bylaws and do not require re-adoption.

I would like to call on Chairman Cali Mullens for the Credentials Committee report.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Credentials Committee chair advanced to the lectern.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CALI MULLENS: National Commander Contreras, National Adjutant Jesinoski, delegates, members and guests. The National Convention Committee on Credentials met in Normandy Room 1 on the Paris Versailles Tower in the Paris Hotel, Las Vegas Nevada.

The Credentials Committee was called to order for its first business session on Aug. 9th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. by the Committee Advisors Michael Dobmeier and Doug Wells. The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chairman and secretary. Cali Mullens of Washington state was elected as chairman and Jeremy Baratta of New Jersey was elected as secretary.

The roll call shows 1,162 delegates and 47 alternates have registered, representing 35 departments and 377 chapters registered. There are 5 national line officers, 15 National Executive Committee members, and 10 past national commanders currently registered, for a total of 30 national officers registered. The total vote count stands at 9,161 members.

This partial report is for informational purposes only and it reflects the registration at the close of business at 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 10th, 2025.

Commander, this completes my partial report for the Credentials Committee.

(Whereupon, the Credentials Committee chair withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: At this time I would also like to introduce and recognize my National Chief-of-Staff Enrique Ramos; Officer-of-the-Day Kirk Johnson, and Sergeant-at-Arms Steven DelRio Sales. Please stand you fine gentlemen. Appreciate you guys.

(Whereupon, the officers stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: It is now my honor to introduce your DAV National Washington Headquarters Executive Director Randy Reese. The Bristol, Virginia, native enlisted in the Army in 1984 and served as a rifle squad leader in the 82nd Airborne Division during the Persian Gulf War.

While serving as an elite “Black-Hat” instructor in the Air Movement Operations and Jump Master Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Randy suffered a disabling back injury during a nighttime parachute jump. Randy separated from the Army in 1995 and joined DAV as a national service officer that same year.

He went on to earn his paralegal degree from Kaplan College for Professional Studies. Since then he has become a nationally-recognized expert on veterans’ benefits and services.

In December 2018 Randy was appointed executive director of DAV Washington Headquarters where he serves as DAV’s principal spokesperson before Congress, the White House, and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Equipped with an unmatched expertise and experience, he continues to lead our advocacy efforts in Washington. Thanks to Randy, DAV remains at the forefront of the fight on Capitol Hill for veterans’ rights and earned benefits.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming executive director of DAV Washington Headquarters, Randy Reese. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the executive director of Washington Headquarters advanced to the lectern.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RANDY REESE: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: National Commander Contreras, National Adjutant Jesinoski, fellow delegates and guests, I am honored once again to be with you to provide a report on the activities and accomplishments of DAV’s national service and legislative programs since we last met in Phoenix.

And since it’s Sunday morning, I wanted to start by answering a question that many of you have been wondering: Do Las Vegas churches accept gambling chips? (Laughter) I know it’s been on your mind.

Now, this may come as a surprise but there are actually more churches than casinos in Las Vegas. And, not surprisingly, many worshipers will give casino chips rather than cash when the basket is passed around. I know some of you did at the Memorial Service—especially you. (Laughter)

Since the churches get chips from many different casinos, they created a system to cash in all those offerings. They send all of their collected chips from around the city to a nearby Franciscan monastery for sorting and then the chips are taken to each of the casinos of origin. They get cashed in and the money is returned to each church.

And, believe it or not, all of this work all over the city is done by the chip monks. (Laughter) I guess my comedy act won’t make Las Vegas Strip. (Laughter)

Seriously, though, in many ways the past year has been a very challenging one in Washington, D.C.

First, there was the endless partisan and political battles during last fall’s election campaigns.

And after the election, rather than calming the waters down, the dynamics of hyper-partisanship have come to dominate our politics, leading to gridlock and dysfunction.

In trying times like these, we look to history for context.

As you know, next year we’ll celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the founding document that marked the birth of our great nation. However, this year marks the 250th Anniversary of a number of other historical events.

In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began, with battles at Lexington, Concord, and Paul Revere’s famous ride. That same year the Army, the Navy, the Marines were established to defend the freedom and rights of these new Americans. (Hoo-ah) Man, that was a delayed hoo-ah. (Laughter)

That same year a less famous Declaration, but also drafted by Thomas Jefferson, was adopted by the Second Continental Congress to explain why the 13 Colonies had taken up arms against the British Empire.

Faced with increasingly harsh rule from a foreign monarch and the beginning of open hostilities, the Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms affirmed that:

“...government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be administered to the attainment of that end.”

“...the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume, we will, in defiance of every hazard, with un-abating firmness and perseverance, employ for the preservation of our liberties...”

It is these same liberties that America’s armed forces have defended for 250 years and it’s why our nation has a sacred obligation to keep our promises to all those who have served. (Applause)

Since we last gathered in Phoenix, there have been some victories for veterans, but also troubling signs that could lay ahead.

Though it took until the very final day of the 118th Congress, we did have one, but only one, significant veterans’ law enacted last year: the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. This law contains a number of important reforms and improvements to veterans programs and services.

The Dole Act will strengthen VA’s caregiver support programs and expand access to home- and community-based services for aging and disabled veterans at every VA medical center. It will give tens of thousands more veterans the option to receive long-term care and support in their homes rather than in a facility.

The law will also help streamline the VA disability claims process; expand access to job training and employment opportunities; address veteran homelessness; strengthen mental healthcare services; and so much more.

While this was an important legislative victory for veterans, unfortunately, the decade-long trend of hyper-partisanship amongst all political of our parties is accelerating, often paralyzing Congress and the federal government.

Right now, it’s not clear whether Congress and the Administration will even be able to pass a new budget for next year, or whether we’ll once again have a government shutdown.

None of this political dysfunction is good for the country, and it’s certainly not good for veterans. Frankly, it’s not good for Congress, either, as any pollster will tell you. Congressional approval today remains at one of the lowest levels ever.

And since we’re in Nevada, and only about 100 miles from Area 51, let me ask you a question. What’s the difference between a UFO and an honest politician? (Laughter) It’s possible that UFOs exist. (Applause) I might not be able to go home now. (Laughter)

But while politicians may bicker, veterans understand that to achieve our mission, we need to be united in our purpose.

As Ford Motor Company founder Henry Ford once said, “Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. And working together is success.”

We know from experience that working together is the only way to make real, lasting progress, particularly when it comes to Congress and VA keeping the promises to those who have served.

From the Appeals Modernization Act of 2017 to the MISSION Act of 2018, to the PACT Act of 2022, and to the Dole Act just last year in 2024, when Congress and the VA, Republicans and Democrats, work hand-in-hand with veterans service organizations and veterans, we can and have achieved landmark reforms and progress.

But none of this would happen without all the visits, the calls, and the emails that you send to your representatives and senators. In fact, during the 118th Congress, you sent almost 1.3 million emails in support of pro-veteran legislation, (Applause) all this through the DAV Commanders Action Network, DAV CAN, so thank you again so very much.

Thanks to the strength you provide us. DAV continues to be the leading voice for America’s ill and injured veterans.

In the 118th Congress, our legislative team was able to hold almost 800 meetings on Capitol Hill, at the VA, the White House, to educate Congress and policymakers, to advocate for our critical policy goals and our legislative goals.

Because of DAV’s expertise, we were invited to present testimony to congressional committees, participate in roundtables, and make other formal presentations nearly 50 times.

And DAV is once again taking that same proactive approach on Capitol Hill to push DAV’s veterans agenda forward this year, no matter what political obstacles we may face.

One of our top priorities is strengthening the laws addressing military toxic exposures. Building on the success of the PACT Act, last fall DAV released our Ending the Wait report, Ending the Wait for Toxic Exposed Veterans, produced in partnership with the Military Officers Association of America, MOAA.

This groundbreaking report which we presented to Congress at a Capitol Hill briefing, contains innovative research, historical analysis, and a series of recommendations to reform how VA acknowledges, compensates, and cares for veterans with toxic injuries from their military service.

Since the start of the new year and the new Congress, we have been building key coalitions and drafting new toxic exposure legislation we hope to see introduced later this year. Never again should any toxic-exposed veteran have to wait decades to receive their recognition, benefits and healthcare they earned. (Applause)

Another critical priority is strengthening VA's mental healthcare and suicide prevention programs, especially for our women veterans. (Applause) Last fall, DAV co-hosted a bipartisan Capitol Hill briefing on women veterans' mental health, suicide prevention and intimate partner violence.

We were also proud to once again play a major role in supporting VA's Quadrennial Women Veterans Summit. This event gathered women veterans' advocates from across the nation to bring attention to the challenges and the potential solutions for systemic and persistent issues that our women veterans face every day.

With your tireless advocacy, we are continuing to push for new legislation to close the gaps in mental healthcare so that no women veterans fall through these deadly cracks every again. (Applause)

Earlier this year, a plan to reduce the VA workforce by up to 15 percent, a cut of 70-80,000 VA employees, was made public by a leaked document, representing a potential new threat to our VA healthcare system.

As the heaviest users of VA care, DAV members, we, our members, know VA isn't perfect. And when we see problems, we call it out. But we also offer solutions.

But we also know that VA remains an irreplaceable national system of care designed specifically to care for those who were wounded, injured or made ill from their military service. So, with record numbers of veterans enrolling, utilizing, and relying on VA, we have an obligation to strengthen and sustain the VA system.

While DAV will always support efforts to make VA more effective and more efficient, the magnitude of these cuts initially reported could have threatened VA's ability to remain the primary provider and coordinator of medical care, particularly for the millions of veterans who need and who choose to use VA.

The Secretary's recent announcement that the reduction will be almost 30,000 jobs is obviously much less, but it's still a major change with potential negative impact on care and benefits delivery if it's not implemented carefully. And the fact that it was done without any consultation or discussion with DAV or any other veterans service organization is a major concern.

While we remain hopeful it can be accomplished without significant impacts on the delivery of healthcare and benefits, we have many unanswered questions. How will this be done? How will we be able to do more with less?

Now rest assured we will continue to ask these questions, monitor implementation, and we will oppose any efforts to weaken the one and the only healthcare system operated specifically for the benefit of America's veterans. (Applause)

Former South African President Nelson Mandela once said:

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made in the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." (Applause)

At DAV, we have and continue to make a difference in the lives of disabled veterans each and every day, first and foremost through our service program.

As with our legislative victories, DAV's service programs are successful because of the team we have across the entire country—thousands of department, chapter and even county service officers who work hand-in-hand with our national transition and national service officers.

That's why we continue to invest in the people who do this work. We recently incorporated our department and chapter service officer training program into DAV's iTRAK learning platform. It will allow all service officers now to expand their knowledge by acquiring resources that were previously only available to our national service officers.

DSOs and CSOs are now able to take training online, obtain their certificates, and receive a more in-depth training experience, a major improvement for departments and chapters nationwide.

Department and chapter service officers will now utilize DAV's case management system to deliver claims to NSO offices, greatly improving the security of our client's personal information.

The CMS system allows and provides for service officers to have better organized recordkeeping, quick access to client contact information, and the ability to submit claims to our NSO offices in real time.

I'm also proud to share that DAV's structured and continued training program recently had its Tri-Annual American Council on Education review. It was completed this year. And the council clearly recognized the substantial effort required of our national service officers to complete this training. As a result, DAV's structured continuing training program will continue to provide 15 college credit hours to all of those who complete the training.

Through this and other initiatives, the DAV invests in our people. We can be certain that when it comes to helping veterans get their earned benefits, DAV remains second-to-none. (Applause)

Our service team is also focused on exploring new ways of reaching veterans where they are. We continue to expand our outreach to rural and remote areas to assist and inform veterans about DAV's mission.

In 2024, our NSO corps conducted more than 500 information seminars across the country, reaching more than 18,000 participants. Our NSOs also assisted VA Regional Offices and other organizations with numerous outreach events, including PACT Act events, Homeless Stand Down initiatives, job fairs and many more.

We have more than two dozen transition service officers strategically located on military installations across the country. They assist servicemen and women transitioning out of the military.

Last year our TSOs conducted almost a thousand DoD Transition Assistance Program briefings, TAP, to educate departing service members on DAV services, VA benefits and other crucial information.

DAV is also expanding our outreach efforts to assist Native and tribal veterans, who have one of the highest per capita representations in our armed forces but are often among the most underserved.

I'm pleased to report we are close to establishing these new relationships with tribal government officials, fellow non-profit organizations, and other tribal leaders to ensure these veterans have equitable access to all of their earned VA benefits and healthcare services. (Applause)

At the same time, we continue to be on the outlook—(Jaws music, "da-da...da-da.") for unscrupulous companies—(Jaws music, "da-da...da-da.") seeking to prey upon veterans. (Jaws music, "da-da...da-da, da-da, da-da.")

That's right, 50 years after the premier of the movie Jaws, we must continue fighting to protect thousands of veterans each year from the jaws of "claim sharks." (Applause) These companies charge exorbitant sums of money to consult and assist veterans with seeking what they've already earned in VA benefits.

These claim sharks are not VA-accredited and do not meet the ethical standards that DAV service officers adhere to. Veterans should not have to pay for their benefits that they've already earned through their service and sacrifice. And rest assured, we will continue fighting for federal legislation to stop claims sharks before they attack. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a video of a shark exploding was viewed.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: So much for that claim shark.

(Laughter) I'm so proud to report that over the past year, DAV was able to assist thousands of our fellow veterans in need after major disasters.

In 2024, our NSO offices issued 2,300 disaster relief checks totaling more than \$1.4 million in support of veterans in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina who fell victim to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, as well as those impacted by tornadoes and floods in Kentucky, Oklahoma and Tennessee, and many more at other locations. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, this is what DAV does. This is what you do. This is who we are.

Finally, I want to mark two other anniversaries. Eighty years ago this September, World War II ended in the Pacific. And though less than 1 percent of veterans of that conflict remain, our obligations to them and their survivors live on.

And earlier this year, we commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the official end of the Vietnam War, marked by the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

Although the United States' formal military involvement had ended two years earlier with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973, the final act for our armed forces took place 50 years ago with Operation Frequent Wind, the largest helicopter evacuation in history.

In the final days and hours of April 1975, the U.S. Army, the Navy, the Marines, (Hoo-ah) and the Air Force all worked together to airlift thousands of American citizens, fellow service members, and at-risk Vietnamese from Saigon before the city was captured by the advancing North Vietnamese Army.

Under desperate and dangerous conditions, in less than 48 hours, dozens of military helicopters rescued more than 7,000 people, taking them from the roof of the U.S. Embassy to the U.S. Navy and other ships waiting for them offshore, under the protection of Air Force jets and other military aircraft.

While the political history of the United States and Vietnam and the war's outcome may remain controversial still today, there is absolutely no debate about the service and the honor of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who risked their lives right up and until the final helicopter departed Saigon. (Standing Ovation)

Now, some 50 years later, many of these same Vietnam veterans are still seeking the full measure of justice for all they have earned through their courageous service and sacrifice. These are the stories

that inspire our mission: making certain that no veteran is left behind, especially for lack of benefits or lack of VA healthcare.

And with your continued help, God's grace, I remain confident that DAV can and will continue to do our part in keeping America's promises to the men and women who have served, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Thank you all so very much. (Standing Ovation)

Commander, that concludes my report and I ask that it be accepted by the Convention.

(Whereupon, the Executive Director Reese withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Randy. May I have a motion to accept Mr. Reese's report?

MR. ALBERT LABELLE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 3.

MR. LABELLE: Al Labelle, Chapter 57, Department of Wisconsin, makes a motion to accept Washington Executive Director Randy Reese's excellent report.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I have a motion. May I have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT REYNOLDS: Mic 2.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 2.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REYNOLDS: Rob Reynolds, Department of South Carolina, Chapter 30, proudly seconds that report.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carries. (Applause)

And now it is now my great pleasure to introduce a veteran who many of you know for his outstanding leadership in this organization. A Marine veteran of the Iraq War, Cody VanBoxel was appointed executive director of DAV's National Headquarters in Erlanger, Kentucky, in June 2023.

Cody began his career as a national service officer apprentice at the National Service Office in Washington, D.C., almost 15 years ago before transferring to Philadelphia, an office he went on to supervise.

In 2017, Cody was appointed to the position of national human resources director, where his responsibilities included advising the executive director and providing executive oversight for the company's human resource initiatives.

In 2021 he was appointed to assistant executive director. In that capacity he was instrumental of the acquisition of DAV Patriot Boot Camp, among other important initiatives.

Now, as executive director of DAV's national headquarters, Cody oversees employment initiatives, voluntary services, fundraising, accounting, membership activities, administration, information technology, communications, outreach, human resources, facilities and logistics critical to DAV's mission of support for disabled veterans and their families.

Notably, he helped oversee the creation and development of DAV Caregiver Support, DAV's newest program which expands our commitment to caring for veterans and their families.

A native of Hambden, Ohio, Cody served his country as an electronics technician and then a Marine security guard, serving in West Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia. He spent nearly all of 2007 on duty in Iraq providing specialized security to Department of State and Multi-National Forces.

After his discharge in January 2009, he attended Western Governors University, earning a bachelor's of science degree in business management. He is also a Society of Human Resources Management Senior Certified Professional.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to your DAV National Headquarters Executive Director Cody VanBoxel. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Executive Director of National Headquarters VanBoxel advanced to the lectern.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CODY VANBOXEL: Good morning, DAV.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VANBOXEL: Thank you, Commander, for your very kind introduction. And thank you all for the dedicated and important work you do to carry out DAV's mission all over the country.

I feel like I'm in good company whenever I'm around veterans, but being here with so many of the most revered leaders in our community is especially rewarding, and I consider it a great privilege to be able to stand before you.

According to my drill instructor, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result.

As a recruit, the only thing I was certain of was that telling Sergeant Crum he might not be providing the dictionary version of that definition would definitely be insane and not in my best interest.

Instead, I tested his definition by, unintentionally, committing a wide range of real and imagined transgressions that resulted in my frequent visits to the quarter deck for abuse—I mean for individual training. (Laughter)

Sergeant Crum believed that this would make me, eventually, capable of being an error-free warfighter. But I proved him wrong. He thought I'd learn through repetition.

As the platoon neared graduation, we both knew I was making the same mistakes, even if most were imagined. And that I was still inciting his special rage. It's just that the repetitive punishment became infinitely easier after all of that motivating "training." (Laughter)

I may not have been the poster boy for his theory on the definition of insanity, but I went home on boot leave a very physically strong Marine.

Looking back, I have come to understand his intent. It's easy to become stuck in our ways. The most frustrating part of growing older is when you do the same thing expecting the same result and find that, for whatever reason, it doesn't work. Or it doesn't work as well. Or you get a different result altogether.

As disabled veterans, we develop a special resilience to address the unique challenges we face as a result of our service. We learn how the system works, for better or worse. We adjust as it changes. And we try, as best we can, to help our fellow veterans navigate complex situations so they don't have to endure the same frustrations. As we grow as advocates, we become capable of adapting more quickly.

But if there's one thing our journeys teach us, it's that change is the most inevitable and brutally indifferent force in our society. And we must learn to adjust.

Let's take a look at a timeline of changes we've seen that require our creative resilience.

In 1946, the world entered the information age with the development of the ENIAC, an electronic numerical integrator and computer. It was designed to help the U.S. Army (Bugle sounds).

All right, Happy 250th Birthday, Army. (Applause) That's right. We don't only talk about Marines on stage. You soldiers know we love you. Anyways, we would have baked you a cake ourselves but the Navy wouldn't give us the recipe. (Laughter) Okay, back to our first computer.

The ENIAC was designed to help World War II soldiers calculate and aim artillery under varying conditions. Computations that had taken two years before could be done in two hours. The phone in your pocket, even if it's a flip phone, is faster, but in time it would change the world.

Then in 1950, visionary British mathematician Alan Turing published his landmark paper Computing Machinery and Intelligence in which he asked a basic question: "Can machines think?" He wanted a test that could prove if machines could exhibit intelligent behavior. I'll get back to the Turing Test in a minute.

But first, the Information Age took a giant leap forward with the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network. A precursor to the internet we know today, it was created by the Department of Defense after the Russians launched Sputnik in 1957.

ARPANet was designed to help the U.S. share computing resources across different institutions because computers at the time were extremely rare and expensive. It came online, literally, in 1969.

Microprocessors by Intel were out in 1971. In 1976, along came the personal computer which brought computing power to small businesses and homes.

Then in 1991, a visionary U.S. Army veteran named Al Gore invented the Internet. (Laughter) Okay, that's not true. (Laughter) It is true, however, that the World Wide Web was invented in 1991. It connected the world and, arguably, has made us more distant in some ways than ever before. But it was the spark and things really began to accelerate.

In the 2000s, we saw the rise of social media and in 2007 the iPhone was created. The internet ushered in an age where data would become currency. And that's before we had digital currency like Bitcoin and NFTs that literally monetize data.

Fast forward to 2014 and we meet one of the most groundbreaking humans to never exist: Eugene Goostman. Eugene was an application designed to mimic a 13-year old Ukrainian boy. The Royal Society in London hosted a Turing Contest and Eugene made 33 percent of the judges who tested him believe he was human.

John Denning, an Army veteran, (Bugle sounds)—again, happy birthday Army—thank you. John Denning, an alumnus of DAV Patriot Boot Camp, was on the team that created Eugene. He's also an innovative technologist behind software and systems like MyChart that have revolutionized health care safety.

John helped give the world a glimpse into what the future could hold. Now we are seeing the rise of AI on a new and unprecedented level. It will further upend how we live, work, and interact. Generative AI is the next frontier. And I totally did not use it to write this entire speech last night. (Laughter) All hail our benevolent AI overlords. Apparently, I'll read anything they put in front of me. (Laughter)

The tech that has transformed our world today would have felt like science fiction even a decade ago. It keeps accelerating. And it's going to keep changing our world in ways that are unimaginable.

So, you may be asking yourself, why the mini history lesson? First, veterans are uniquely positioned to leverage technology because it was developed and proven out either by us or for us.

Second, there will always be gaps in technology. And looking ahead, our structure and our entrenchment in communities across the country provide tremendous opportunities.

Third, if any of you decide to turn me into a deep fake, I have one request. Give me back my hair. I miss it sometimes. (Laughter) And don't show my wife this photo or I'll be getting hair plugs. (Laughter)

And, fourth, if you ever get frustrated because your computer is not working right or you're having password issues with any system in DAV's inventory, you can blame the Department of Defense or the United States Army. (Bugle sounds)

All right, come on with this bugle. We're doing this again this year? I already said "Happy birthday."

DAV is, of course, leveraging technology in a variety of ways that benefit the veterans we serve. If AI or new tech can ethnically make us more efficient in our operations or improve our advocacy, we have an obligation to our donors and the veterans who count on us to use it. It cannot replace human interaction. But if it can help, we'll put it to work.

That's what we've seen a year into the launch of DAV's video gaming efforts. Here's the announcement from when we kicked off.

(Whereupon, a video of DAV on Twitch was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VANBOXEL: Now, I'll admit that when someone told me we needed Twitch, I figured it was slang for an illicit street drug. (Laughter) Then, when I found out what it was, I was sure it was a scam so team members could play video games at work and not get in trouble. (Laughter)

But it has, in fact, turned out to be a very effective way to connect with veterans. And when veterans realize DAV is an organization that's accessible to them, not only do they get help from us, they look for ways they can give back.

After last year's convention, through our foray into gaming, we met a Marine veteran named Chris Earl. Chris is the co-founder of Regiment Gaming, the largest company of its kind focused on the veteran and military community.

In October, he and Navy veteran Salem Thyne, of Good Game Entertainment Group, attended DAV Patriot Boot Camp in Washington, D.C. DAV also started working on Chris' claim, which was successfully resolved last month. (Applause) Yes. Thank you. Shout out to the service officers.

Regiment Gaming is an online community of more than 90,000 service members and veterans. Through a new partnership, Regiment is introducing DAV to veterans who need our help. And they're working with us to spread awareness and host community game nights.

Through the partnership we're looking at collaborating on gaming tournaments and PC giveaways. Not that computer, hopefully something newer, I hope.

Technology is not only connecting veterans to each other, it's also able to analyze nearly invisible behavior patterns to save lives. The specter of suicide remains a formidable challenge for veterans. But advances in technology and data science are opening new doors.

Tools like the VA's REACH VET program use predictive algorithms to flag veterans at risk, often before they speak a word. A 2022 study found participants had fewer ER visits and more safety planning, though suicide rates remained unchanged.

Researchers like RAND's Dr. Rajeev Ramchand say real-time tools, from wearable biometric sensors to AI analyzing therapy notes, can help identify critical moments of elevated risk.

We explore this more in the September/October issue of DAV Magazine, where we highlight how suicide risk fluctuates over time, and how new tools can detect warning signs through changes in sleep, heart rate, or even subtle shifts in behavior or language.

Ramchand also reminds us that economic hardship matters, too, access to things like SNAP, Medicaid, or earned income credits can be life-preserving. These insights point toward a more proactive, personalized model of care, one that could revolutionize how we detect and address suicide risk among veterans.

Not all innovations involve screens or circuits. Some of the most promising advancements in veterans' care are happening in the realm of mental health, and they're being led by veterans who dared to seek a different path.

They're proving that sometimes progress means rediscovering what's worked in the past, and being willing to look beyond conventional options when those options fail people we serve.

Earlier this year, DAV interviewed Samantha Juan, an Army veteran who served in Cultural Support Teams, or CSTs. These elite teams were attached to U.S. special operations units in Afghanistan and Iraq where female soldiers like Samantha conducted missions that male counterparts couldn't—interacting with local women and children to gather intelligence, support raids, and build trust in the communities we operated in.

But the work often placed Samantha in morally complex and emotionally devastating situations, particularly when she saw firsthand how little she could do to prevent harm to the civilians she was sent to help.

That inner conflict, between her mission and her conscience, left deep and lasting scars. Over time, she developed moral injury, post-traumatic stress, and, eventually, a dangerous dependency on opioids.

She tried everything that was offered: medications, therapy, clinical programs. None of it brought relief. Then she learned about ibogaine, a powerful psychedelic plant medicine used in other countries to treat trauma and addiction. Desperate for hope, she pursued treatment abroad. And her life changed.

(Whereupon, a video on Samantha Juan was viewed followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VANBOXEL: Samantha's journey is not an outlier. She represents thousands of veterans seeking new paths to healing when conventional systems come up short.

That's why DAV was proud to attend the Psychedelic Science Conference 2025 in Denver to learn from veterans in similar situations. The event featured hundreds of veterans who have become a driving force in one of the most important medical conversations of our time.

Tomorrow afternoon, I hope you'll join us for a special roundtable seminar on this topic. We'll hear directly from: a veteran who has undergone psychedelic-assisted therapy; a military spouse and ibogaine advocate; and NFL star Robert Gallery, who's working with veterans' groups to learn how these same therapies might help professional athletes suffering from long-term brain injuries like CTE.

This isn't about hype or headlines. It's about giving veterans, caregivers and families real hope when nothing else has worked. And it's a conversation DAV will continue to be a part of as we advocate for research, safety and expanded access to promising treatments.

Please join us for this important session and stand by for more to come from DAV on this vital and evolving issue.

Whether new or old, technologies create opportunities to reach key audiences and better serve veterans. In our over-communicated societies and saturated minds, it becomes increasingly difficult for our fellow Americans to feel confident about people and institutions that seem remote.

This phenomenon is called the Trust Horizon. People tie their trust more to other people and institutions that are nearer to them. The less distance, geographically, socially or organizationally, that they perceive between themselves and another human or a cause, the more trust they assign. Or, more plainly, more distance equals less trust and less distance equals more trust.

For this reason, the hands-on work that DAV performs in our communities has, and will continue, to grow in value. In a world where the average American adult spends seven hours looking at screens, personal engagement is more meaningful than ever.

To that end, I want to thank each of you for stepping up in huge ways since we last spoke. This year we exceeded our all-time highs for local veterans' assistance program, or L-VAP, hours. Combined, you were responsible for more than 2.7 million hours of volunteer service. (Applause)

That figure includes our record-high turnout for DAV Community Impact Day. On April 5th, nearly one thousand people from the East Coast to Hawaii pledged time to directly serve and benefit veterans.

In Honolulu, Chapter 1 conducted buddy checks to show their fellow veterans we care and connect them with resources. In New Jersey, members hosted a community fellowship event. In Georgia, they collected items for infants for a baby shower for women veterans.

There was a pizza party for a veterans' home in Massachusetts. A driveway was re-graded for a veteran in West Virginia. A ramp was built for a veteran in Missouri. There was a cookout for senior veterans at a nursing home in Orlando, and many other activities.

Our volunteers connected their fellow Americans with our cause, gave them a way to express their gratitude, and helped a lot of veterans in extremely creative ways. DAV Community Impact Day was an incredible success. And we'll do it again next year on April 4th. (Applause)

Last year, you provided more than 235,000 rides covering 9.3 million miles so veterans could receive the care they earned. (Applause)

That's the equivalent of circling the globe more than 300 times, which definitely helped DAV close the distance on our Trust Horizon with our public and the people we support.

The work we're doing with caregivers is a perfect merge of technology and human interaction. Few in our country have a better understanding of their needs than DAV. Over the last year, under Adjutant Jesinoski's leadership, our efforts to support caregivers was elevated to the program level at national headquarters.

We know the financial, professional, and personal challenges that caregivers face, though they do so with incredible compassion and grace. We all know a caregiver. But how often do we truly take the time to think about what they're giving up to allow their loved one to live with dignity? How often do we ask if they need help?

To date, DAV has assisted almost two thousand caregivers in life-changing ways. (Applause)

When we screen these folks, we find that most caregivers are well beyond key thresholds in many categories. Often, the more they give to support the one they love, the more their personal health declines. They suffer from fatigue and burnout. But they are so busy worrying about the person they're caring for and so concerned for them that they make their own needs the last priority.

It's not unusual for a caregiver to be astounded when they go through this process and come to realize how unsustainable their lives have become. In some cases, they tell us that no one has ever asked about many of the things that impact their quality of life. They sometime feel like a shadow behind a wheelchair. In some cases, they tell us that the screener is, sadly, the first time they've felt heard in years.

We're hosting special caregiver events through adaptive sports and, of course, we're connecting those folks with the program. At the Winter Sports Clinic this year, caregiver Roseanne McCrickard had this to say about her experience:

"I want to thank you for helping me take the first step to contact the DAV caregiver program.

Having the knowledge and the compassion of someone who's there for me, to listen and help, has made me feel stronger to deal with issues that might arise."

As we connect caregivers with resources and provide them with the confidence that they're not alone, they tell us they feel renewed. And as we track their progress, we see how a little bit of help, a respite from the labors of love, is completely transformative.

Looking ahead, this program is going to grow and evolve to host events and do even more on a personal and policy level to help those unsung heroes who give so much of their lives in service.

All right, before Barry ushers me away with a shepherd's hook, I saved one of his key priorities for the end. Of course, that buys me more time. (Laughter) It's sort of like that rumor that, when establishing bases, the Air Force would finish gold courses before they started the flight lines just in case they went over budget. (Applause) Yes, truth is, that's not a rumor. (Laughter)

As our national adjutant reported yesterday, recruiting people to join DAV should be easier today than at any other time in recent memory. I want to thank all of you who are using the many resources we've developed to bring new veterans and families to our cause.

This is our legacy. And, as Barry said, to build or even keep all that we've gained over these many years, now is the time we must leverage our Trust-Horizon-advantage. Now is the time to introduce more veterans to DAV.

We all know someone who is eligible to join. We all know people who have received assistance who are not members but may be willing to sign up. We owe it to the ones who came before us and the generations to follow to strengthen our cause and take the time to simply ask the people in our lives if they'd be willing to stand up for their fellow veterans. We must appeal to their sense of duty.

I mentioned our inaugural Recruiter Rally last year. Nearly two thousand members responded and recruited at least one member to join DAV. Well, good news, we're doing it again for Orlando.

Last year, I mentioned that the winner would receive an expense paid trip and the chance to win an additional one million dollars. Well, I'm in a Vegas sort of mood so I'll up the ante. This year's winner will now receive a chance to win two million dollars. That's because, yes, Florida has casinos, as well. (Laughter)

Congratulations to our 2024-2025 recruiter Rally Winner, Luis Cortez, Chapter 114, in San Antonio, Texas. (Applause) Congratulations. Luis, I'm not sure if you caught the remarks from last year, but this is a great opportunity for you to win a couple million bucks.

How you win the first million is up to you. There's lots of games of chance here in Vegas. My advice would be take your cash and throw it all on black at craps and let it ride. As a reminder, we won't put up your initial stake or help you with taxes. But I think we'd all agree, we're pretty sure you would win, Luis.

Of course, next year we're in Orlando. By recruiting just one DAV member you have the chance to win an expense paid trip. So if you win, you're going to Disney World. (Applause) Yes. Well, I mean we're not paying for Disney World. That's on you. We are a charity. I'm not sure we could cover parking, really. (Laughter)

But, hey, we'll get you close to Disney World so you might as well give it a shot. And, hey, compared to Vegas the lines at Disney are a sure bet. (Laughter)

Thank you all so much for the sacrifices you have made for our country. Thank you for your continued service through DAV. Thank you for all we'll accomplish in the year ahead and keep showing America what DAV is all about.

Commander, this concludes my report. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, executive director of national headquarters withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Cody, for that impressive update.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: May I have a motion to accept Mr. VanBoxel's report?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEPHEN WHITEHEAD: Mic 2.

MR. CHARLES BURNS: Mic 3.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WHITEHEAD: Mic 2.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 2.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WHITEHEAD: Stephen Whitehead, Chapter 40, Department of Minnesota, so proudly makes that motion to approve Cody's report.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I have a motion. May I have a second.

MR. CHARLES BURNS: Mic 3.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 3.

MR. BURNS: Charles Burns, Chapter 39, Minnesota, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carries. (Applause)

(Whereupon, executive director of national headquarters withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: DAV partners with thousands of passionate VA employees across the nation to ensure the promises to our men and women who served are kept. We stand together to improve the delivery of services wherever they are needed for the benefits of all veterans.

Although they aren't here in person today, it is my distinct pleasure to announce the National Commander's VA Employee of the Year awards for three remarkable VA staff employees. These awards recognize their leadership, compassion and dedication to supporting our ill and injured veterans who have given so much for this nation.

DAV's Veterans Health Administration Employee of the Year is Army veteran Steven Plumb, a dedicated VHA employee of more than 30 years. His service at the White River Junction VA Medical Center in Vermont has made a lasting impact on veterans seeking the justice and veterans' benefits they have earned. Please recognize Steven Plumb with a round of applause. (Applause)

DAV's Veterans Benefits Administration Employee of the Year is Marine veteran Heather McKibben. She had distinguished herself among her peers with her leadership in exceeding all goals set forth by the Muskogee Regional Office in Oklahoma and leading an outreach team that interacted with over 32,000 veterans in 2024.

Her diligence in PACT Act outreach has led to VA adopting her events framework as "best practices" nationwide. Please recognize Heather McKibben with a round of applause. (Applause)

The DAV's National Cemetery Administration Employee of the Year is Army veteran Jason Guenther. Having served at the NCA for nearly 10 years, Jason has distinguished himself as the assistant director of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery and with his efforts to continually beautify the Philadelphia National Cemetery, ensuring veterans have a respectful final resting place and families have a space to properly honor their loved ones.

Please recognize Jason Guenther with a round of applause. (Applause)

I'd now like to invite National Employment Director Lamarr Couser to please join me on stage.

(Whereupon, the National Employment Director joined the commander on the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Each year DAV recognizes companies that go above and beyond to recruit, hire and invest in veterans. These companies understand how veterans contribute to a

company's success and culture and are crucial in our mission to ensuring veterans can lead fulfilling lives after service.

It is my pleasure to announce the DAV Patriot Employer of the Year Awards for three outstanding organizations.

The 2025 DAV Small Patriot Employer of the Year Award goes to Artemis ARC, located in Alexandria, Virginia. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Artemis ARC CEO and Army veteran Luke Sturges to the stage. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Sturges advanced to the stage to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. JOHN "ROB" LEWIS: Artemis, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business conducts over 75 percent of its consulting contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The company's workforce is proudly comprised of 14 percent veteran employees. To enhance veteran employee satisfaction, Artemis has a Veterans Experience Council with 425 veterans who serve as advisors.

Artemis also offers a free, quarterly virtual training program where participants pursue credits required for certain certifications and have the opportunity to transition into full-time positions with the company.

MR. LUKE STURGES: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. STURGES: I'm truly honored to accept this award on behalf of the entire Artemis team. A big thank you to DAV for recognizing our work to support and uplift veterans, not only in the workplace but in every part of our mission.

Artemis is a public sector delivery partner based in the D.C. area. Our primary client has always been the Department of Veterans Affairs. Supporting veterans isn't just something we do; it's something we deeply believe in.

We know that veterans bring incredible talent, resilience, and leadership to everything they do. Like many of you, we've seen firsthand how their experience strengthens teams and drives impact.

This recognition belongs to our whole team from recruiting and hiring to community partnerships and client work. We've made it a priority to create an environment where veterans feel valued and can thrive.

Thank you, again, to DAV for this honor. We're proud to stand alongside you in serving those who served and we're excited to keep doing more in the years ahead. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Sturges withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Luke, for all you and Artemis ARC do to support veterans.

Our 2025 DAV Midsize Patriot Employer of the Year goes to NTT Global Data Centers. Please welcome to the stage Senior Director, Asset Management Global, Ruben Valverde.

(Whereupon, Mr. Valverde advanced to the stage to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. LEWIS: Our 2025 DAV Midsize Patriot Employer of the Year goes to California-based NTT Global Data Centers. To support a workforce made up of over 21 percent veteran associates, the data services company provides focused collaboration to assist, mentor, and retain veteran employees, mainly through its Veterans Employee Resource Group.

NTT Global also partners with organizations that promote job opportunities to identify, attract, and recruit even more veteran associates. This includes both virtual and in-person DAV job fairs.

MR. REUBEN VALVERDE: I had a squirrel joke but the chipmunk or whatever beat me too it. (Laughter) Where are my leathernecks at? Semper Fi. (Hoo-ah)

I want to thank DAV for the recognition and the continued partnership. I also want to thank my NTT executive leadership team and the global people and culture team that support our employee resource group.

I also want to make mention that our veteran ERG is part of the DDC Bridge Program which stands for Building Relationships for Inclusion, Diversity, Growth and Equity.

I want to call out the 168 members at our Employee Resource Group that are all veterans and allies and make mention of the reason why we're here, because 21 percent of our veteran workforce at NTT Global Data Center America are all veterans, including myself.

And, lastly, just to close out thoughts and not hold things up, I just want to say that NTT GDC is a remarkable place to work at. Building a career there in an industry that's empowering the digital infrastructure of the future, enabling everything from AI to next generation technologies and global innovation and scale.

Again, thank you DAV for your support of disabled veterans, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, coast guard and our guardians. Thank you so much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Valverde withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Ruben and congratulations to NTT Global. (Applause)

The 2025 DAV Large Patriot Employer of the Year is a Werner Enterprises.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Executive Vice-President and COO Eric Downing to accept the DAV Large Patriot Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Downing advanced to the stage to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. LEWIS: The 2025 DAV Large Patriot Employer of the Year is Werner Enterprises, based in Omaha, Nebraska. For over 20 years, the trucking company has been committed to the employment of transitioning service members and veterans. Through its Operation Freedom initiative, the company has hired over 25,000 transitioning service members and veterans.

Werner offers several training programs, including the industry's first registered apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor, in addition to military skills test waivers and an even-exchange program for veteran readiness in the trucking workforce.

MR. ERIC DOWNING: All right, so good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. DOWNING: Good morning. So the first thing I want to say is just wow. It's amazing to me how many people are here, the thousands of people to support our veterans and, more importantly, our disabled veterans, so big kudos to the DAV for putting this together. It's my first time being here and it's just breathtaking. It's amazing. So that's awesome. (Applause)

So, again, thank you to the DAV for this award. It is truly humbling. It's a great honor for our company. I don't know how many people know this but one in five of our associates are a veteran or a spouse of a veteran. So we take great pride in that.

We know what veterans bring to the table from the standpoint of leadership and work ethic. Myself, I'm a veteran of the Air Force. (Cheers) I know. I know. Right. Airborne com, does that help? So this is like the last 30 years this is the first time I've worn blues in that long so. (Laughter)

So, again, thanks to the DAV. We do not take this for granted. We are very proud of this recognition so thank you. You saw Jaffe come up, Jaffe who took the picture with us. She is the backbone of our entire program. She's out there working with all the government organizations, civilians and really finding good jobs for our veterans when they leave the service so we're extremely proud of that.

So, again, thank you to the DAV and all of their support. And we're, again, couldn't be more proud. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Downing and Mr. Burgos withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Please congratulate all of our Patriot Employers of the Year with another round of applause. (Applause)

Thanks to the DAV's National Employment Program's dedicated outreach and collaboration with companies that participate in our nationwide career fairs, DAV receives numerous submissions to our Patriot Employer program each year.

And if you know of a small, medium or large company that prioritizes hiring veterans, you can nominate them or encourage them to nominate themselves at Patriot Employers-dot-org.

In addition to our top award recipients, we've added categories for ventures that excelled in specific ways, including: hiring and recruiting; career building and retention; excellence in community support.

The names of these outstanding employers will be submitted for the record. They and all who are recognized through Patriot Employers-dot-org will receive digital badges to promote their excellence in hiring our nation's heroes.

Please give these and all employers who support our community one more round of applause. (Applause)

Patriot Employer Excellence in Veteran Hiring: Small Employer, Tampa Microwave; Midsize Employer, Airbus Helicopters, Inc.;

Large Employer, Nucor. Patriot Employer Excellence in Career Building: Small Employer National Industries for the Blind (NIB); Midsize Employer, Black Rifle Coffee Company; Large Employer, Cox Enterprise. Patriot Employer Excellence in Community Support; Small Employer, Drexel Hamilton; Midsize Employer,

Austin Police Department; Large Employer

Hy-Vee Inc.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: It is now my pleasure to recognize the Local Veterans Employment Representative and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist recipients of 2025. These awards recognize the commitment and compassion of two individuals who are dedicated to serving our nation's heroes.

This year's recipients are fantastic examples of veterans helping veterans. While they aren't here today, we're honored to recognize them for their dedication and continued service.

The Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year Award goes to Sarah Lazarz of Wisconsin. Sara is a member of the Army National Guard, helped over 60 employers win recognition for their veteran and military recruitment and retention efforts, and nearly two dozen veterans find successful and sustained employment with these companies.

Please recognize Sarah with a round of applause. (Applause)

And now please give it up for the 2025 Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, Navy veteran Tiffany Beaubien of New Jersey. In 2024 Tiffany helped 12 veterans find meaningful employment, five of whom had service-connected disabilities. Let's thank Tiffany with a round of applause. (Applause)

In 2007, DAV created the Local Veterans Assistance Program, or L-VAP, providing volunteers with a variety of opportunities to serve while receiving the same recognition and incentives as those available to traditional VA and Transportation Network volunteers.

L-VAP opportunities to assist veterans and their families are based on the needs of local veterans. They include everything from yard clean-up and landscaping to serving as companions for veterans in long-term care facilities and hospice units. These volunteers perform any task that may help improve a veteran's life.

I know many of you in this room are L-VAP volunteers. Go ahead and raise your hand and keep them coming.

(Whereupon, the L-VAP volunteers raised their hands.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you. Keep them up. Keep them up. Now, how many of you have donated up to one thousand L-VAP hours? And keep your hands raised.

(Whereupon, the L-VAP volunteers with one thousand hours kept their hands raised.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Look at that. (Applause) How about five thousand?

(Whereupon, the L-VAP volunteers with five thousand hours kept their hands raised.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: There are still a lot of hands up. Let's give them a round of applause. (Applause) Still up. Ten thousand.

(Whereupon, the L-VAP volunteers with ten thousand hours kept their hands raised.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Wow. (Applause) Look at that. Okay, with those hands up, I want you to stand up if you've done more than 10,000. Let's see it. Anybody?

(Whereupon, the L-VAP volunteers with ten thousand hours stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Yes. Let's give them a big round of applause. Incredible. But, guess what? I know everyone in this room should have been standing. And John will tell you that for sure because you're doing the great work for our organization but you're not giving yourself credit.

And you should. And you know that helps us. It helps us to show America what our organization is doing. It helps us to show Washington what our organization is doing.

So if you are an L-VAP volunteer and you have not put those hours out, you stand up right now. Come on. Stand up. Let me see you. Honestly, everybody in this room should be standing up. Let's go. Let's go.

(Whereupon, the members stood.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Good. Good. Well, thank you guys for what you're doing. Everyone, give yourselves a round of applause again. (Applause)

I'll now ask National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst and National Headquarters Executive Director Cody VanBoxel to the stage, please.

(Whereupon, Mr. Kleindienst and Mr. VanBoxel joined the commander on the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my immense pleasure to recognize our top DAV state-level departments in the area of L-VAP service, starting with Division 1.

MR. LEWIS: The Division 1 Local Veterans' Assistance Program recipient is the Department of Florida, (Applause) Past Department Commander Laymond Rose, with 413,445 hours. Here to accept the award is Department Adjutant Andy Marshall. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Marshall advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which Adjutant Marshall withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: The Division 2 Local Veterans Assistance Program recipient is the Department of South Carolina, (Applause) Past Department Commander Tom Walton, with 475,899 hours. (Applause) Here to accept the award is Department Adjutant Latrice Green. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Green advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, then Adjutant Green withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: The Division 3 Local Veterans Assistance Program recipient is the Department of Wisconsin, Past Department Commander Gregory Palo, with 93,809 hours. Here to accept the award is Department Adjutant Matt Kempainen. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kempainen advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which Adjutant Kempainen withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: The Division 4 Local Veterans Assistance Program recipient is the Department of Nebraska, Past Department Commander Darrell Kodad, with 84,079 hours. Here to accept the award is Department Adjutant Jamie Jakub. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Jakub advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, then Adjutant Jakub withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: The Division 5 Local Veterans Assistance Program recipient is the Department of South Dakota, Past Department Commander Kim Hubers, with 40,484 hours. Here to accept the award is Department Adjutant Marty Pennock. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Pennock advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, then Adjutant Pennock withdrew from the stage, along with Mr. Kleindienst and Mr. VanBoxel, and the commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: On behalf of our organization I'd like to express our deepest gratitude for all of the selfless volunteers in VA hospitals, our Transportation Network drivers, and participants in the Local Veterans Assistance Program for their heartfelt service to disabled veterans and their families.

Thank you for donating your time and energy to help DAV keep our promise to the men and women who have served our great nation. Please join me again in giving them all a big hand for their service. (Applause)

DAV's success depends on a robust, far-reaching membership, and that is largely possible because of the efforts of close to 2,500 members who have recruited for our organization. Thanks to those dedicated veterans, our ideas, viewpoints, and experiences stay relevant and influential. They, the DAV recruiters and NSOs, make DAV's voice loud and strong.

Before we recognize our top recruiters, let's take a moment to celebrate the members in this room. Raise your hand if you joined DAV in the past year.

(Whereupon, the members raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Welcome. We are so happy to have you here. Okay, we're going to do this again. It's fun. I like it. (Laughter) Who has been a member for at least five years, raise your hand.

(Whereupon, the members raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Okay. How about ten?

(Whereupon, the members raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Twenty.

(Whereupon, the members raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Very good. Anyone thirty?

(Whereupon, the members raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Look at that. Anyone over 30 years?

(Whereupon, the members raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Wow. We have a few. It's amazing. Whether you are a new member or a more—as Delphine likes to say—seasoned member, (Laughter) thank you for adding your voice and value to our organization. And all of you who raised your hand with the one year, I'll see you in 30 years, right? But thank you.

I would now like to invite National Headquarters Executive Director Cody VanBoxel to the stage as we recognize our top division winners in recruiting for the 2024 and 2025 season. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Executive Director VanBoxel joined the commander on the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Under the leadership of Commander Shannon Sander, the Department of New York is the recipient of this year's Division 1 award. Accepting the award is Department Adjutant Thomas Wallrab. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Wallrab advanced to the stage to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Under the leadership of Commander Travis Lewis, the Department of Missouri is the recipient of this year's Division 2 award. Accepting the award is Department Adjutant Michael Elmore. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Elmore advanced to the stage to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Under the leadership of Commander Jose Cruz, the Department of Puerto Rico is the recipient of this year's Division 3 award. Accepting the award is Department Adjutant Roberto Concepcion-Ramos. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Concepcion-Ramos advanced to the stage to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Under the leadership of Commander Kevin Sanders, the Department of Connecticut is the recipient of this year's Division 4 award. Accepting the award and now serving as the Department Adjutant is Kevin Sanders. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Sanders advanced to the stage to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Under the leadership of Commander Charles Greer, the Department of Wyoming is the recipient of this year's Division 5 award. Accepting the award is Department Adjutant Floyd Watson Jr. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Watson advanced to the stage to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he started to withdraw from the stage and the Commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Our next award is the General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award. It is presented to the Department that ends the year with the largest percentage increase in total new members. This year's winner is the DAV Department of Wyoming. Please join us on stage—that was just, Floyd. Okay. No worries. Good job, Floyd. (Applause) Let's bring him back out. And here he comes again, the smooth walker, Floyd Watson. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Department Adjutant Watson received the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the stage and the Commander returned to the lectern.)

MR. LEWIS: The General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is named after a past DAV national commander and Medal of Honor recipient who served as commander of allied forces in the Philippines at the time of their surrender to Japan in World War II.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the Department that completes the year with the highest percentage increase of fully-paid life members over the goal. This year's winner is the Department of North Dakota. Please welcome Department Adjutant Joseph Hall. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hall received the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the podium.)

MR. LEWIS: The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is named after DAV's founder. Marx served in the Army in World War I. He earned the Distinguished Service Cross and was injured in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. He later became a superior court judge and law professor.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Many of you joined the DAV with the help of one of our devoted national service officers. Our NSOs retain an unmatched knowledge of veterans' benefits law and an understanding of medical terminology, anatomy, and physiology. And on top of that, being a DAV NSO also requires a unique understanding of this organization.

It is my honor to recognize the top recruiter from our NSO corps who, remarkably, recruited 274 veterans to join our ranks. Please give a round of applause for Hank Meyers of the Oregon National Service Office. (Applause)

(Whereupon, NSO Meyers advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the stage and the Commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Of course, many of you were introduced to DAV through a member. This year our Top Recruiting Member of the Year is Scott Burdick from DAV Chapter 24 in Arizona. Scott recruited 149 new members. Accepting on his behalf is Chapter 24 Senior Vice-Commander Rodney Hayg.

(Whereupon, Senior-Vice Commander Hayg advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which he withdrew from the stage and the Commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Each year DAV recognizes the success of members who recruit 100 or more new members for three consecutive years with a golden lapel ring—I'm sorry, golden lapel pin—sorry, no ring (Laughter)—and by entering their names into the Membership Recruiters Hall of Fame.

This year we have six inductees who recruited a combined total of 4,354 new members. (Applause) They were able to accomplish this over the past three years. Please stand and join me in a round of applause as I announce this year's inductees. Okay. (Three raps of the gavel)

John Rodriguez. Accepting on his behalf is Robert Nobertowicz. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Nobertowicz advanced to the stage to receive the pin, at which time an official photograph was taken, then he withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Hank Meyers. There we go. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Meyers advanced to the stage to receive his pin, at which time an official photograph was taken, then he withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Next is Carlos Malone. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Malone advanced to the stage to receive his pin, at which time an official photograph was taken, then he withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Michael Franko. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Franko advanced to the stage to receive his pin, at which time an official photograph was taken, then he withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Shannon Sander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Sander advanced to the stage to receive her pin, at which time an official photograph was taken, then she withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Dillon Olson. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Olson advanced to the stage to receive his pin, at which time an official photograph was taken, then he withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Please give one final round of applause for all of these amazing recruiters. (Applause)

It is now my privilege to introduce someone speaking on behalf of an organization dedicated to providing the fullest possible accounting of our—oh, sorry. (One rap of gavel, followed by laughter) But some of you sat down before I did that. (Laughter) Is that like a push-up thing, maybe? I don't know.

Let's give her the full honor of this. It's now my privilege to introduce someone speaking on behalf of an organization dedicated to providing the fullest possible accounting of our missing personnel to their families and to the nation.

Fern Sumpter Winbush is the principal deputy director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or D.P.A.A. In January 2015 she retired from the Army after 34 years of military service, which included a deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Afghanistan, and subsequently as the Commander of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia.

In her role with D.P.A.A., Fern leads the agency in formulating policy, oversees business development, and increases outreach initiatives to achieve the agency's mission.

Please help me in welcoming, D.P.A.A. Principal Deputy Director Fern Sumpter Winbush. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Ms. Sumpter Winbush advanced to the lectern.)

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR FERN SUMPTER WINBUSH: I was wondering what my walk-on song was going to be. So thank you, Commander Contreras. Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR SUMPTER WINBUSH: How are you?

(Response of "Good.")

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR SUMPTER WINBUSH: Awesome. Commander, thank you so much for inviting us. Once again, I give you and the group, I send greetings from our director, Major General Retired Kelly McKeague, who could not be here. We have a lot going on in D.P.A.A., a lot of these engagements.

But I also like to give another special shout-out to the DAV Washington Headquarters section, especially to Justin Hart and Randy Reese. They are the ones that keep in contact with D.P.A.A. and often during your Winter Conference I will come down and give them a regular update so a huge shout-out to them. (Applause) Yes.

So as the sole agency in the Department of Defense—go to the next slide, please—sole agency in the Department of Defense responsible for providing the fullest possible accounting of those who have gone unaccounted for from our nation's wars dating back to World War II forward, not only to the

nation but to their families, as well, as you can see, the numbers are daunting with over 80,000 still unaccounted for.

And I'm probably going to mess up a couple of our numbers because we are making identifications like crazy. But of that number, just over 38,000 is the number that we believe that we can actually recover and account for.

And that's largely because many of our losses are due to deep sea losses or high-speed aircraft crashes during the Vietnam War where the remains were consumed during the incident.

We are widely recognized as a humanitarian effort. We have partnerships with 46 countries around the world, which is huge for us because, as you can imagine, we can't just go into foreign nations and start digging and looking for remains.

The current Secretary of Defense has talked about restoring the warrior ethos. Well, I will tell you in D.P.A.A. not only do we put the mission first, we know as the sole agency with this mission we can't afford to quit because there is no one else out there doing this. But then, most importantly, the warrior ethos piece that talks about never leaving a fallen comrade.

We all know that based on the challenges of conflict that oftentimes remains weren't fully recovered. And so D.P.A.A.'s responsibility is to make sure that that promise is kept to those servicemen and women who died, who fell in battle, but then, also, to their families who many of which stay in very close contact with D.P.A.A. They demand answers. And they want their loved ones to come home.

We just spent two days this week, Thursday and Friday, meeting with over 400 family members from the Koran War and the Cold War where we talked about the Agency's efforts to account for their loved ones, not only the good stories but then, also, our challenges, which I'll talk about in just a minute.

So in 2025 we experienced our tenth anniversary. We stood up in 2015. And so when that anniversary arrived I asked the staff, being the business head, figurehead in the agency, tell me how we have done over these last ten years. Talk to me about identifications and accounting.

Those two numbers are different. And they're different because when we make identifications we don't know until we bring the remains into the laboratory who we actually have. So when we go to a battlefield to recover remains we often get remains from individuals that the American Graves Registration left behind. And so there is the same level of effort to not only recover the remains but then to make an identification.

The number that we talk about on our website, the accounting number, is the number of newly accounted for individuals. So if we go to a site where there were five who fell, four were originally recovered but there is one left, if we recover remains from not only that single individual but other individuals that fell, we will only list on our website that one accounted for.

Now, as I talk about the numbers, just remember, there is a family that's behind that figure that's waiting, demanding answers and demanding the return.

So the staff came back to me and said, okay, ma'am, from 2015 to the present, January 2025, we have made over 2,146 identifications. (Applause) Of those identifications, 1,606 are newly accounted for individuals. And so that was 1,600 families that got the call for the first time, which is huge.

The way we were able to do that is in 2023 we received a plus-up in our budget to the tune of about \$20 million. We were able to hire historians and researchers, mission planners to plan our operations two years out, both field recoveries and identifications, as well as bring on anthropologists and archeologists. And then we also received funding to plus-up our operations. And so we had pretty robust field missions, to include this year, as well.

Now, I'm sure the question on your minds—and this is where I'm going to spend the majority of the rest of this talk, the few minutes that I have left, is with all that success what is the impact of the current cuts across the Department of Defense.

Well, I will tell you, as you suspect, the cuts are going to be significant. They will have a huge impact. And the reason we believe that to be so is not only are we losing funding but we also have had 26 of our billets cut so that's 26 people we're not going to be able to hire to sustain this momentum.

We are on such an outstanding trajectory right now that last year we identified 221 and accounted for 172. But this year, for FY25, we have already accounted for 196 individuals, and we're not even at the end of the fiscal year. And that's—(Applause) Thank you. And that's because we've been able to ramp up our efforts.

If you want to see the D.P.A.A. budget you can Google us online, just Google D.P.A.A. budget and it will come up in the federal government document. So for FY26 we will be cut by \$20 million.

So we're going to be put back to where we were two-three years ago. There won't necessarily be an immediate impact because we have remains in the laboratory from past recoveries; however, as people

leave we won't be able to hire and we're not going to be able to have robust field operations like we're having right now. That's going to hit us hard. Go to the next slide, please.

And I'm going to rest on this slide for the rest of this short discussion, a minute or so, because I want you to look at the three individuals. Those are the men and the types of men that we're trying to find. This particular mission was conducted by one of our partners.

The three that were identified here were part of a B-24 crash. It was an underwater operation. Not only did we have a private partner, but we also had the Navy, and Danish divers assisting us. So in addition to our organic teams and our inability to get into the field, our partner missions are going to be impacted.

You can see at the bottom that last bullet that says, "Our search continues." What I have to say about that is maybe it won't because of the cuts. Maybe we won't be able to bring those others home. That's the thought I want to leave you with. I know it's somber but it's reality.

So I thank you very much for everything that you do, DAV, for staying in contact with D.P.A.A., for watching our mission, for supporting us, for also funding, in the past, some of our family member engagements, providing us funds to provide refreshments for those family members.

So thank you very much. Keep working hard, DAV. You guys are doing awesome. And we look forward to our continued partnership and cooperation. Thank you. And, oh, by the way, before I forget, if you haven't stopped by our table in the Exhibit Hall, please do.

I understand we've had a lot of foot traffic but I'm sure there is some of you out there that haven't visited the table. You can hear much more about our mission and our people and why we do what we do every single day. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the director withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Ms. Winbush for all the work you do at D.P.A.A. and help families with that needed closure. Thank you.

For those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and are interred on the battlefields around the globe, one agency is there to honor their service and achievements: the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Established by Congress in 1923, the A.B.M.C. is the guardian of America's overseas commemorative ceremonies, cemeteries and memorials and honors the service, achievements, and sacrifice of U.S. armed forces. There are more than 26 cemeteries and 31 memorials, monuments, and markers under the care of A.B.M.C.

Additionally, there are more than 140,000 U.S. service members, servicemen and servicewomen, interred at these cemeteries, and more than 94,000 missing in action or lost or buried at sea are memorialized on cemetery Walls of the Missing and on these three memorials in the United States.

I am honored to introduce to you A.B.M.C. Executive Director for Management Nealie Sutton. Sutton began her civil service career with the Department of Defense, Department of Army at the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation.

Before joining A.B.M.C. last fall, she served at the Department of Veterans Affairs as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Management responsible for the coordination of strategies, policies, performance outcomes, and enterprise-level process improvements impacting VA's fiscal operations.

In her role, Sutton leads A.B.M.C.'s overall management and business operations portfolio consisting of A.B.M.C.'s financial, human capital, acquisition, strategic planning, information technology, legal and business administration responsibilities.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Nealie Sutton. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Ms. Sutton advanced to the lectern.)

MS. NEALIE SUTTON: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. SUTTON: It's great to be with you here at the DAV National Convention. I appreciate the warm welcome and for you inviting me to speak on behalf of the American Battle Monuments Commission to share about our mission and why it continues to matter so deeply.

Let me first acknowledge that A.B.M.C.'s chairman, Retired Four-Star Michael Garrett, wishes he could be here but due to a family matter you have me. But as a member of A.B.M.C.'s executive leadership team, it is a privilege to be here on behalf of the Commission and A.B.M.C.'s dedicated team from around the world.

Our mission is to preserve the legacy of service and sacrifice of U.S. armed forces. We carry this out at 26 American military cemeteries and 31 monuments and memorials in 17 countries. Our small team is about 500 people around the world but our reach is global and our work has a lasting impact. We may be a small agency, but our responsibility touches the heart of who we are as a nation.

The soul of a country is revealed in how it honors those who gave their lives in its defense.

After losing his brother in the First World War, veteran and poet Archibald MacLeish wrote, "We leave you our deaths, give them their meaning." And that is what A.B.M.C. has worked to do for more than a century, giving meaning to the sacrifice of those who never came home.

Founded in 1923, A.B.M.C. has entered its second century, still guided by the words of our first chairman, General Pershing, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

But we do more than maintain graves and monuments. We preserve memory.

Each headstone, every name etched in stone, tells a story, a story of service, valor, and profound sacrifice. Our mission is to honor those stories and ensure that they are never forgotten. One way we do that is to build greater public understanding.

This year A.B.M.C. commemorates its 81st anniversary of the major campaigns in World War II. These events help bridge the gaps, the growing gaps between modern generations and the wars that shaped our world. This has been especially profound and we've been very fortunate to have still been able to welcome World War II veterans to some of these cemeteries.

When A.B.M.C. began, the first visitors to our cemeteries did not need historical background or context. They were the grieving fathers, wives, mothers. They already knew the stories. They came to our cemeteries not to learn but to mourn.

Today's visitors are often generations removed and those we commemorate are names in a history book. That is why A.B.M.C.'s mission has evolved. We've shifted primarily from a grieving mission to one of education and remembrance.

This June, we hosted a powerful cemetery or ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery which marked the 81st Anniversary of the D-Day landings. There we are fortunate that a number of World War II veterans were still able to join the ceremonies. But when they are gone, who will tell their stories?

The answer is us. But not A.B.M.C. alone, it is in partnership with all of you and those who hold dear the sacredness of patriotism and service.

Of course, Normandy is one of our most well-known sites but every A.B.M.C. cemetery and memorial is powerful in its own right.

This year, in just a couple of weeks we'll commemorate the 81st Anniversary of Operation Dragoon at the Rhone American Cemetery.

Next month, we will commemorate the liberation of the Netherlands with our Dutch allies in a community where every grave at the cemetery is also adopted by a local family.

Last September, at the Honolulu Memorial, families placed bronze rosettes next to the names of their loved ones who were missing in action during the Vietnam War and those who have since been recovered and identified thanks to our partnership with D.P.A.A.

And in December, we'll return to Bastogne, Belgium, to honor the 81st Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, a defining moment of grit in World War II.

We're also working to deepen our partnerships with museums, schools, and veteran organizations so that more Americans understand this shared legacy and so they can be motivated to find ways to be part of it.

This continuing mission is a reflection of our every day at A.B.M.C.

(Whereupon, the video "They Gave Everything" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

MS. SUTTON: And that, ladies and gentlemen, is our purpose. We will always maintain the cemeteries and monuments to the highest standard. But our calling goes further, ensuring that the stories of those who served and sacrificed continue to teach, inspire and remind future generations of the cost of freedom.

We share your convictions: no matter how many years pass, we must never forget.

A.B.M.C.'s mission isn't just about preserving cemeteries, it's about preserving memory. And while many Americans may never visit an A.B.M.C. site, we are committed to bringing the stories of the fallen home to them. That commitment began nearly a century ago when a young Major Eisenhower helped publish the first World War I battle guide.

And today we continue that legacy by expanding educational outreach. From partnerships with universities and collaborations with institutions like the National World War I Museum, the World War II Museum, and veteran organizations like DAV, we'll find new ways to connect Americans of all ages to the history and sacrifice we commemorate at A.B.M.C.

As part of our centennial efforts, A.B.M.C. has launched virtual 360-degree tours of our cemeteries and monuments, to bring these sacred sites to anyone, anywhere. We're now expanding these tours to include visitor center films, the stories behind the art and architecture, biographies of the fallen, and interpretive clips that deepen the experience.

Our sites are your sites. We want you to visit them in person. We want you to experience them in person. But if you're not able, we encourage you to visit our website abmc-dot-gov.

Here you will be able to explore their beauty and solemnity, and as we expand our content you will also be able to learn from the interpretive guides and hear some incredible stories that we have to share. Stores like that of Tula Harkey.

(Whereupon, a video "Tula Harkey" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

MS. SUTTON: And, finally, to expand public access to these stories of our fallen even further, A.B.M.C. has created a We Remember platform. This is our authoritative digital directory of our burial and memorialization records.

We're integrating nearly 250,000 of those records into VA's Veteran Legacy Memorial. This will ensure veterans are honored with accuracy, context, and greater visibility for generations to come.

If you've visited one of our sites, thank you. And if not, we hope you will. These places are sacred. And the veterans like you bring a depth of meaning that is impossible to replicate.

Thank you, again, for having A.M.B.C. back this year. Thank you for your legacy of service and for the sacrifices you have made for this nation. It is an honor to stand with you in this mission of memory and gratitude to honor those who came before us.

May God bless you and may God continue to bless the United States of America. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Sutton withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Ms. Sutton, for that informative report and the great work that you do at A.B.M.C. I would now like to call on our Board of Directors' Treasurer Jerry Estes for his report.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Board of Directors treasurer advanced to the lectern.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER JERRY ESTES: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER ESTES: National Commander Contreras, fellow members of the National Executive Committee, DAV members and guests, good morning.

Let me begin by recognizing those who served on the Board of Directors: Chairperson Nancy Espinosa from Utah; Vice-Chairperson Coleman Nee from Massachusetts; Secretary and National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski from Kentucky; Director, NEC 15th District David Gerke, Missouri; Director, NEC 6th, Nachee Miller, District of Columbia; (Applause) Director, NEC 10, Director Ricky Barenbrugge, Michigan. (Applause)

Under the Department Fundraising Program payouts to departments in December 2024 and June 2025 totaled just about \$3 million. Since the program began in 1994, over \$122 million has been distributed to the departments for their service programs.

The Board would like to thank all of the departments for their continued participation in these programs, and especially our members for their great generosity.

As of June 2025, DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of almost \$144 million. The total support and revenue is affected by a decrease in the contributed media value.

Also through June 2025, DAV had total expenditures of \$123 million, of which in excess of \$95 million were for our service programs, which was 80 percent of our expenditures.

Over that same period, fundraising expenditures were almost \$20 million, roughly \$1 million more than what was in June of 2024.

Administrative expenses were approximately \$5 million.

And as of June 30th, 2025, the market value of our general fund long-term investment portfolio is roughly \$541 million.

DAV's net assets or net worth increased from slightly more than \$494 million at this time last year to nearly \$550 million, an approximately \$50 million increase, or 11 percent.

On June 30th, 2025, the Life Membership Fund Reserve was in excess of \$60 million.

Commander, it is my privilege to present DAV's proposed 2026 Annual Budget for ratification by the Convention.

At the May 21st, 2025, meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board was presented with the 2065 proposed budget. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget at that time, a copy of which was provided to all convention attendees at registration.

I would like to thank the National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski and his staff for their hard work which made this report possible. Commander Contreras, thank you, as well, for all your support for the Board of Directors throughout the year.

This concludes the report to the National Convention, a report I feel honored to offer to our delegates on behalf of the Board. I thank you and move for the adoption of the report and the approval of the proposed 2026 annual budget.

(Whereupon, the treasurer withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Jerry, for that very informative report. Can I get a motion to accept the Board of Directors' treasurer's report?

MR. KEVEN LOMAX SR. Commander, Keven Lomax Sr., San Antonio, Texas, Alamo Number 5, I motion that we accept this excellent report.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Can I have a second?

MS. DETRA GARDNER: I second that motion. I'm Detra Gardner, Chapter 240.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Whereupon, the treasurer withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would now like to call on Chairman Rob Reynolds for the report on the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. This is the first reading of the proposed Bylaw changes.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Convention Chairman and Past National Commander Robert Reynolds advanced to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT REYNOLDS: Comrade Commander and delegates. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REYNOLDS: The National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order on Aug. 9th, 2025, by the Committee Advisors, Ed Hartman and Rob Reynolds.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and a secretary. Rob Reynolds was elected as chairman and Pedro Quinones was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I now will report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this national convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Resolution Number 611, amend Article V, Section 5.1 of the Bylaws to remove the Department of Alaska from District 19 as the Department surrendered their charter last year.

Resolution Number 612, amend Article VIII, Section 8.4 of the Bylaws to add Paragraph 3 to require departments to report all bequests and other testamentary gifts to the Bequest Reporting Program to comply with NEC Regulation 13.

Resolution Number 613, amend Article IX, Section 9.3 of the Bylaws to add Paragraph 3 to require chapters to report all bequests and other testamentary gifts to the Bequest Reporting Program to comply with NEC Regulation 13.

Resolution Number 614, add the following as Article X, Section 10.1, Paragraph 4 of the National Bylaws: "To require Auxiliary entities to report all bequests and other testamentary gifts to the Bequest Reporting Program to comply with NEC Regulation 13" and renumber the current Paragraph 4 to Paragraph 5.

Resolution Number 615, amend Article VIII, Section 8.3, Paragraph 3 of the Bylaws to replace "State Department Officer Report" with "Officer Election Report" in the three separate instances where it is referenced as the title of the form has changed.

Resolution Number 616, amend Article VIII, Section 8.4, Paragraph 1 of the Bylaws to replace "on forms provided by National Headquarters" with "using the reporting methods provided by National Headquarters."

Resolution Number 617, amend Article IX, Section 9.3, Paragraph 3 of the Bylaws to replace "Chapter Officer Report" with "Officer Election Report" in the three separate instances where it is referenced as the title of the form has changed.

Resolution Number 618, amend Article IX, Section 9.3, Paragraph 1 of the Bylaws to replace "on forms provided by National Headquarters" with "using the reporting methods provided by National Headquarters."

Comrade Commander, this completes the first reading of the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and the recommended changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee chair, Past National Commander Reynolds, withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thanks, Rob. There will be no action taken at this time. We will hear the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at the final business session on Tuesday.

National Adjutant Jesinoski, do you have any announcements?

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Adjutant Jesinoski advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT BARRY JESINOSKI: Thank you, Commander. Our regular business resumes Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. We will start off with committee reports, including the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

We will hear reports of the Charitable Service Trust, the National Service Foundation, plus an update on our memorial in Washington.

All who wish to donate to any DAV entity, in the interest of time, are encouraged to fill out the donation form in your bags before making your way to our donation space located at the Paris registration desk.

On Tuesday afternoon we will hold our final business session and conclude with nominations and elections of national officers.

We are once again giving away three \$50 gift certificates that can be redeemed at the DAV store online or here during the national convention. As always, you must be present to win. And if I call your name and you are in the hall, please see Assistant National Membership Director Doug Wells up here to my left, your right, of the stage as soon as we adjourn.

The lucky winners this morning are: Randolph Cumberlander, Lorraine Capers, and Kevin Cooper. Thank you, Commander.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Jesinoski returned to his seat and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Barry. Ladies and gentlemen, if able, please rise. I ask Chaplain VARNER-DANCER to please lead us in a closing prayer. (Three raps of the gavel)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. Almighty Creator, once again as we leave this place help us be mindful of the love that you have for us and the love that we should share with one another. As we leave this place in wisdom and knowledge and understanding, making new friends, building new relationships with a strong camaraderie, help us to understand that your presence is always with us.

These and all things we ask of you and receive of you. And the people said—

(Response of "Amen;" whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The Convention stands in recess until 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. (One rap of gavel)

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:20 o'clock, a.m., on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025.)

Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and
for the Year Ended December 31, 2024, and
Independent Auditor's Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DAV as of December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of DAV and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about DAV's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery,

intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of DAV's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about DAV's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

April 9, 2025

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
CASH	\$ 18,510,746	LIABILITIES:	\$ 10,062,791
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	5,621,083	Accounts payable	7,065,937
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	93,286	Postretirement benefit obligation	34,779,670
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHERS	8,297,781	Lease liability-finance lease	13,350,759
INVESTMENTS	533,106,327	Loans payable	4,549,987
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT—Net	22,487,986	Deferred revenue and other liabilities	249,690
RIGHT OF USE ASSET-FINANCE LEASE	8,540,714	Life memberships:	411,668
PENSION ASSET	1,412,667	Accounts payable	53,470,492
OTHER ASSETS	2,706,358	Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	123,940,994
LIFE MEMBERSHIP:		Total liabilities	
Cash	2,912,358	NET ASSETS:	
Accounts receivable	225,909	Without donor restrictions—undesignated	505,411,835
Interest and dividends receivable	4,563	With donor restrictions:	
Investments	50,739,330	Purpose restrictions	10,223,948
		Endowment funds	15,082,331
TOTAL	\$ 654,659,108	Total net assets	530,718,114
		TOTAL	\$ 654,659,108

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions		Total
		Purpose Restrictions	Endowment Funds	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:				
Support:				
Contributions received primarily from direct mail solicitations	\$129,747,717	\$ 14,306,401	\$ -	\$144,054,118
National per capita dues	<u>3,944,180</u>			<u>3,944,180</u>
Contributions of cash and other financial assets	<u>133,691,897</u>	<u>14,306,401</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>147,998,298</u>
Contributed services and facilities—primarily services	46,239,881			46,239,881
Contributed media and materials—primarily media	<u>80,836,783</u>			<u>80,836,783</u>
Contributions of nonfinancial assets	<u>127,076,664</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,076,664</u>
Total support	<u>260,768,561</u>	<u>14,306,401</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275,074,962</u>
Revenue:				
List royalties	495,767			495,767
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>486,384</u>			<u>486,384</u>
Total revenue	<u>982,151</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>982,151</u>
NET INVESTMENT RETURN	<u>53,086,372</u>		<u>1,709,616</u>	<u>54,795,988</u>
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>13,595,750</u>	<u>(13,595,750)</u>		
Total support and revenue	<u>328,432,834</u>	<u>710,651</u>	<u>1,709,616</u>	<u>330,853,101</u>
EXPENSES:				
Program services:				
Service program	43,142,922			43,142,922
Employment program	2,530,580			2,530,580
Entrepreneurial services	614,754			614,754
Caregiver support	119,738			119,738
Legislative service program	2,745,369			2,745,369
Voluntary service program—primarily contributed services	47,923,812			47,923,812
State services and disaster relief	6,719,208			6,719,208
Communications program	10,139,086			10,139,086
Public service announcement program—primarily contributed media	82,303,541			82,303,541
Membership program	8,860,666			8,860,666
Public awareness outreach	<u>25,527,758</u>			<u>25,527,758</u>
Total program services	<u>230,627,434</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>230,627,434</u>
Supporting services:				
Fundraising costs	39,850,211			39,850,211
Administrative and general	<u>9,925,385</u>			<u>9,925,385</u>
Total supporting services	<u>49,775,596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,775,596</u>
Total expenses	<u>280,403,030</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>280,403,030</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE	<u>48,029,804</u>	<u>710,651</u>	<u>1,709,616</u>	<u>50,450,071</u>
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS:				
Change in fair market value of interest rate swap	(187,747)			(187,747)
Gain on sale of real estate	415,217			415,217
Pension liability and other postretirement benefit obligation adjustment	<u>5,595,180</u>			<u>5,595,180</u>
Total other changes in net assets	<u>5,822,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,822,650</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>53,852,454</u>	<u>710,651</u>	<u>1,709,616</u>	<u>56,272,721</u>
NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	<u>451,559,381</u>	<u>9,513,297</u>	<u>13,372,715</u>	<u>474,445,393</u>
NET ASSETS—End of year	<u>\$505,411,835</u>	<u>\$ 10,223,948</u>	<u>\$15,082,331</u>	<u>\$530,718,114</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Service Program	Employment	Entrepreneurial Services	Caregiver Support	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services and Disaster Relief	Communications Program	Public Service Announcement Program	Membership Program	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fundraising Costs	Administrative and General	Supporting Services	Total
	Salaries	\$ 391,539	\$341,979	\$ 22,067	\$1,091,518	\$ 779,704	\$ -	\$ 1,481,230	\$ -	\$1,628,801	\$ -	\$ 31,098,958	\$ 2,947,102	\$ 6,903,862	\$ 9,848,964	\$ 40,947,822
	Employee benefits	7,016,957	148,601	1,727	1,207,884	208,759		369,450		824,775		8,806,459	937,124	1,734,619	6,771,743	11,478,102
	Payroll taxes	2,065,335	33,306		1,727	57,596		108,458		102,524		30,485,955	209,651	467,086	676,737	3,148,893
	DAV Transportation Network and			372	80,355							30,485,955				30,485,955
	Contributions and services		22,071									12,574,368				12,574,368
	HSC and Transport Network Grants											136,594				136,594
	Golumbia Trust											2,708,099				2,708,099
	Other grants	10,000	21,000			177,214	2,175,976	2,000		225,509		1,483,500				1,483,500
	Disaster relief						1,483,500					3,059,732				3,059,732
	State service program						3,059,732					1,354,256				1,354,256
	Expenses of national convention					123,750				1,354,256						
	Expenses of national commander and committees											587,609				587,609
	Travel/accommodations, training, and relocation	1,893,179	175,052	107,277	37,748	1,903,420		229,954	16,741	66,844	8,807	4,438,817	68,388	98,750	167,138	4,605,955
	Postage and shipping	3,179,556							80,812,488			80,812,488				80,812,488
	Postage and media and materials		2,801		4,683	113,202		1,641,988		25,073	11,222	1,653,988	2,815,778	86,769	2,902,547	4,756,335
	Equipment rental and maintenance	36,322	18,530	54,167	76,463	67,720		99,454	40,519	25,380	28,238	822,403	330,359	1,542,761	1,873,120	2,695,523
	Supplies	406,608	9,527	14,227	35,223	263,764		31,359		139,947	22,356	940,351	214,759	156,233	370,992	1,311,343
	Insurance	377,452	59,494	783	1,546	372		1,144			2,410	110,137		363,594	363,594	473,731
	Telephone	103,622			3,421	2,520		5,711		4,082	85	439,292		164,235	167,375	439,292
	Telephone costs	230,477	2,328	42	3,421	36,346		3,082,571		66,371	68,267	439,292	9,240,633	216,035	9,456,368	13,808,134
	Advertising	30,056	885,400		2,035			808,134				808,134				808,134
	Printing of magazine	616,652	9	164	13,035	8,782				312,279	12,763	973,684	39,214,236	759,684	39,973,920	40,947,604
	Cost of mailing materials											189,464		158,964		348,428
	Heat, light, water, and power	189,464										285,532		195,033		480,565
	Security service	278,425														
	Depreciation of property and equipment		986		3,789	238,309		24,089		599,374		1,002,134	638,890	1,360,891	1,998,881	3,802,015
	Lease agreement	809,021	125,886							90,365		479,547		24,958	53,566	558,071
	Professional fees	387,894	1,488									3,084,187	6,561,263	863,876	7,425,139	10,509,236
	Technology services	136,418	5,994	9	40,215	8,139		816,602	1,433,626	364,671	143,575			171,134		171,134
	Other expenses	1,040,146	12,271		2,589	102,156		548		20,305	493	1,179,566	28,424	1,317,747	1,346,171	2,525,737
	Support for membership service															
	Allocations from (to) other departments															
	TOTAL	(11,113,565)	547,173	40,621	11,148,886	573,063		1,197,178		2,416,307	25,221,895	30,072,288	(23,384,714)	(6,682,574)	(30,072,288)	-
		\$43,142,022	\$2,530,580	\$614,754	\$2,745,369	\$47,932,812		\$10,139,086	\$82,203,541	\$8,860,666	\$25,527,758	\$23,027,434	\$ 39,850,211	\$ 9,925,385	\$ 49,775,596	\$280,403,030

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in net assets	\$ 56,272,721
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Noncash contributions	(3,348,013)
Pension liability and other postretirement benefit obligation adjustment	(5,595,180)
Change in fair market value of interest rate swap	187,747
Depreciation	1,690,797
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	11,140
Net change in appreciation of investments	(31,586,623)
Net gain on sale of investments	(12,107,586)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	2,977,700
Interest and dividends receivable	24,201
Prepaid expenses and others	(421,912)
Right of use asset-finance lease	536,589
Other assets	671,879
Accounts payable	(1,598,226)
Accrued expenses	467,496
Pension liability and other postretirement benefits obligation	(5,102,828)
Deferred revenue and other liabilities	(90,151)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	4,152,877
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>7,142,628</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Payments for property and equipment	(344,318)
Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment	206,468
Purchases of investments for endowments	(3,029,932)
Proceeds from the sale of investments for endowment	2,517,507
Purchases of investments	(75,220,604)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>71,417,817</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(4,453,062)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Payments on finance lease	(404,653)
Payments on term loan	<u>(2,600,004)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(3,004,657)</u>

NET DECREASE IN CASH (315,091)

CASH—Beginning of year 21,738,195

CASH—End of year \$ 21,423,104

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally chartered, not-for-profit service organization. DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. DAV accomplishes this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access a full range of benefits available to them; 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.

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people, generally, and to disabled veterans and their families, specifically
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans before Congress, the White House, and the judicial branch, as well as state and local governments
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level departments and local chapters
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs
- Providing tailored support and resources to friends, family members, and loved ones who provide care to those who served through the caregiver support program

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Cash—DAV considers all liquid instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents that are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. DAV maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. DAV has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Accounts Receivable—Amounts recorded as accounts receivable are reduced to their net realizable value, as appropriate.

Investments—Investments are carried at fair value, and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected within net investment return, in the statement of activities. The fair value of DAV's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices

in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected in net investment return. DAV’s policy is to report its cash and cash equivalents held in its investment trust accounts, which include money market funds, within investments on the statement of financial positions.

Property and Equipment—Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and, at December 31, 2024, are composed of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	\$ 2,998,999	\$ 344,646	\$ 2,654,353
Buildings and improvements	28,480,094	9,484,349	18,995,745
Machinery and other equipment	9,628,774	9,029,012	599,762
Construction in process	<u>238,126</u>		<u>238,126</u>
Total	<u>\$ 41,345,993</u>	<u>\$ 18,858,007</u>	<u>\$ 22,487,986</u>

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of assets, which range from three to fifty years.

Contributions—DAV recognizes contributions when cash, securities, or other assets; an unconditional promise to give; or a notification of a beneficial interest is received. Conditional promises to give—that is, those with a measurable performance or other barrier and a right of return—are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been met.

Contributions received are recorded as support with or without donor restrictions depending on the existence and the nature of any donor restrictions. All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor. Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the gift.

Revenue Recognition from Exchange Transactions—DAV has multiple revenue streams that are accounted for as exchange transactions including sponsorships, cause marketing revenue, rental income, recycling income, and royalties. Revenue from these sources is recognized as services are performed or once the performance obligations are complete. Such amounts are included within the total revenue line within the statement of activities.

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions—All contributions and bequests without donor restrictions are resources available to support DAV’s operations.

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions—Net assets with donor restrictions consist of assets whose use is limited by donor-imposed, time, and/or purpose restrictions.

DAV reports gifts of cash and other assets as revenue with donor restrictions if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, the net assets are reclassified as net assets without donor restriction and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Some net assets with donor restrictions include a stipulation that assets provided be maintained in perpetuity while permitting DAV to expend the income generated by the assets in accordance with the provision of additional donor-imposed stipulations.

Contributed Nonfinancial Assets—For the year ended December 31, 2024, contributed nonfinancial assets included contributed services and facilities and contributed media and materials. See respective accounting policy below for details on valuation techniques and inputs. Should additional material nonfinancial assets be received, they would be separately recognized within the statement of activities and disclosed within the notes to the financial statements.

Contributed Services and Facilities—DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans. The 910,300 hours that are donated to DAV's Transportation Network at the VA during 2024, and the 2024 donated hours of Department and Chapter Service Officers through the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) are used to tabulate contributed services. Using a value per hour of \$33.49 developed by Independent Sector, an organization that provides oversight to nonprofit organizations in America, the value of these hours contributed to the DAV's Transportation Network and LVAP program is \$30,485,955. This value, together with the value of certain contributed facilities of \$3,179,558, is estimated based on the average national office rental cost per square foot.

DAV also works directly with veteran legal clinics who assist DAV and veterans with pro bono legal services. These no cost professional legal services support DAV's mission and a veteran's ability to obtain access to benefits they may be entitled to as a result of their military service. DAV's end-to-end involvement in this program includes the identification of the specific legal services needed by veterans, assisting in the funding needed to identify and establish the various legal services that can be offered, and working with the veteran to ensure the legal services are provided. Contributed services from attorneys are valued at the estimated fair value based on hours incurred and current rates for similar legal services. The total value of legal contributed services for 2024 was \$12,574,368.

In instances where DAV solely acts as an intermediary by connecting veterans to legal clinics that may be willing to serve them, and the decision about whether and how to service the specific individual rests with the legal clinics, no contributed services revenue is recorded.

These contributed services are nonfinancial asset contributions, and are recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses. Based on the nature of these contributions, they did not contain an associated donor restriction.

Contributed Media and Materials—DAV produces public service announcements through various mediums (television, radio, digital, print, out of home), of which approximately \$80.8 million was donated and aired through independent third parties during 2024. The value of the donated media is provided through an independent third party utilizing an estimated market value for each type of medium. The most significant medium is television. Estimated market values for television announcements are determined using various inputs, including length of spot, city, station, day part, and industry media cost data. The value of contributed media and materials, which is a nonfinancial asset contribution, is recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses. Based on the nature of these contributions, they did not contain an associated donor restriction.

Salaries Expense—The salaries expense in the accompanying financial statements includes the cost of all national service officers and their support staff who work directly with veterans and their dependents in providing counseling and representation in obtaining benefits and services. This expense also includes DAV's administrative and support staffs.

Income Taxes—As a not-for-profit service organization, DAV has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that it is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to DAV are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of support, revenues, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

Allocation of Expenses—The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to one or more programs or supporting services of DAV. Those expenses include building maintenance, information technology and general administrative services. Building maintenance expenses are allocated based on a square footage basis; the information technology and general administrative services expenses are allocated based on the percentage of time tracked by department utilized.

Allocation of Joint Costs—The allocation of joint costs is based on the specific content of the qualifying material or media. In 2024, DAV incurred joint costs of \$50,472,235 for informational materials and activities that included fund-raising appeals. Of those costs, \$25,221,895 were allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$25,250,340 were allocated to fund-raising costs.

3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Under the bylaws of DAV, any eligible person may become a life member. Amounts paid for membership are placed in separate life membership accounts and invested; the only withdrawals permitted from these accounts are amounts required to pay chapter, department, and national (DAV) per capita dues for services to be provided to the life members. Generally, life membership assets for DAV National Headquarters per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of DAV at the beginning of the membership year (July 1) and recognized as revenue in the statement of activities. The per capita chapter and department dues are distributed at the beginning of the membership year. The reserve for future distribution of membership dues represents the liability for the future life membership distributions to DAV National Headquarters, departments, and chapters to assist with providing member services.

The changes during 2024 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are summarized below:

Balance—December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 49,317,615</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	5,954,137
Other income	<u>85,535</u>
Total additions	<u>6,039,672</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National headquarters	4,052,060
Local chapters	1,617,150
State departments	1,493,100
Other expenses	<u>157,602</u>
Total distribution of membership dues	<u>7,319,912</u>
Net investment return	<u>5,433,117</u>
Balance—December 31, 2024	<u><u>\$ 53,470,492</u></u>

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. This framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Asset Valuation Techniques—Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for general fund, life fund, and pension plan assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents DAV's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Common stocks and exchange-traded funds (ETFs), categorized as Level 1, are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Certificates of Deposit, categorized as Level 2, are valued at fair value, which approximates amortized cost.

Corporate bonds and US government securities (US Treasury notes), categorized as Level 2, are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker-dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds), categorized as Level 1, are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The interest rate swap agreement is classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy. The fair value is estimated using forward-looking interest rate curves and discounted cash flows that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Private equity funds are valued based on Net Asset Values (NAV) or their equivalents, as a practical expedient, adjusted for capital calls and distributions as reported by the respective investment managers. Private equity funds usually have restrictions on redemptions that might affect the ability to sell the investment at NAV in the short term.

The major categories of general fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
Cash equivalents	\$ 7,270,295	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,270,295
Certificates of Deposit	-	2,946,592	-	2,946,592
US government securities	-	10,364,765	-	10,364,765
Corporate bonds	-	100,413,304	-	100,413,304
Common stocks	75,710,438	-	-	75,710,438
Mutual funds/ETFs:				
Domestic fixed-income funds	60,359,363	-	-	60,359,363
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	182,780,840	-	-	182,780,840
International equity funds	75,249,643	-	-	75,249,643
International fixed income funds	3,384	-	-	3,384
Real estate equity funds	9,924,023	-	-	9,924,023
Total mutual funds/ETFs	328,317,253	-	-	328,317,253
Total general fund assets before private equity funds	<u>\$ 411,297,986</u>	<u>\$ 113,724,661</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	\$ 525,022,647
Private equity funds valued at NAV				8,083,680
Total general fund assets				<u>\$ 533,106,327</u>
Interest rate swap agreement	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 147,412</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 147,412</u>

The major categories of life membership fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 204,974	\$ -	\$ 204,974
Corporate bonds	-	6,821,120	6,821,120
Common stocks	6,405,871	-	6,405,871
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	7,175,926	-	7,175,926
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	19,464,264	-	19,464,264
International equity funds	9,276,918	-	9,276,918
Real estate equity funds	<u>1,390,257</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,390,257</u>
Total mutual funds/ETFs	<u>37,307,365</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,307,365</u>
Total life membership fund assets	<u>\$43,918,210</u>	<u>\$6,821,120</u>	<u>\$50,739,330</u>

5. PENSION PLAN, POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS AND OTHER BENEFITS

Pension Plan—DAV has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees and certain employees of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA). Benefits are based on years of service and employees’ compensation. Contributions are intended to fully fund, over a period of seven years, the benefits attributed to service to date based on market interest rates established by the IRS. In 2024, DAV funded amounts in accordance with the recommended actuarially determined contribution amount. Contributions to the plan are based on the unit credit actuarial cost method.

Other Postretirement Benefit Plans—DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits (other postretirement benefits) for its retired employees and their spouses as well as certain retired employees and their spouses of DAVA. Substantially, all of DAV’s employees may become eligible for these benefits if they have completed 20 years of service upon retirement. The post-Medicare retiree medical benefits are now a health reimbursement account (HRA).

DAV offers Medicare-eligible retirees access to health care coverage through a private exchange and provides an HRA to subsidize benefits. DAV established a catastrophic HRA with \$75,000 aggregate limit to cover catastrophic prescription drug expenses incurred by qualifying participants.

Summarized information for the plans as of December 31, 2024, measurement date is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 61,247,129</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Projected benefit obligation (PBO)	\$ 66,636,554	\$ -
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO)		34,779,670
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(68,049,221)</u>	<u></u>
(Over) under funded status recognized	<u>\$ (1,412,667)</u>	<u>\$ 34,779,670</u>

Summarized information of the pension and other postretirement benefits plans for the year ended December 31, 2024, is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Components of net periodic benefit cost:		
Service cost	\$ 3,485,474	\$ 852,585
Interest cost	3,185,155	1,823,257
Expected return on assets	(4,143,958)	-
Amortization of net loss	557,653	(210,115)
Amortization of prior service cost	-	(4,033,594)
Settlement gain/loss	<u>953,498</u>	<u>-</u>
Net periodic benefit cost (benefit)	<u>\$ 4,037,822</u>	<u>\$ (1,567,867)</u>
Components of pension and postretirement benefit obligation adjustment:		
Amortization of prior service cost (benefit)	\$ -	\$ (4,033,594)
Amortization of net loss	557,653	(210,115)
Settlement gain/loss	953,498	-
Actuarial net (gain)/loss during the year	<u>3,956,147</u>	<u>4,371,591</u>
Pension and postretirement benefit obligation adjustment	<u>\$ 5,467,298</u>	<u>\$ 127,882</u>

Net periodic benefit cost of \$4,037,822 (offset by \$35,161 reimbursed by DAVA) is included in expenses and pension and postretirement benefit obligation adjustment of \$5,595,180 is included in other changes in net assets in the accompanying statement of activities.

For purposes of year end disclosure, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions used in the valuation of the Pension Plan:

- The single equivalent discount rate changed from 4.96% to 5.55% based on the pension plan's expected benefit payouts and the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) above median yield curve as of December 31, 2024.
- PEP conversion interest rates were updated to the same yield curve rates used to determine the obligation under the spot rate method.

- The lump sum mortality was updated to the static mortality applicable under section 417(e)(3) for 2024 as published in IRS Notice 2024-42. For years beyond 2025, the table is projected with 2025 Adjusted Scale MP-2021 Rates.

These changes had the cumulative impact of decreasing the recorded projected benefit obligation by \$1,977,000.

For purposes of year end disclosure, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions used in the valuation of the Other Postretirement Benefits Plan—the discount rate was updated to 5.62% for the January 1, 2024 actuarial valuation. Previously, a discount rate of 5.02% was used. This change had the cumulative effect of decreasing the recorded projected benefit obligation by \$2,805,404.

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension and other postretirement benefits cost at December 31, 2024, are as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Prior service cost (benefit)	\$ -	\$(14,816,733)
Net actuarial loss (gain)	<u>7,912,997</u>	<u>(10,285,278)</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction (increase) in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 7,912,997</u>	<u>\$(25,102,011)</u>
	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
For the year ended December 31, 2024:		
Benefit expense (net periodic pension benefit cost of \$4,037,822, offset by \$35,161 reimbursed by DAVA)	\$ 4,002,661	\$(1,567,867)
Actual return/(loss) on plan assets	7,063,070	-
Employer contribution	5,108,056	2,464,727
Plan participants' contributions	-	61,797
Settlements paid	(8,029,554)	-
Benefits paid	(943,369)	(2,526,524)
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation—for year-end benefit obligation:		
Discount rate	5.55 %	5.62 %
Rate of compensation increase	4.50 %	4.50 %

- The lump sum mortality was updated to the static mortality applicable under section 417(e)(3) for 2024 as published in IRS Notice 2024-42. For years beyond 2025, the table is projected with 2025 Adjusted Scale MP-2021 Rates.

These changes had the cumulative impact of decreasing the recorded projected benefit obligation by \$1,977,000.

For purposes of year end disclosure, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions used in the valuation of the Other Postretirement Benefits Plan—the discount rate was updated to 5.62% for the January 1, 2024 actuarial valuation. Previously, a discount rate of 5.02% was used. This change had the cumulative effect of decreasing the recorded projected benefit obligation by \$2,805,404.

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension and other postretirement benefits cost at December 31, 2024, are as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Prior service cost (benefit)	\$ -	\$(14,816,733)
Net actuarial loss (gain)	<u>7,912,997</u>	<u>(10,285,278)</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction (increase) in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 7,912,997</u>	<u>\$(25,102,011)</u>
	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
For the year ended December 31, 2024:		
Benefit expense (net periodic pension benefit cost of \$4,037,822, offset by \$35,161 reimbursed by DAVA)	\$ 4,002,661	\$(1,567,867)
Actual return/(loss) on plan assets	7,063,070	-
Employer contribution	5,108,056	2,464,727
Plan participants' contributions	-	61,797
Settlements paid	(8,029,554)	-
Benefits paid	(943,369)	(2,526,524)
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation—for year-end benefit obligation:		
Discount rate	5.55 %	5.62 %
Rate of compensation increase	4.50 %	4.50 %

Pension plan financial assets are recorded at fair value using the measurement techniques outlined in Note 4. The major categories of pension plan financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,978,791	\$ -	\$ 1,978,791
US government securities	-	2,341,692	2,341,692
US government agency notes	-	1,537,298	1,537,298
Municipal bonds	-	652,956	652,956
Corporate bonds	-	6,946,183	6,946,183
Common stocks—real assets	<u>2,259,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,259,582</u>
Total common stocks	<u>2,259,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,259,582</u>
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Equity-based securities	36,660,038	-	36,660,038
Fixed income	9,931,089	-	9,931,089
Alternative	<u>5,741,592</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,741,592</u>
Total mutual funds/ETFs	<u>52,332,719</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,332,719</u>
Total pension plan assets	<u>\$56,571,092</u>	<u>\$11,478,129</u>	<u>\$68,049,221</u>

In selecting the expected rate of return on pension plan assets, DAV considers historical rates of return for the type of investments the plan holds, as well as future market expectations. Expectations are then applied to the target asset allocation to arrive at a weighted average of expected returns for the pension plan's portfolio of assets.

The pension plan benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid as follows:

Fiscal Years Ending	Benefit Payments
2025	\$ 4,188,855
2026	4,759,524
2027	3,462,938
2028	4,986,657
2029	4,819,203
2030–2034	34,614,774

DAV offers retirees access to health coverage through a private exchange and provides an HRA to subsidize benefits.

The other postretirement benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid as follows:

Fiscal Years Ending	Benefit Payments
2025	\$ 2,244,051
2026	2,144,721
2027	2,189,907
2028	2,156,078
2029	2,190,474
2030–2034	11,620,881

DAV also maintains a defined contribution salary savings and investment plan for its employees. For qualified participating employees, DAV contributes a percentage of the employees’ base salary. DAV’s contributions in 2024 were \$2,576,302 and are included in employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

Paid Time Off (PTO) Plan and Trust—The PTO Plan is a welfare benefit plan. The Plan established a trust to fund paid time-off benefits for eligible employees of DAV. DAV Benefit Plan Administration Committee serves as the Plan administrator. Fifth Third Bank serves as the trustee of the Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). PTO benefits are funded by the Sponsor contributions to the Plan’s trust and are recorded upon distribution. DAV made contributions totaling \$3,673,000 in 2024. PTO participants can be part-time employees, which is anyone that works a minimum of 30 hours, and the benefit is prorated as compared to a full-time 40-hour employee. Remaining balances up to 40 hours of PTO are paid out at the end of each year. The Sponsor funds the Plan in sufficient amounts to cover currently payable benefits and estimated future benefits. Contributions to the Plan are deposited with a trustee. The PTO liability at December 31, 2024 was \$3.7 million and is included in accrued expenses in the statement of financial position.

PTO plan financial assets, included in prepaid and others in the statement of financial position, are recorded at fair value using the measurement techniques outlined in Note 4. The major categories of the PTO plan financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 41,017	\$ -	\$ 41,017
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Equity-based securities	2,782,929	-	2,782,929
Fixed income	1,050,836	-	1,050,836
Real assets	102,887	-	102,887
Total mutual funds/ETFs	3,936,652	-	3,936,652
Total PTO plan assets	\$ 3,977,669	\$ -	\$ 3,977,669

6. LOANS PAYABLE

On May 7, 2020, DAV entered into a loan agreement with a bank for a draw note in the amount of \$13 million. On the conversion date, September 30, 2021, the entire outstanding principal balance and all accrued and unpaid interests were converted to a term loan. The term loan is payable in monthly principal payments of \$216,667 plus interest starting November 1, 2021 through October 1, 2026, the maturity date. Interest is paid at a monthly variable rate of prime less 2.00% per annum. The outstanding balance on the note at December 31, 2024 was \$4,549,987.

The annual maturities of the loan for the years ending December 31 are as follows:

Fiscal Years Ending

2025	\$ 2,600,004
2026	<u>1,949,983</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,549,987</u>

DAV is required under the loan agreement to comply with certain covenants, the most restrictive of these are to maintain its primary operating accounts with the bank and to maintain liquid assets of at least \$16 million. DAV is in compliance with all covenants as of December 31, 2024.

7. LEASES

In January 2023, DAV entered into a lease for office space for the National Service and Legislation Headquarters in Washington, D.C., under a finance lease, which is recorded as a right-of-use asset and lease liability. This lease contained concessions of a rent abatement and a tenant improvement allowance. DAV included these items in the determination of the right-of-use asset and the lease liabilities. The effects of these concessions have been reflected in lease expense on a straight-line basis over the expected lease term and any variable lease payments subsequent to establishing the lease liability are expensed as incurred.

Components of lease expense for the year ended December 31, 2024 were as follows:

Finance lease expense:	
Amortization of right-of-use assets	\$ 536,589
Lease operating expenses	497,626
Interest on finance lease liabilities	<u>515,811</u>
Total lease expense	<u>\$ 1,550,026</u>

The components of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities on the statement of financial position are as follows:

Lease assets and liabilities:	
Finance lease right-of-use assets	\$ 8,540,714
Finance lease liabilities	13,350,759

The remaining lease term and discount rate as of December 31, 2024 are as follows:

	Remaining Lease Term (In Months)	Discount Rate
Finance lease	191	3.80 %

Maturities of the finance lease liability as of December 31, 2024 were as follows:

2025	\$ 943,438
2026	966,998
2027	991,143
2028	1,015,873
2029	1,041,302
2030 and thereafter	<u>13,210,150</u>
Total payments	18,168,904
Less imputed interest	<u>4,818,145</u>
Total lease liability	<u>\$ 13,350,759</u>

8. DERIVATIVE AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES

DAV has entered into an interest rate swap agreement with a commercial bank, effective April 30, 2020, to reduce the impact of changes in interest rates on its floating rate bonds (see note 6). The agreement effectively changes DAV's interest rate exposure on its floating rate bonds due October 1, 2026 to a fixed 2.00% rate. The interest rate swap agreement matures at the same time the related loan matures.

Derivatives are held only for the purpose of hedging such risks, not for speculation. Generally, DAV enters into a hedging relationship such that changes in the fair values or cash flows of transactions being hedged are expected to be offset by corresponding changes in the values of the derivative. At December 31, 2024, hedging relationships exist for loan indebtedness and the exposure to variable cash flows related to variable rate debt. The fair value of the interest rate swap agreement is based on quotes provided by derivative specialists at DAV's bank with whom these agreements were made.

The decrease in the fair value of the interest rate swap agreement of \$187,747 for the year ended December 31, 2024 is included in other changes in net assets in the statement of activities, decreasing net assets without donor restrictions.

9. COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions as of December 31, 2024, are restricted for the following purposes:

Subject to expenditure for a specified purpose:	
Service program	\$ 5,984,385
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	1,238,810
Disaster relief program	834,844
Transportation Network	802,041
Capital campaign	600,000
National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic	305,677
Friday Night Dinners	132,476
Patriot Boot Camp	110,874
Homeless Standdown	15,140
Scholarship program	5,733
Other	<u>193,968</u>
Total subject to expenditure for a specified purpose	10,223,948
Endowments subject to DAV's spending policy and appropriation	<u>15,082,331</u>
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u>\$ 25,306,279</u>

10. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of the passage of time or other events specified by donors. The net assets released from restrictions for the year ended December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Purpose restriction accomplished—purpose restrictions funds:	
Service program	\$ 5,757,474
Employment program	1,868,907
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	1,656,546
Disaster relief program	1,183,093
Camp Corral	940,019
National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic	538,313
DAV 5K events	373,523
Convention	254,880
Transportation Network	183,035
Patriot Boot Camp	105,276
Capital campaign	100,000
Scholarship program	82,000
Friday Night Dinners	18,678
Homeless Standdown	12,068
Other	<u>521,938</u>
Total purpose restrictions funds	13,595,750
Total endowment funds	<u> </u>
Net assets released from donor restrictions	<u>\$ 13,595,750</u>

11. LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

DAV intends to operate within a prudent range of financial soundness and stability. DAV regularly monitors liquidity required to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments, while also striving to maximize the investment of its available funds. DAV has various sources of liquidity at its disposal, including cash and cash equivalents and readily marketable debt and equity securities.

DAV forecasts its future cash flows annually and monitors actual activity monthly. For purposes of analyzing resources available to meet expenditures over a 12-month period, DAV considers all expenditures related to its ongoing program, fund-raising, general and administrative activities, and capital purchases. DAV’s working capital and cash flows have seasonal variations during the year attributable to the timing of contribution solicitation campaigns. Campaign expenses paid and contributions received fluctuate monthly with a heavier concentration near calendar year-end. Bequests also vary from year to year.

DAV’s investments are primarily unrestricted. DAV has an investment policy with primary goals of safeguarding its assets; maximizing return on the investments through interest, dividends, and appreciation of capital; and avoiding undue interest rate risk in the fixed-income portion of the portfolio. The overall asset allocation is 70% equities and liquid alternative investments and 30% fixed-income investments and cash equivalents.

The following reflects DAV’s financial assets at December 31, 2024, reduced by amounts not available for general use within one year of the statement of financial position date due to donor and purpose restrictions:

Total assets, excluding nonfinancial assets	\$ 603,180,730
Subtract: life membership fund	(49,526,312)
Subtract: donor-restricted endowment fund	(15,082,331)
Subtract: investments not available for general expenditures	<u>(1,134,219)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 537,437,868</u>

12. ENDOWMENT

DAV’s endowment (the “Endowment”) consists of approximately 25 individual funds established by donors to provide perpetual source of support for DAV’s activities. As required by GAAP, net assets associated with Endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence of donor-imposed restrictions.

DAV’s Board of Directors has interpreted the KY Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the date of the donor-restricted endowment funds, unless there are explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. At December 31, 2024, there were no such donor stipulations. Because of this interpretation, DAV retained in perpetuity (a) the original value of initial and subsequent gift amounts donated to the endowment and (b) any accumulations to the endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added. Donor-restricted amounts not retained in perpetuity are subject to appropriation for expenditure by DAV in a manner consistent with

the standard of prudence prescribed by UPMIFA. DAV considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

- The duration and preservation of the endowment
- The purposes of DAV and the donor-restricted endowment
- General economic conditions
- The possible effect of inflation and deflation
- The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- Other resources of DAV
- The investment policies of DAV

As of December 31, 2024, DAV had \$15,082,331 of donor-restricted, perpetually endowed net assets.

Investment and Spending Policies—DAV has an investment policy specific to its endowment, which is monitored by DAV’s management team and implemented by the investment manager. The investment policy statement describes the objective for the fund and sets ranges for asset allocation. The objective of the endowment is to preserve and enhance the real (inflation adjusted) purchasing power of the endowment assets consistent with agreed-upon levels of risk that a prudent person would take under various economic conditions. At a minimum, long-term rates of return should be equal to an amount sufficient to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment fund assets, to provide necessary capital to fund the spending policy, and to cover the costs of managing the endowment fund investments. The desired total return over a long-term basis (as measured on a five-year rolling period and full market cycle) is expected to exceed the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, plus the spending rate plus investment expenses. Actual returns in any given year may vary from this amount. In light of this return requirement, the portfolio is constructed using a total return approach with a significant portion of the funds invested to seek growth of principal over time. The assets are invested for the long term, and a higher short-term volatility in these assets is expected and accepted. DAV limits its investment in so-called alternative investments to those that have daily liquidity (mutual funds and ETFs).

The following is a summary of the asset allocation guidelines, with allowable ranges for each asset type.

Asset Class	Lower Range	Target Weight	Upper Range
Equity	55 %	65 %	75 %
Fixed income	5	15	25
Real assets	3	10	15
Alternatives	3	7	11
Cash equivalents		3	13

DAV uses an endowment-spending formula based on total return of the investments for determining the amount to spend from the endowment fund each year. The appropriation is a maximum of 3% of the average market value of the trailing 12 quarters, calculated annually as of December 31 of each year. In establishing this policy, DAV considered the long-term expected return on its endowment fund investments and set the rate with the objective of maintaining the purchasing power of its donor-restricted permanent endowment funds over time. The endowment investment fund earned a positive return in 2024.

From time to time, certain donor-restricted endowment funds may have fair values less than the amount required to be maintained by donors or by law (underwater endowments). We have interpreted UPMIFA to permit spending from underwater endowments in accordance with prudent measures required under law. At December 31, 2024, funds with original gift values of \$13,124,355, fair values of \$15,082,331, and deficiencies of \$0 were reported in net assets with donor restrictions.

Changes in endowment net assets for the year ended December 31, 2024, are as follows:

	With Donor Restriction
Endowment net assets—January 1, 2024	\$ 13,372,715
Contributions	-
Withdrawals	-
Investment return—net	<u>1,709,616</u>
Endowment net assets—December 31, 2024	<u>\$ 15,082,331</u>

13. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) National Service Foundation—Some members of DAV’s Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for the DAV National Service Foundation (the “Foundation”). DAV also provides services to the Foundation, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of the Foundation. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the Foundation, which are held by the Foundation and available to DAV only through appropriation by the Foundation’s Board of Directors. The Foundation is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2024, net assets of the Foundation were \$188,612,596. During 2024, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation \$116,856. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment, and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2024, the Foundation appropriated \$5,023,200 in support of DAV service program.

At December 31, 2024, the Foundation owed \$189,236 to DAV, which is recorded as accounts receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust—Some members of DAV’s Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the “Trust”). DAV also provides services to the Trust, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of the Trust. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the Trust, which are held by the Trust and available to DAV only through grants approved by the Trust’s Board of Directors. The Trust is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2024, net assets of the Trust were \$71,939,050. DAV personnel assist the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fund-raising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, DAV charged the Trust \$168,030. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment, and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2024, the Trust appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services which are recorded as support and revenue in the accompanying statement of activities:

Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	\$ 1,200,251
DAV employment program	1,771,716
DAV “Just B Kids” Scholarship	510,000
Transportation Network	205,000
Veterans retreats	150,000
DAV disaster relief	890,000

At December 31, 2024, the Trust owed \$101,003 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary—DAV provides services to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (the “DAVA”), which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of DAVA. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of DAVA, which are held by DAVA. DAVA is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2024, net assets of DAVA were \$13,795,656. DAVA occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters’ building and also uses certain office equipment owned by DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be \$20,659 in 2024.

Certain costs are paid by DAV on behalf of DAVA. In addition, DAV collects contributions on behalf of DAVA. At December 31, 2024, DAVA owed DAV \$189,682, the net of such costs less contributions of \$4,846, which is recorded as accounts receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation—Some members of DAV’s Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for the Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation (the “DVLMF”). DAV also provides services to the DVLMF, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of the DVLMF. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the unaudited DVLMF. The DVLMF is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2024, net assets of the DVLMF were \$101,552. During 2024, DAV personnel assisted the DVLMF on a limited basis in administering its business operations, as well as providing the use of facilities and equipment at no charge.

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

DAV is involved in certain legal actions arising in the ordinary course of its activities. Management believes that the ultimate liability, if any, with respect to these matters will not materially affect the financial position of DAV.

15. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No other events have occurred after December 31, 2024, but before April 9, 2025, the date the financials were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Advisors: Ryan Burgos, Edward Hartman

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Euvar, Micheal	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	30
	Sullivan, Michael	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	27
2	Quinones, Pedro	Delegate	NEW YORK	120
	Steinwandel, Norbert	Alternate	NEW YORK	135
3	Burns, David	Delegate	MAINE	19
	Viveiros, Edward	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	12
4	Cohen, Audrey	Delegate	DELAWARE	6
	Guio, Susan	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	24
5	Cass, Eric	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
	Cudworth, Robert	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
6	Brady, Zeola	Delegate	VIRGINIA	20
	Dunn, Nicole	Alternate	MARYLAND	13
7	Roehm, Mark	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
	Wheeler, Brianna	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Perez, Anita	Delegate	ALABAMA	13
	Givens, Linda	Alternate	LOUISIANA	23
9	Reynolds, Robert	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	30
	Robinson, Tracy	Alternate	GEORGIA	18
10	Smith, Andrew	Delegate	MICHIGAN	23
	Springer, Andrew	Alternate	MICHIGAN	3
11	Martyn, Nolan	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Bilinovich, David	Alternate	OHIO	72
12	Gelhaus, Rolly	Delegate	WISCONSIN	57
	Corsello, S	Alternate	ILLINOIS	86
13	Black, Jason	Delegate	INDIANA	52
	Cline, Christopher	Alternate	INDIANA	52
14	Petersen, Debra	Delegate	MINNESOTA	20
	Reincke, Angelica	Alternate	MINNESOTA	28
15	Caldwell, Gerald	Delegate	MISSOURI	2
	Servant, Robert	Alternate	NEBRASKA	47
16	Marquez, Vincent	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	1
	Hernandez, Armando	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	1
17	Harris, Grant	Delegate	COLORADO	26
	Grieb, Andrew	Alternate	COLORADO	21
18	Girard, Cathryn	Delegate	NEVADA	15
	Cooper, Kevin	Alternate	ARIZONA	20
19	Parisi, Kari	Delegate	OREGON	12
	Richards, Sherri	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Beason, Betty	Delegate	TEXAS	240
	Pena, Richard	Alternate	TEXAS	61
21	Dean, Lauri	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	39

Committee on Credentials

Advisors: Michael Dobmeier, Doug Wells

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Hasselmann, Cory	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	4
	Hart, John	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	11
2	Sander, George	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	Trulio, Joe	Alternate	NEW YORK	118
3	Marino, Robert	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	21
	Florey, Craig	Alternate	MAINE	6
4	Baratta, Jeremy	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	5
	Long, Edna	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	42
5	Cass, Eric	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
	McGarvie, Brian	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
6	Sabree, Joan	Delegate	MARYLAND	36
	Lehmann, Richard	Alternate	VIRGINIA	50
7	Dunn, John	Delegate	FLORIDA	109
	Dunn, Michael	Alternate	FLORIDA	109
8	Leger, Alfred	Delegate	LOUISIANA	9
	Macedo, William	Alternate	TENNESSEE	3
9	Small, Carolyn	Delegate	GEORGIA	33
	Lassiter-Belton, Lorretta	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
10	Hamill, Joseph	Delegate	MICHIGAN	102
	Hamill, Rachel	Alternate	MICHIGAN	102
11	Headen, Richard	Delegate	OHIO	1
	Stith, Michael	Alternate	OHIO	35
12	Wendt, Larry	Delegate	ILLINOIS	7
	Gulich, August	Alternate	WISCONSIN	9
13	Ritchie, Rex	Delegate	INDIANA	28
	Depyssler, Robert	Alternate	INDIANA	102
14	Berndt, Scott	Delegate	MINNESOTA	39
	Francis, Dan	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
15	Toms, Jerry	Delegate	IOWA	20
	Robbins, Carla	Alternate	KANSAS	28
16	Acosta, Leroy	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	2
	Eustis, Patrick	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	77
17	Finley, Maria	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Christesen, Kelly	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	9
18	Brewer, Shawn	Delegate	NEVADA	1
	Reph, Gary	Alternate	ARIZONA	18
19	Mullins, Cali	Delegate	WASHINGTON	2
	Summers, Stacey	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Goode, Jason	Delegate	TEXAS	233
	Scott, Jack	Alternate	TEXAS	61
21	Halford-Pandos, Jerletta	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	32
	Miles, Bennie	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	56

Committee on Employment

Advisors: Lamarr Couser, Jeremy Yost

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Gayle-Bennett, Andrea	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	64
	Shovelton, Tamara	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	64
2	Barton, George	Delegate	NEW YORK	135
	Bowes, David	Alternate	NEW YORK	1
3	Sloan, Lisa	Delegate	VERMONT	4
	Brunelle, Richard	Alternate	MAINE	19
4	Sanders, Kevin	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	15
	Walker, Michael	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	24
5	Moreli, Richard	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	11
	McGarvie, Brian	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
6	Gregory, Lisa	Delegate	VIRGINIA	7
	Stubbs, Marguerite	Alternate	MARYLAND	36
7	Ayala, Thomas	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
8	Hermann, Hilmer	Delegate	LOUISIANA	50
	Merrihew, Gerry	Alternate	ALABAMA	9
9	Bradley, Derwin	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	20
	King, Jonathon	Alternate	GEORGIA	90
10	Herold, David	Delegate	MICHIGAN	25
	Deck, Dwayne	Alternate	MICHIGAN	1
11	Gidden, William Lee	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Bailey, James	Alternate	OHIO	117
12	Holland, Prudence	Delegate	WISCONSIN	44
	Wagoner, Euphamiea	Alternate	ILLINOIS	24
13	Auld, Crystal	Delegate	INDIANA	60
	Rachuba, Robert	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Hall, Joe	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	3
	Hubers, Kim	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
15	Coop, Warren	Delegate	IOWA	20
	Requejo, Fernando	Alternate	KANSAS	3
16	Sales, Steven	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	45
	Bravo, Jazmin	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	2
17	Carmona, John	Delegate	COLORADO	50
	Patten, James	Alternate	UTAH	8
18	Burks, William	Delegate	ARIZONA	26
	Koller, Annette	Alternate	NEVADA	13
19	Gunno, Stanley	Delegate	WASHINGTON	2
	Kurtz, Karl	Alternate	IDAHO	2
20	Baker, Lisa	Delegate	TEXAS	200
	Evans, Katherine	Alternate	TEXAS	240
21	Plunk, Bill	Delegate	ARKANSAS	7
	Halford-Pandos, Jerletta	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	32

Committee on General Resolutions and Membership

Advisors: Joseph Lemay, Naomi Mathis,

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	McGreevy, Eugene	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	11
	Kinsman, Robert	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	47
2	Sander, Shannon	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	Fritz, Joshua	Alternate	NEW YORK	135
3	Caiozzo, Salvatore	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	9
	Backus, Denis	Alternate	VERMONT	3
4	Werlich, Ronald	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Milarch, Nathan	Alternate	CONNECTICUT1	0
5	Arnold, Phil	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	81
	Smith, Tonyatta	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Odom, Charmonia	Delegate	VIRGINIA	13
	Whitfield, Mattie	Alternate	MARYLAND	33
7	McGuire, Bernard	Delegate	FLORIDA	123
	Grant, David	Alternate	FLORIDA	82
8	Wood, Thomas	Delegate	ALABAMA	94
	Taylor, Darin	Alternate	TENNESSEE	7
9	Rhodes, Keith	Delegate	GEORGIA	50
	Fludd-Bennett, Adreina	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	13
10	Bowens, Rodney	Delegate	MICHIGAN	1
	Gorski, Gerald	Alternate	MICHIGAN	19
11	Cunningham, Aaron	Delegate	OHIO	1
	Cunningham, Thomas	Alternate	OHIO	3
12	Houghland, Donnie	Delegate	ILLINOIS	51
	Baurichter, Christina	Alternate	WISCONSIN	21
13	Stoyonovich, Michael	Delegate	KENTUCKY	32
	Evans, William	Alternate	KENTUCKY	118
14	Medhaug, Michael	Delegate	MINNESOTA	37
	Walsh, Timothy	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
15	Kodad, Darell	Delegate	NEBRASKA	47
	Chevalier, Shala	Alternate	IOWA	5
16	Mendoza, Jose	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	12
	Flores, Mario	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	1
17	Patten, James	Delegate	UTAH	8
	Chaney, Jessica	Alternate	UTAH	1
18	Nogar, Bruce	Delegate	ARIZONA	38
	Harvey, Christopher	Alternate	NEVADA	1
19	Clark, Maurace	Delegate	WASHINGTON	47
	Adams, Rondal	Alternate	WASHINGTON	41
20	Cortes, Luis	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Maisonet Acosta, Olvin	Alternate	TEXAS	114
21	Chisum, Scott	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88
	White, Fred	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	7

Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services

Advisors: John Kleindienst, Jon Retzer

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Nadeau, Philip	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	4
	Pratt, Stanley	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Du, Philip	Delegate	NEW YORK	144
	McGowan, Timothy	Alternate	NEW YORK	1
3	Coffin, Donna	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	21
	Herrington, Martha	Alternate	VERMONT	4
4	Cohen, Philip	Delegate	DELAWARE	6
5	Johnson, Leonard	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
	Hargrove, Marion	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Hill, Kenneth	Delegate	WEST VIRGINIA	2
	Suarez-Perez, Carmen	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	16
7	Rose, Laymond	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Lam, Jeremy	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Menton, Will	Delegate	TENNESSEE	70
	Thrailkill, Warren	Alternate	ALABAMA	101
9	Jones, Halima	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	37
	Jimmerson, Burl	Alternate	GEORGIA	33
10	Springer, Andrew	Delegate	MICHIGAN	3
	Haveranek, Zachary	Alternate	MICHIGAN	129
11	Plahovinsak, John	Delegate	OHIO	63
	Mitchell, Arlinda	Alternate	OHIO	35
12	Belmont, Barbara	Delegate	WISCONSIN	17
	Self, Byron	Alternate	ILLINOIS	24
13	Bunting, Randy	Delegate	KENTUCKY	173
	Wheeler, Daniel	Alternate	KENTUCKY	173
14	Batcho, Dawn	Delegate	MINNESOTA	38
	McWilliams, Khol	Alternate	MINNESOTA	1
15	Jakub, Krista	Delegate	NEBRASKA	47
	Salladay, Chris	Alternate	IOWA	6
16	Sousa, Melissa	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	59
	Johnson, Kirk	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Zachman, Gary	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Baca, Candace M	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	3
18	Theocharides, Gigi	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Billy, Lorrie	Alternate	ARIZONA	26
19	Porter, Donna	Delegate	IDAHO	17
	Berger, Daniel	Alternate	OREGON	8
20	Dees, Kathaleena	Delegate	TEXAS	233
	Bouressa, Tom	Alternate	TEXAS	57
21	Dunning, William	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	32
	Leday-Mauney, Merline	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	56

Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights

Advisors: Shawn Hope, Joy Ilem

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Devine, Dennis	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Blonder, Jeffrey	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	37
2	Seltz, Robert	Delegate	NEW YORK	120
	Quinones, Pedro	Alternate	NEW YORK	120
3	Slininger, Kimberly	Delegate	MAINE	6
	Gaddis, Joyce	Alternate	MAINE	6
4	Flynn, Benjamin	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Hardy, Syreeta	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Fiumara, Philip	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
	Komninos, Helen	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Cruz, Jorge	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	6
	Forney, Nigel	Alternate	MARYLAND	22
7	Keckler, Mary Ann	Delegate	FLORIDA	67
	Jackson, Jo Ann	Alternate	FLORIDA	109
8	Gilliam, Barbara	Delegate	TENNESSEE	42
	Turner, Daniel	Alternate	ALABAMA	28
9	Patterson, Andrew	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	37
	Wilner, Brian	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	44
10	Gorski, Gerald	Delegate	MICHIGAN	19
	Bollin, Angela	Alternate	MICHIGAN	127
11	Hartman, William	Delegate	OHIO	11
	Fails, Frank	Alternate	OHIO	1
12	Myers, Robert	Delegate	ILLINOIS	42
	Hilliard, Robert	Alternate	WISCONSIN	27
13	Evans, William	Delegate	KENTUCKY	118
	Wallace, Jeremy	Alternate	KENTUCKY	118
14	Dilks, Trent	Delegate	MINNESOTA	12
	Tobin, Warren	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	31
15	Doty, Michael	Delegate	MISSOURI	1
	Bell, Bryan	Alternate	NEBRASKA	47
16	Wilson, J.R.	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	154
	Cantu, Carlos	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	1
17	Squyres, Jerry	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Winner, Ivan	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	38
18	Wagar, Fred	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Hage, Rodney	Alternate	ARIZONA	24
19	Walker, Ross	Delegate	WASHINGTON	5
	Ellis, Walter	Alternate	WASHINGTON	59
20	Garcia, David	Delegate	TEXAS	10
	Cosby, Terrance	Alternate	TEXAS	240
21	Bond, Curtis	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	39
	Brown, Vici	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	43

Committee on Nomination of National Officers

Advisors: Albert Church, Joseph Johnston

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Stack, Dan	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Valila, Michael	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	4
2	Martin, Michael	Delegate	NEW YORK	82
	Russell, Judith	Alternate	NEW YORK	126
3	Morse, Jamie	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	18
	Borrazas, Richard	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	18
4	Donberger, Mark	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Maebry, Ronnie	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	2
5	Kauffman, Joseph	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	113
	Borders, Amber	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
6	Stewart, Marcia	Delegate	VIRGINIA	21
	Lopez, Axel	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	21
7	Joyner, Dennis	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Raber, John	Alternate	FLORIDA	18
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
8	Burgess, John	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	62
9	Walls, Thomas	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
	King, Karen	Alternate	GEORGIA	90
10	Fogg, Brian	Delegate	MICHIGAN	94
	Skippergosh, Joanne	Alternate	MICHIGAN	14
11	Wright, Lenon	Delegate	OHIO	116
	Cox, Heath	Alternate	OHIO	55
12	Tiffany, Koehler	Delegate	WISCONSIN	19
	Reynolds, Alfred	Alternate	ILLINOIS	17
13	Thomas, Michael	Delegate	INDIANA	102
	Diehl, John	Alternate	INDIANA	102
14	Whitehead, Stephen	Delegate	MINNESOTA	40
	Litzinger, Joseph	Alternate	MINNESOTA	38
15	Fisher, Richard	Delegate	KANSAS	11
	Ellison, Charles	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Metcalf-Foster, Delphine	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	21
	Morillo, Rosemary	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	95
17	Feldt, Scott	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Estes, Jerry	Alternate	UTAH	14
18	Cox, Ronald	Delegate	ARIZONA	26
	Dolan, William "Bill"	Alternate	NEVADA	15
19	Janus, Wanda	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Alexander, Timothy	Alternate	WASHINGTON	5
20	Collins, Perry	Delegate	TEXAS	139
	Dunford, James	Alternate	TEXAS	240
21	Plunk, Bobby	Delegate	ARKANSAS	10
	Plunk, Bill	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7

National Executive Committee

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Olson, Debora	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	85
	Egan, William	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	57
2	Martin, Michael	Delegate	NEW YORK	82
	Sander, Shannon	Alternate	NEW YORK	15
3	Sloan, Lisa	Delegate	VERMONT	4
	Coffin, Donna	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Donberger, Mark	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Maeby, Ronnie	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	2
5	Hines, William	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	3
	Johnson, Leonard	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Miller, Nachee	Delegate	DC	3
	Cruz, Jorge	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	4
7	Ayala, Thomas	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	McGuire, Bernard	Alternate	FLORIDA	123
8	Harman, Michael	Delegate	TENNESSEE	39
	Gilliam, Barbara	Alternate	TENNESSEE	42
9	Cunningham, Willard	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	13
	Lamb, Monika	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
10	Barenbrugge, Ricky	Delegate	MICHIGAN	19
	Tucker, Lolita	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Bailey, James	Delegate	OHIO	117
	Bilinovich, David	Alternate	OHIO	72
12	Reynolds, Alfred	Delegate	ILLINOIS	17
	VACANT	Alternate		
13	Hall, George	Delegate	KENTUCKY	169
	Ewing, Lee	Alternate	KENTUCKY	89
14	Berndt, Scott	Delegate	MINNESOTA	39
	Fields, Ellsworth	Alternate	MINNESOTA	28
15	Jakub, Jamie	Delegate	NEBRASKA	47
	Bahl, Amy	Alternate	IOWA	6
16	Kerr, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	70
	Ramos, Enrique	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	70
17	Carmona, John	Delegate	COLORADO	50
	Weber, Eugene	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	33
18	Brown, Don	Delegate	HAWAII	7
	Cox, Ronald	Alternate	ARIZONA	26
19	Dixon, Harvey	Delegate	IDAHO	22
	Tolman, Ronald	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Shook, Paul	Delegate	TEXAS	3
	Green, James	Alternate	TEXAS	187
21	Oliver, Danny	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88
	Plunk, Bobby	Alternate	ARKANSAS	10

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Aug. 12, 2025

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 103rd National Convention convened in the convened in the Rivoli A-B, Vendome A-B Ballrooms of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday morning, Aug. 12, 2025, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Daniel Contreras.

COMMANDER DANIEL CONTRERAS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you all for being here. This is a very important day. This is when your voice really comes to action because this is when those resolutions from all over the country come in. And what's really important is to understand it. Not only can you make a difference in your own community, but those changes can happen and affect veterans in every single part of our country now and into the future.

The convention will please come to order. As a reminder, I will ask everyone to please silence your cell phone and portable devices. (Three raps of the gavel) Please join me in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Two. I would like to call on Chaplain VARNER-DANCER to lead us in prayer.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN DEBRA VARNER-DANCER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. Almighty Creator it is once and again that we come into your presence with a thankful heart, being every so grateful and thankful for what has been done thus far. We ask for your continued strength and guidance throughout this day.

We ask, O God, not only for a blessing upon these meetings but also a blessing upon the participants and all of that that they do we ask, O God, as we continue to serve, we serve with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Now, God, bless those as we go throughout this day knowing that we are being guided by your wisdom and knowledge. We give you thanks and we honor you in this place. And the people said –

(Response of "Amen;" whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: (One rap of the gavel) I remind each of you that in order for a delegate to be heard at this convention you must be recognized by the chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized delegates must state their name, chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to call on Credentials Committee Chairperson Cali Mullens for a report.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Credentials Committee chair advanced to the lectern.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CALI MULLENS: Thank you, Commander. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MULLENS: National Commander Contreras, National Adjutant Jesinoski—I hope I got that right—delegates, members and guests, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MULLENS: This is the second interim report of the National Convention Committee on Credentials.

The roll call shows 1,180 delegates, and 46 alternates have registered, representing 36 departments and 381 chapters registered. There are 5 national line officers, 16 National Executive Committee members, and 10 past national commanders currently registered for a total of 31 national officers registered. The total vote count is 9,248.

This partial report is for informational purposes only. And it reflects registration at the close of business at 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 11th, 2025. Commander, this completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee. Thank you, Commander.

(Whereupon, the Credentials Committee chair withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: This is a reminder that registration will close this morning at ten. Next, I would like to call upon Chairman Joe Hall for the report on the Committee on Employment.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Committee on Employment chair advanced to the lectern.)

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOSEPH HALL: Well good morning, everyone. All right. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Committee on Employment was called to order on Aug. 9th, 2025, by the Committee advisors Lamarr Couser and Jeremy Yost.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Joe Hall, myself, was elected as chairman and Lisa Gregory was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolution recommendations for adoption by this national convention. For the purpose of saving some time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

18, support expanding educational benefit to dependents of veterans rated 70 percent or higher.

65, support licensure and certification of active duty service personnel.

105, support womens veterans' employment programs.

106, support eliminating time limits for veterans' rehabilitation and employment, VR&E benefits.

118, support fraud prevention of service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

177, support prompt payment of contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, SDVOSBs.

178, support strengthening federal contracting rules for SDVOSBs.

179, support strengthening and safeguarding education and employment benefits for service-disabled veterans and their survivors.

180, support eliminating the time limitations on Dependents' Educational Assistance, DEA, benefits.

181, support federal tax credit for sustainable technology sector.

182, support reducing certification barriers for veteran-owned small businesses in federal technology contracting.

183, support increasing sole-source award thresholds for SDVOSBs and VOSBs.

228, support coordinated vocational rehabilitation services for service-disabled veterans.

344, support staffing levels of the Veteran Readiness and Employment Service.

346, support improving, reforming and monitoring the mandatory transition goals plan success, GPS program.

347, support strengthening and protecting service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

358, support establishing an economic opportunity administration within the VA.

398, support restoring education and vocational benefits lost due to national emergencies.

416, support removing time restrictions to transfer post-9/11 GI Bill to eligible dependents.

423, support strengthening work opportunity tax credits and incentives.

428, support reducing barriers to employment, education and access to benefits.

529, support extension of VR&E counseling and placement services beyond 48 months.

592, support simplifying the verification process for the veterans' first contracting program.

593, support improving and reforming federal programs targeting entrepreneurship.

655, support reforms in the Small Business Administration, SBA, small business loan and benefit processes for service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs.

657, support employment protection for service-disabled veterans.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Employment. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention. (Applause)

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 18
SUPPORT EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS TO DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS
RATED 70 PERCENT OR HIGHER

WHEREAS, the Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program currently provides up to 36 months of education and training benefits including tuition assistance, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and licensing or certification test reimbursement to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected conditions, or who have died as a result of such conditions; and

WHEREAS, veterans rated at 70, 80, or 90% for service-connected disabilities experience significant physical and economic burdens, including reduced earning capacity, higher medical expenses, and limited employment opportunities, that often impair their ability to financially support their dependents' pursuit of higher education or vocational training, despite not meeting the statutory designation of permanent and total disability; and

WHEREAS, veterans rated 100%, though not deemed permanently and totally disabled, often face significant earning limitations and increased medical expenses that hinder their dependents' access to higher education or vocational training; and

WHEREAS, veterans granted Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) are unable to work due to the severity of their conditions, yet their dependents remain ineligible for DEA benefits unless the veteran is also rated as permanent and total; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to enact legislation expanding DEA eligibility to include dependents of veterans rated 70% or higher, including those with TDIU status, regardless of permanent and total designation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 65
SUPPORT LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION OF ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE
PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the DOD provides high-quality vocational training to service members, much of which is not recognized for civilian certification or licensure; and

WHEREAS, many veterans are unable to transition into equivalent civilian careers due to a lack of recognized credentials, even though their military training and experience often match or exceed civilian standards and could qualify as continuing education credits; and

WHEREAS, DOD coordination with states, unions and certifying bodies, could expand training programs to meet civilian licensure requirements and allow service members to take equivalency exams in their state of residence; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation eliminating employment barriers for transitioning service members by aligning military training with civilian certification and licensure standards; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to establish a clear, coordinated process through collaboration with the Administration, DOD, VA, Department of Labor, state governments, employers, trade unions and licensing entities to ensure military-acquired skills are recognized in the civilian workforce.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 105
SUPPORT WOMEN VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, women are the fastest-growing segment of the veteran population, resulting in a rising demand for employment and training services tailored to their specific needs; and

WHEREAS, due to the distinct challenges they face after military service, many women veterans remain unaware of the specifically tailored employment and training resources available to them through State Workforce Agencies and are therefore less likely than their male counterparts to access these critical services; and

WHEREAS, women veterans experience higher unemployment rates than their male veteran counterparts and face ongoing challenges accessing employment and training programs designed to meet their unique needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to enact and fund programs specifically designed to

support women veterans, especially those with service-connected disabilities, by improving access to employment assistance through the national labor exchange system and training opportunities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and federal agencies to provide specialized training for all workforce development professionals, including staff at State Workforce Agencies, American Job Centers and VA-affiliated programs, to ensure equitable, gender-responsive delivery of career services that address the unique barriers faced by women veterans and improve their representation in meaningful employment.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 106

SUPPORT ELIMINATING TIME LIMIT FOR VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

WHEREAS, many service-disabled veterans are not informed of their entitlement to VR&E benefits at the time they are awarded service connection for disabilities; and

WHEREAS, initial disability ratings may be too low to qualify veterans for VR&E benefits, but as their conditions worsen over time, their need for these services increases; and

WHEREAS, current law limits eligibility for VR&E benefits to within 12 years from a veteran's discharge or release from active duty, which may unfairly restrict access to necessary services for many veterans, especially those discharged before January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the VA places no time limit on when a veteran can file a disability claim or request increased benefits, highlighting an inconsistency in eligibility rules for VR&E services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to eliminate the 12-year eligibility limitation for VR&E benefits, ensuring that all service-disabled veterans have unrestricted access to the rehabilitation and employment services they have earned, regardless of their discharge date.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 118

SUPPORT FRAUD PREVENTION OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) program has been vulnerable to fraud and abuse, allowing ineligible companies to receive millions of dollars in contracts; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2024, the Small Business Administration (SBA) implemented the Veteran Small Business Certification (VetCert) Program, which is designed to ensure only verified SDVOSBs can compete for set-aside and sole-source federal contracts; and

WHEREAS, the SBA conducts periodic reviews and audits to ensure ongoing compliance with program requirements and can revoke certifications if businesses are found to be non-compliant or if fraudulent activity is detected; and

WHEREAS, legitimate SDVOSBs should receive the contracts they rightfully deserve, while companies that commit fraud must be aggressively prosecuted, suspended, debarred or otherwise held fully accountable; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and policies that enhance fraud prevention and enforcement efforts within the SDVOSB program, including increased oversight, investigation and compliance resources; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the SBA to conduct regular and more frequent audits under the VetCert program to detect and deter fraud and to ensure that only qualified SDVOSBs benefit from the opportunities set aside for them.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 177

SUPPORT PROMPT PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS TO SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the preferential contract program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) should greatly assist those that hire disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, SDVOSBs face issues with delayed and nonpayment of contracts; and

WHEREAS, formal complaints about these issues can lead to rejection from future contracts or the threat of being put out of business; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports immediate payment of completed SDVOSB contracts and an independent investigation into inappropriate tactics used against them.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 178

SUPPORT STRENGTHENING FEDERAL CONTRACTING GOALS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (P.L. 106–50), established a government-wide goal of at least 3% participation by Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) in prime and subcontract awards; and

WHEREAS, the VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization continues to support veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and SDVOSBs; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration maintains a centralized database of businesses that are at least 51% veteran-owned and certified through the Veteran Small Business Certification (VetCert) program, providing federal agencies with a tool to help meet the 3% contracting goal for SDVOSBs; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has established a 5% contracting goal for women-owned small businesses, while the goal for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses remains at 3%, despite the comparable barriers veterans face in accessing federal procurement opportunities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to raise the government-wide contracting goal for VOSBs and SDVOSBs from 3% to 5%, in alignment with goals established for women-owned small businesses; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on all government agencies to meet the set-aside goals for SDVOSBs each fiscal year and that Congress should make set-asides mandatory and require underperforming agencies to make up shortfalls in the subsequent fiscal year; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enforce penalties for misrepresentation of VOSBs or SDVOSBs for at least five years.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 179

SUPPORT STRENGTHENING AND SAFEGUARDING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS

WHEREAS, VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) and Chapter 35 benefits are crucial for service-disabled veterans and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, the VA's VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program provides critical education and career support to student veterans with service-connected disabilities, and should be expanded to reach more institutions, particularly in rural and underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 35 and VR&E benefits must be protected from budget cuts and fraud; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 35 benefits should be strengthened to prevent financial burdens for survivors and dependents attending school; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to improve and protect VA's education and employment benefits for service-disabled veterans and their survivors.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 180

SUPPORT ELIMINATING THE TIME LIMITATIONS ON DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

WHEREAS, VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax-free benefit for eligible survivors of service members and veterans who died from service-related injuries or diseases, requiring evidence of death during active duty or from a service-connected illness or injury, or a totally disabling service-connected condition for a specified period; and

WHEREAS, Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) provides education benefits to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition, or who died as a result of a service-connected condition; and

WHEREAS, modern medical advances have increased survival rates for veterans who have been deemed permanently and totally disabled, many of whom are young and whose spouses face significant caregiving and educational challenges; and

WHEREAS, the educational and career advancement of spouses of veterans who have been deemed permanently and totally disabled is often delayed due to caregiving responsibilities and financial burdens, limiting their ability to fully utilize DEA benefits within the current 10-year timeframe; and

WHEREAS, extending access to educational benefits beyond the 10-year delimiting date would support military families' long-term stability and well-being by providing flexibility for spouses to pursue education and contribute to the workforce when they are ready; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to eliminate the 10-year limitation on DEA benefits for eligible spouses, ensuring continuous access to education benefits without time restrictions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 181

SUPPORT FEDERAL TAX CREDIT FOR SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted and supported employment promotion programs for service-disabled veterans such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and large-scale infrastructure investments like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), demonstrating a commitment to expanding veteran workforce participation; and

WHEREAS, sustainable technologies represent a rapidly growing sector of the American economy offering significant potential for long-term employment opportunities and national benefit; and

WHEREAS, veterans bring unique skills, training and discipline that make them strong candidates for careers in renewable energy, clean transportation, energy efficiency and other sustainability-focused fields; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to establish a federal tax credit program specifically for employers who hire veterans into jobs within the sustainable technology sector, building upon the model of the WOTC and aligned with national efforts to strengthen both the economy and the environment.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 182

SUPPORT REDUCING CERTIFICATION BARRIERS FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES IN FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY CONTRACTING

WHEREAS, veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) play a critical role in driving innovation, creating jobs, and supporting national security; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies such as the DOD and VA often require costly certifications such as Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification, International Organization for Standardization certifications, and Capability Maturity Model Integration for technology contracts; and

WHEREAS, the significant expenses associated with obtaining these certifications create a disproportionate financial burden on VOSBs and SDVOSBs, limiting their ability to compete effectively; and

WHEREAS, these barriers hinder the purpose of federal programs intended to promote veteran entrepreneurship and increase veteran participation in federal procurement; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports federal measures to reduce certification barriers for VOSBs and SDVOSBs by establishing grant or reimbursement programs, enabling phased compliance, expanding mentorship and teaming opportunities, enhancing technical assistance, and allowing waivers or alternatives based on business size and resources; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges federal agencies to streamline certification requirements to ensure they do not unintentionally exclude VOSBs and SDVOSBs from competing in the federal technology marketplace.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 183

SUPPORT INCREASING SOLE SOURCE AWARD THRESHOLDS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, veterans make up a significant portion of the population but remain underrepresented in business ownership; and

WHEREAS, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs) face a competitive disadvantage in federal contracting due to the lowest sole source award thresholds among all federal small business programs, as documented in the Congressional Research Service Report IF12853; and

WHEREAS, these lower thresholds restrict access to multi-year federal contracts, particularly in sectors where SDVOSBs and VOSBs have demonstrated strong performance, such as defense, infrastructure, health and innovation; and

WHEREAS, SDVOSBs and VOSBs represent a distinct group of entrepreneurs who have served their country under risk and sacrifice, and deserve equitable access to economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, raising the sole source threshold would support federal supply chain resilience, promote veteran reintegration into the workforce and reflect the nation's commitment to those who served; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to raise the sole-source award threshold for SDVOSBs and VOSBs, ensuring parity, opportunity, and meaningful recognition of veterans' contributions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 228

SUPPORT COORDINATED VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, service-disabled veterans often face complex barriers to employment, education and independent living that require individualized support from trained professionals; and

WHEREAS, the VA administers the VR&E program to help service-disabled veterans prepare for, secure and sustain meaningful employment or achieve independent living goals; and

WHEREAS, the VA also operates and partners with various vocational rehabilitation services and providers outside the Chapter 31 program such as the Department of Labor, community rehabilitation providers or state vocational rehabilitation agencies that contribute to employment readiness, career counseling, transitional support and community-based rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, these programs often function independently, which can lead to fragmented service delivery and missed opportunities to coordinate resources and expertise; and

WHEREAS, increased coordination and collaboration between the VR&E program and other VA-affiliated vocational rehabilitation resources would improve service delivery, reduce duplication, close service gaps, and ensure service-disabled veterans receive timely, individualized and effective rehabilitation planning; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the VA to establish formal coordination between the VR&E program and all other VA-affiliated vocational rehabilitation services and providers, in order to deliver seamless, veteran-centered rehabilitation and employment support to service-disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 344

SUPPORT STAFFING LEVELS OF THE VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) service is responsible for preparing service-disabled veterans for suitable employment or providing independent-living services to those veterans with disabilities severe enough to render them unemployable; and

WHEREAS, successful transition of service-disabled veterans into meaningful employment relies heavily on the VA's ability to deliver vocational rehabilitation and employment services in promptly and effectively, yet current demands and expectations exceed VR&E's capacity to effectively deliver a full continuum of comprehensive programs; and

WHEREAS, the VR&E program continues to face nationwide staffing shortages that cause delays in delivering timely rehabilitation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, these shortages contribute to widespread delays and reduced service quality as the number of veterans seeking career development, employment and rehabilitation services grows; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports strengthening VR&E by increasing staffing and funding, to improve timely, effective workforce transitions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 346
SUPPORT IMPROVING, REFORMING, AND MONITORING THE MANDATORY
TRANSITION GOALS, PLANS, SUCCESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-56), provides comprehensive transition assistance benefits and services for separating service members and their spouses and renames the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) as the Transition Goals, Plans, Success (GPS) program; and

WHEREAS, the transition from military service to civilian life is difficult for veterans who must overcome obstacles that hinder their ability to gain and sustain meaningful employment in order to provide for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, reserve members called to active duty may require additional resources to improve their career and employment opportunities and may want to consider a new career path; and

WHEREAS, the Transition GPS program was established to help separating service members successfully enter the civilian workforce, start businesses, or pursue education and training and is mandatory for active-duty personnel, except under certain conditions as outlined in P.L. 112-56; and

WHEREAS, participation by DAV and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) in the Transition GPS program is essential to ensure service members understand their benefits and receive free assistance and representation during their transition; and

WHEREAS, the Transition GPS program extends TAP and DTAP workshops from five to seven days or longer to enhance counseling and guidance for separating service members; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 112-56 requires regular review of training methods and participant feedback to ensure the program meets its goals; and

WHEREAS, the current Transition GPS program does not fully address the unique needs of service members transitioning after deployment within one year of discharge nor include additional programs necessary to improve their transition; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to reform and enhance the Transition GPS program by creating new services to better meet the evolving needs of transitioning service members; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to exercise strong oversight of the Transition GPS program, including its workshops, training methods, service delivery and evaluation of participant feedback; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports continued and expanded involvement of VSOs in Transition GPS workshops to ensure the program's effectiveness and to provide follow-up on employment outcomes for participants.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 347
SUPPORT STRENGTHENING AND PROTECTING SERVICE-DISABLED
VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the federal government's support for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) plays a critical role in helping disabled veterans transition to civilian life by promoting economic opportunity and long-term financial independence; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (P.L. 106–50), established a government-wide goal for federal agencies to award at least 3% of prime and subcontracting dollars to SDVOSBs each year, and agencies continue to face challenges in consistently meeting this target; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–461), created the Veterans First Contracting Program, which gives verified Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs) and SDVOSBs contracting priority within the VA, recognizing the importance of veteran entrepreneurship in advancing VA's mission; and

WHEREAS, although SDVOSBs receive billions in federal contract awards in recent years, stronger protections and accountability are needed to ensure that only eligible, veteran-owned firms benefit from these programs; and

WHEREAS, misrepresentation or abuse of SDVOSB and VOSB programs undermines the integrity of set-aside contracting and reduces opportunities for legitimately owned and operated veteran small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the continued success and expansion of SDVOSB programs directly supports the economic well-being of disabled veterans and their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation that strengthens and protects SDVOSB programs across the federal government by enforcing verification standards, increasing oversight and accountability, and ensuring veteran entrepreneurs receive the opportunities they have earned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 358
SUPPORT ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADMINISTRATION
WITHIN THE VA

WHEREAS, veterans' education, employment, housing and transition programs are spread across multiple offices within the VA, reducing coordination and oversight of these critical services; and

WHEREAS, the VA was created to consolidate and streamline delivery of veterans' benefits and services, yet economic opportunity programs have become fragmented, leading to inefficiencies and diminished effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the long-term economic success of veterans, through career training, employment and education, is directly tied to their overall well-being and requires focused leadership and resources within the VA; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated Economic Opportunity Administration, led by an Under Secretary, would ensure strong oversight and accountability for programs such as VR&E, the Post-9/11 GI Bill, home loan guarantees, and transition services; and

WHEREAS, despite an increasing workload from more veterans becoming eligible as the compensation backlog decreases, programs like VR&E have faced stagnant or reduced budgets; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on Congress to fully establish and appropriately fund the Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration within the VA, led by a confirmed Under Secretary, to ensure that veterans and their families receive the full measure of support in education, employment, housing, and transition services they have earned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 398
SUPPORT RESTORING EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS LOST DUE TO
NATIONAL EMERGENCIES

WHEREAS, all educational and vocational programs administered by the VA have an established number of months of potential eligibility; and

WHEREAS, these benefits are intended to support college, university, or trade school education that prepares veterans and their families for meaningful employment and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, national emergencies, including public health crises or natural disasters, can disrupt instruction, reduce academic quality and limit student access to necessary counseling and support services; and

WHEREAS, many veterans and their dependents experienced extended delays and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including school closures, limited class availability, delayed certifications, and personal health or caregiving responsibilities, hindering their ability to enroll in or complete their programs of study within standard benefit timelines; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025, supports legislation directing the VA to exclude any semester or quarter interrupted by a declared national emergency from being counted against a veteran's or dependent's total entitlement to VA education or vocational rehabilitation benefits until Congress determines educational stability has been restored; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports extending any applicable delimiting date, including limits based on the dependent's age, by one full academic term for each term impacted by a national emergency; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports an extension that allows adequate time for veterans hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic to enroll in and complete their program of studies for all VA educational programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 416
SUPPORT REMOVING TIME RESTRICTIONS TO TRANSFER POST-9/11 GI BILL TO
ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, current law provides restrictive rules and regulations limiting the transfer of education benefits to a qualifying dependent of a veteran; and

WHEREAS, veterans entitled to the Post-9/11 GI Bill who did not transfer benefits to qualifying dependents through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System before separating from service can no longer transfer these benefits to new dependents; and

WHEREAS, this restriction prevents veterans from transferring education benefits to new spouses, adopted children, or other qualifying dependents not initially listed; and

WHEREAS, allowing veterans to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to any qualifying dependent at any time would respect the veteran's intent and fully honor the earned benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to remove restrictions and allow transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to any qualifying dependent at any time.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 423
SUPPORT STRENGTHENING WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDITS AND INCENTIVES

WHEREAS, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit available to employers for hiring and employing individuals from certain targeted groups, including disabled veterans and encourages employment opportunities for those who have served; and

WHEREAS, the WOTC generally offers a credit equal to 40% of up to \$6,000 in wages paid during an employee's first year, provided the individual is certified as a member of a targeted group and works at least 400 hours for the employer; and

WHEREAS, the WOTC was extended in September 2021 and will expire December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a 2021 RAND Corporation study titled *The Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Veteran Employment* found that the WOTC increased employment rates for qualified veterans by approximately 2% and raised their wage income by nearly 40%; and

WHEREAS, veterans with service-connected disabilities deserve meaningful and sustained employment opportunities across diverse career fields; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and improving incentives for employers to hire and retain veterans supports veterans' long-term economic stability and well-being; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to make permanent the WOTC; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports the development of additional tax credit and incentive programs to encourage employers to hire and retain disabled veterans across all regions and industries.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 428
SUPPORT REDUCING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND ACCESS TO
BENEFITS

WHEREAS, pursuing education and seeking gainful employment to support themselves and their families becomes a top priority for many veterans transitioning from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, veterans may not be fully aware of the range of benefits they have earned, or may face unnecessary challenges in accessing those benefits and the support systems designed to help them succeed; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports programs, policies and legislation that identify and remove barriers to employment, education and full access to benefits for service-disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 529
SUPPORT EXTENSION OF VR&E COUNSELING AND PLACEMENT SERVICES
BEYOND 48 MONTHS

WHEREAS, section 3105 of title 38, United States Code, generally limits entitlement under the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program to 48 months of services; and

WHEREAS, the VA may authorize extensions beyond 48 months when determined necessary to help a service-disabled veteran achieve a vocational rehabilitation or independent living goal; and

WHEREAS, veterans with significant service-connected disabilities may face complex barriers to employment that require extended time and tailored support for successful transition into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, additional months of counseling, placement and follow-up services can be critical to ensuring veterans secure and sustain meaningful employment consistent with their rehabilitation plans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the VA and Congress to ensure service-disabled veterans may receive up to 24 additional months of counseling and placement services under the VR&E program, when determined necessary, in order to support long-term rehabilitation success and employment retention.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 592

SUPPORT SIMPLIFYING THE VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR THE VETERANS FIRST CONTRACTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Veterans First Contracting Program prioritizes awarding contracts and subcontracts to Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and Veteran Owned Small Businesses (VSOBs) ensuring they can fully participate in the VA contracting process; and

WHEREAS, the program provides specific procurement set-asides and sole sourcing opportunities within the VA, ensuring veterans receive dedicated opportunities within the VA's procurement process; and

WHEREAS, some non-legitimate companies have received contracts through the Veterans First Contracting Program; and

WHEREAS, the VA's current verification process requires extensive documentation, is complex to navigate, and is time-consuming; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, recommends the VA simplify its verification process for SDVOSBs and VOSBs interested in participating in the VA's Veterans First Contracting Program while maintaining protections against awarding contracts to non-legitimate companies.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 593

SUPPORT IMPROVING AND REFORMING FEDERAL PROGRAMS TARGETING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WHEREAS, federal programs to assist Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and veteran self-employment have been established, but many are outdated; and

WHEREAS, the VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program, on average, provides education and employment services to hundreds of thousands of eligible disabled veterans per year; and

WHEREAS, VR&E includes a self-employment track, but eligibility is limited to veterans with the most severe service-connected disabilities who require homebound training or self-employment, resulting in low participation in this track; and

WHEREAS, veterans with service-related injuries deserve the opportunity for self-employment that accommodates their employment barriers and provides them with financial independence; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the Secretary of the VA coordinating with other federal agencies and programs that focus on service-disabled veteran entrepreneurship.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 655

SUPPORT REFORMS IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S SMALL BUSINESS LOAN AND BENEFIT PROCESSES FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration (SBA) provides a range of support services, financial products, and contracting advantages designed to assist service-disabled veterans in launching and growing small businesses; and

WHEREAS, service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs often face unique barriers, including limited transparency in eligibility criteria, unclear credit requirements, and inconsistent underwriting standards from SBA-partnered lenders that restrict access to the full benefits from SBA programs; and

WHEREAS, programs such as Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) and Boots to Business programs are designed to support transitioning service members and veterans through entrepreneurship to include loan application training and guidance on obtaining a Veteran-Owned Business certification; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and regulatory reforms to eliminate barriers that limit access to SBA loan programs and benefits for service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the SBA to ensure that all loan applications and veteran business certification processes clearly outline available resources, eligibility requirements and points of contact, thereby improving transparency and access for service-disabled veteran small business owners.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 657

SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (P.L. 103-3) requires eligible employers to provide job-protected, unpaid leave for qualified medical and family reasons including care related to chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, service-disabled veterans utilizing the FMLA may face employer interference including denial of leave request, manipulation of work hours or retaliation, such as adverse employment actions related to their lawful use of FMLA leave to manage their service-connected medical needs; and

WHEREAS, the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act (P.L. 114-75), provides newly hired employees with a service-connected disability rating 30% or more up to 104 hours of paid leave during their first 12 months of employment for medical treatment related to their disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many service-disabled veterans continue to require ongoing medical care beyond their first year of employment and may lack adequate job protections when seeking necessary treatment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to expand employment protections for service-disabled veterans managing ongoing medical needs, including those using FMLA or other approved medical leave, to prevent retaliation and ensure continued access to health care without jeopardizing their employment.

* * *

(Whereupon, the Employment Committee secretary withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. JAMES MILTON BAILEY: Mic 3.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 3.

MR. BAILEY: I'm James Milton Bailey, Chapter 117, Ohio. Ohio, being the birthplace of the DAV, I honorably and respectfully make that motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you for that energetic motion. (Laughter) In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any resolutions, rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none—no, go ahead. Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Whereupon, the Employment Committee secretary withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would like to call upon Chairman Trent Dilks for the report on the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights chair advanced to the lectern.)

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS CHAIRPERSON TRENT DILKS: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights was called to order on Aug. 10th, 2025, by the Committee advisors Joy Ilem and Scott Hope.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Trent Dilks was elected as chairman. And Benjamin Flynn was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this national convention. For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions. (Big sigh by Mr. Dilks followed by laughter) We got it.

1, support protections and benefits for dependents of service-disabled veterans and military families exposed to toxic hazards on military bases.

10, support legislation to allow concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all longevity-retired veterans.

11, support legislation to establish presumptive service connection for hearing loss and tinnitus.

12, support legislation to establish presumptive service connection for toxic exposure at Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases.

13, support legislation to reduce the ten-year rule for dependency indemnity compensation.

14, support interest payments for VA retroactive awards one year or more.

15, expand presumptions for service connection for former POWs.

16, support legislation to provide a temporary total disability rating for an amputee veteran awaiting a new prosthetic device.

22, oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans Appeals.

23, support legislation to require the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to decide all assignments of errors raised by appellants.

24, oppose any recommendation or legislation to reduce or eliminate veterans' benefits, eliminate benefits for disabled veterans.

25, oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits.

26, support legislation to exempt VA benefits and services for service-connected disabled veterans from pay-go rules.

27, oppose offsetting VA disability compensation by any other awarded federal benefit.

28, support legislation to allow all veterans to recover taxes on disability severance pay.

29, support oversight of VA practices in evaluating disability claims for residuals of military sexual trauma.

30, increase the VA Home Improvement and Structural Alterations grant.

35, support legislation authorizing the presumption of service connection for all radiogenic diseases and eliminate dose estimate requirements.

36, support legislation to award the monthly special compensation at R1 to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities.

37, extend eligibility for veterans' mortgage protection life insurance to service-connected veterans rated permanently and totally disabled.

38, support legislation to cap attorneys' fees for benefits counseling in claims services before the VA.

39, support increase in the VA burial allowance for service-connected veterans and provide automatic annual adjustments.

40, support legislation for a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

41, oppose subjecting disability compensation and dependency indemnity compensation to means testing.

42, support a temporary total rating for 21 days or more due to incapacitation.

43, oppose permanent rounding down of cost-of-living adjustments in veterans benefits.

44, amend the law to provide a ten-year protection period for service-connected disability ratings.

45, support legislation to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances.

46, support legislation to exclude VA compensation as countable income.

47, remove the delimiting date for Persian Gulf veterans' illnesses.

80, support legislation for scientific evaluation to include conditions of the thyroid as a presumptive Gulf War disorder.

81, support legislation to provide studies, healthcare and benefits resulting from toxic exposures at K2 Air Base, Uzbekistan.

83, support reauthorization of the Agent Orange Act.

84, recognizing and addressing the impact of chemical exposures on the offspring and future generations of veterans.

86, increase specially-adaptive equipment reimbursement rates for automobiles and other conveyances.

87, support legislation to improve the VA Fiduciary Program;

88, support legislation to prohibit special separation benefits payments being withheld from VA disability compensation payments.

89, require the VA to request medical records prior to routine future examination.

109, support legislation to ensure disabled veterans continue receiving dependents compensation for adult children in school using Chapter 35 benefits.

113, investigate the effects of toxic exposures on veterans stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington.

114, investigate the effects of toxic exposures on veterans stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

123, support legislation to allow veterans to be awarded all dependent VA benefits for children under court order custody or guardianship.

138, support legislation to improve Veterans Benefit Administration employee training.

139, support legislation to establish a supplementary specially-adaptive housing grant.

146, support legislation for VA to provide immediate access to compensation and pension exams and examiner notes.

148, support legislation recognizing racial trauma as a stressor for PTSD.

151, support legislation to reform fugitive felon status within the VA.

152, support legislation to increase maximum evaluation for service-connected headaches.

Halfway there. (Laughter)

153, establish immediate authorization of grants by the Board of Veterans Appeals on all cases advanced on the docket.

155, support legislation to direct the VA Secretary to verify dependency status with the DoD and within the VA.

156, support legislation to oppose the payment of attorneys' fees based on periods when the attorney was not involved in the claim.

157, support legislation to expand the recognized wartime service periods to include veterans who served in combat environments from hostile military or terrorist activity from November 4th, 1979, through Aug. 1, 1990.

158, support legislation to clarify and expand entitlement to Dependents Educational Assistance under Chapter 35 for children of a two-veteran household.

159, support legislation to ensure entitlements to Spina Bifida and birth defects related to Agent Orange in new locations of the PACT Act.

160, support legislation requiring any appeal withdrawal to be in writing.

161, support legislation to add diseases related to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

163, support legislation for payment of the maximum burial allowance for veterans with a total disability rating based on individual unemployability.

166, reducing the burden of refiling evidence for the Board of Veterans Appeals Review.

167, maintain the original docket number for repeated pre-decisional errors by the VA.

168, support appellant's right to change representation at any time during an appeal.

185, compensate Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War.

186, support the elimination of the 30-day requirement for diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune.

187, support resources and oversight of the appeals process.

189, support legislation for studies in presumptive diseases related to P-FAS exposure.

195, support compensable evaluations for certain disabilities currently at zero percent.

197, support legislation to establish multiple automobile grants for eligible veterans.

199, support legislation to include Puerto Rico as a DoD and VA recognized location of Agent Orange and other herbicides.

200, support legislation to repeal grave marker restrictions in private cemeteries.

233, support legislation to require the VA to implement an optional path for telephonic initial contact for visually-impaired veterans.

234, remove requirement of manifestation of chloracne and porphyria cutanea tarda and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy within one year of exposure to Agent Orange. (Applause)

239, support legislation to provide for service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures.

240, support meaningful claims and appeals reform.

250, ensure Cold War nuclear weapons' technicians are considered as radiation-exposed and toxic-substance-exposed veterans.

254, support sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for all VA programs, benefits and services.

256, support legislation to improve and reform dependency and indemnity compensation benefits.

268, oppose lump-sum payments for service-connected disabilities.

269, oppose the imposition of time limits for filing compensation claims.

270, oppose redefining service-connected disability or restricting its establishment.

271, support legislation to maintain total disability benefits for all veterans, regardless of age or other earned federal benefits.

282, consider treatment for a presumptive service-connected condition as a claim for VA benefits.

283, increase grant funding for local veterans' cemeteries.

287, extend veterans' benefits to survivors for a certain period following the death of the veteran.

288, support legislation to remove personal identification information from the veteran's claim file.

293, support legislation to increase disability compensation.

294, support legislation that requires the VA to consider private medical evidence supplied by licensed private health care providers.

296, support legislation to protect claimants from those charging fees for VA claims preparation, presentation, or prosecution.

354, support the addition of toxic-exposure risk activity for those exposed to the Red Hill water contamination.

369, support legislation to investigate cancer linked to Intercontinental Ballistic missile bases.

370, protect programs that promote fair access, representation and support for disabled veterans, their families, and caregivers.

393, provide for a compensable rating for hearing-impaired veterans required to use hearing aids.

394, support a change in regulatory requirements for temporary total disability rating.

395, support reform relating to the recovery of debts by the VA.

409, support legislation to provide DIC benefits to parent caregivers.

410, support legislation to include McMurdo Station Antarctica as a radiation risk activity.

411, investigate the effects of toxic exposures on veterans stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

412, support legislation to recognize Okinawa as an official location where Agent Orange was used, tested, or stored outside of Vietnam. (Applause)

420, support legislation to allow a veteran's survivor to receive Medal of Honor Special Pension and DIC concurrently.

436, support legislation to replace and clarify current Intent to File federal laws in VA policies.

439, oppose all attempts to change the basis of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities from the Average Impairments of Earning Capacity Standard.

448, amend provisions regarding eligibility for automobile adaptive equipment to include any veteran whose service-connected disability inhibits the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

453, amend the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities for Mental Disorders.

472, eliminate the link between chronicity and continuity for chronic diseases listed in federal regulations.

473, support legislation to remove the prohibition against DAV members who are federal employees from communicating on behalf of the DAV with federal agencies.

522, support legislation to establish presumptive service connection for diseases and illnesses related to toxic exposure at Fort McClellan Alabama.

538, support legislation for VA to establish a minimum evaluation for cochlear implants.

545, support legislation to award a ten percent disability rating for hypertension when medication is required for control. (Applause)

552, support legislation to streamline and improve the requirements and processing of specially-adapted housing grants and the special housing adaptation grants.

566, support legislation for the VA to cover the total cost of an adaptive vehicle for eligible veterans, to include shipping costs.

567, support legislation to grant entitlement to Aid and Attendance to a veteran's seriously-disabled child.

619, support modification of certain VA forms for retrieval of records housed at VA Community Care facilities.

Now we're actually halfway. (Laughter)

620, support using the proposed reduction of due process for all disability evaluation reductions.

621, support legislation to reform and improve service-disabled life insurance.

622, support improvement and modernization of VA's home loan guarantee program.

623, support legislation to provide studies, health care and benefits resulting from toxic exposures in Bosnia and Kosovo.

624, support legislation to change AMA rule of evidence a veteran law judge can review.

625, support legislation to establish presumptive service connection for diseases and illnesses related to toxic exposure at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana.

626, support legislation to include service near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station as a radiation risk activity.

627, provide medical benefits and compensation for Persian Gulf War veterans negatively impacted by Sarin Nerve Gas.

628, investigate the health effects on veterans stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona.

629, support presumption—as I was, 629, support presumptive service-connection for cumulative brain trauma from military occupational blast exposure and high-G operational forces.

644, simplify acceptable claims form applications.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights. (Applause) On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the national convention. (Applause)

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 1

PROTECT BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES EXPOSED TO TOXIC HAZARDS ON MILITARY BASES

WHEREAS, the dependents of service members, including spouses, parents, and children, play a vital role in military life, often enduring hardship alongside their loved ones, especially those living with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many military installations have been found to contain hazardous environmental contaminants, including bases designated as Superfund sites by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, both service members and their dependents have experienced prolonged exposure to toxic substances while residing on these bases, often without timely notice or access to appropriate medical care; and

WHEREAS, many dependents, particularly those of service-disabled veterans, now suffer from serious health conditions linked to toxic exposure, compounding the physical, emotional, and financial burdens on military families; and

WHEREAS, current protections for toxic exposure are largely limited to those who resided at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, excluding similarly affected dependents from other installations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the federal government to provide benefits, including health care and financial assistance, to dependents of veterans and other military families exposed to toxic hazards at contaminated military bases.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 10

SUPPORT CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR ALL LONGEVITY-RETIRED VETERANS

WHEREAS, under current law, military retirees with service-connected disabilities rated less than 50% by the VA are required to forfeit a portion of their retired pay equal to the amount of their VA disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) program currently allows concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation only for veterans rated 50% or higher, leaving those rated 40% or lower without full concurrent benefits unfairly penalizes them and diminishes the value of both military retirement and VA disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, veterans who retired from the military based on years of honorable service have earned their retired pay as deferred compensation for their service, and their VA disability compensation is separately awarded to address injuries or illnesses incurred or aggravated during military service; and

WHEREAS, potential changes in military retirement systems and the DOD's definitions of "longevity retirement" may further complicate or restrict veterans' access to concurrent receipt benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to repeal the statutory offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation, and to authorize full concurrent receipt of both earned benefits for all longevity-retired veterans with service-connected disabilities, regardless of their disability rating.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 11

SUPPORT ESTABLISHING PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

WHEREAS, veterans of the armed forces who served in combat or in certain military occupational specialties (MOS) or who were routinely assigned to duties with significant noise exposure outside their primary MOS, have a significantly higher incidence of hearing loss and tinnitus due to prolonged or repeated acoustic trauma; and have a significantly higher incidence of hearing loss and tinnitus due to prolonged or repeated exposure to hazardous noise; and

WHEREAS, many pre-induction and separation examinations for veterans, particularly those who served during World War II and the Korean War, relied on the “whispered voice” test, a method now recognized as medically inaccurate and unreliable for detecting hearing impairments; and

WHEREAS, these veterans were often not provided comprehensive audiological evaluations upon entry into or separation from military service, leaving gaps in the documentation needed to support later claims for service-connected hearing disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA has recognized hearing loss and tinnitus as among the most prevalent service-connected disabilities, underscoring the long-term auditory impact of military noise exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to establish presumptive service connection for veterans diagnosed with hearing loss or tinnitus, regardless of degree, when evidence shows the veteran engaged in combat, served in a military occupational specialty, or performed duties likely to involve repeated exposure to hazardous noise; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress and the VA to recognize the limitations of historical audiometric testing and ensure that all veterans with credible in-service noise exposure, whether through combat, MOS designation, or consistent duties involving acoustic trauma, are afforded appropriate presumptive entitlement to benefits for hearing-related conditions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 12

SUPPORT ESTABLISHING PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR TOXIC EXPOSURE AT GRAND FORKS AND MINOT AIR FORCE BASES

WHEREAS, Grand Forks Air Force Base and Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota have played a critical role in the United States’ nuclear deterrence by operating intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) systems; and

WHEREAS, missileers and support personnel were routinely exposed to hazardous substances including missile propellants, solvents, paint fumes, asbestos, radon gas, PFAS (“forever chemicals”), and smoke from destruction of classified materials, often in confined, poorly ventilated spaces; and

WHEREAS, toxic missile propellants sometimes contaminated silos for weeks, during which personnel maintained prolonged 24/7 duty rotations in these hazardous environments; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Air Force has acknowledged possible links between these toxic exposures and elevated cancer rates among missile combat crew members at these bases, prompting ongoing studies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on Congress to authorize comprehensive scientific research into environmental and toxic exposures at Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation establishing a concession of exposure to toxins for veterans who served at these sites and establish presumptive service connection for diseases linked to toxic exposures at these installations to ensure veterans timely access to VA benefits and health care.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 13
SUPPORT REDUCING THE 10-YEAR RULE FOR DEPENDENCY AND
INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, section 1318 (b)(1), title 38, United States Code, provides Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits for survivors of deceased veterans who were rated totally disabled for 10 or more years; and

WHEREAS, the financial status of the surviving spouse is compromised due to the care required by the totally disabled veteran and provided by the caregiver spouse; and

WHEREAS, the veteran's spouse, acting as a caregiver, must in many cases limit, give up or put careers and other activities on hold; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the spouse should carry this additional burden for 10 years or more before qualifying for DIC; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to reduce the 10-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 14
SUPPORT INTEREST PAYMENTS FOR VA RETROACTIVE AWARDS OF
ONE YEAR OR MORE

WHEREAS, VA claimants are often denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits due to prolonged bureaucratic delay in the VA adjudication process and/or through clear and unmistakable error on the part of VA rating board authorities; and

WHEREAS, under current law and regulation, VA claimants who incur indebtedness to the United States government, in addition to the principal amount of such indebtedness, are assessed and must pay interest charges; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Congress enacted the Prompt Payment Act, Public Law 97–177, to require federal agencies to pay their bills to outside vendors on a timely basis or pay interest penalties to the outside vendors when payments are made late; and

WHEREAS, VA claimants who are denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits do not receive interest payments from the government and therefore incur a loss of income, which could have been avoided had they received their earned benefits in a timely fashion; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to pay interest on all retroactive benefit awards in excess of one year after these claims are filed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 15
EXPAND PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR FORMER POWS

WHEREAS, former prisoners of war (POWs) suffered cruel and inhumane treatment, together with nutritional deprivation at the hands of their captors, which resulted in long-term adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, POWs were subjected to numerous and varying forms of abuse dependent upon the place, time and circumstance of their captivity by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, former POWs suffer from a wide range of physical and psychological maladies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation which would add those medical conditions that are characteristically associated with or can be reasonably attributed to the POW experience as presumptive disorders for former POWs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 16
SUPPORT PROVIDING A TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY RATING FOR AN
AMPUTEE VETERAN AWAITING A NEW PROSTHETIC DEVICE

WHEREAS, four to six weeks are required to manufacture a prosthetic device; and

WHEREAS, the veteran amputee without an artificial limb can be incapacitated and unable to obtain or retain gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) does not contain any provision for temporary total disability rating for a service-disabled veteran amputee during the period of waiting for delivery of a new prosthetic limb; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to amend the VASRD to provide a temporary total rating for a service-connected veteran amputee during the period required to replace a prosthetic device.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 22 OPPOSE REGIONAL DISPERSION OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants for veterans benefits may appeal ratings and other decisions of the various and geographically dispersed benefit offices and medical facilities of the VA; and

WHEREAS, inaccuracy and lack of uniformity are pervasive among the claims decisions of the many VA field offices; and

WHEREAS, one board, the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) in Washington, D.C., hears all appeals; and

WHEREAS, appellants, Board members and taxpayers derive numerous benefits from an appellate board housed in one centralized location, some of the more obvious of which are:

- Availability of the collective expertise of the entire Board;
- Professional interaction and association among Board members and staff;
- Shared and uniform training;
- Common and shared goals and responsibilities;
- Economies of scale from pooled resources and the most efficient workload distribution, with the flexibility and capacity to readjust the workload as necessary between members and support staff;
- A positive environment and employee incentives for developing creative solutions and innovations to meet and overcome the challenges inherent in a system of mass adjudication of claims;
- More efficient and effective centralized case management and storage;
- More effective centralized Board administration and hands-on employee oversight; and
- WHEREAS, Congress created the Board after repeated failed experiments with various configurations of regional appellate panels that were plagued by persistent inefficiencies and problems and were proven impractical and poorly suited to properly dispose of veterans' appeals; and

WHEREAS, such regional reorganization of the Board would be extremely unwise, wholly unwarranted, and not in the best interests of veterans or taxpayers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 23 SUPPORT REQUIRING THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO DECIDE ALL ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR RAISED BY APPELLANTS

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988 (VJRA), which established the United States Court of Veterans Appeals, now known as the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court); and

WHEREAS, the VJRA granted the Court authority to decide all relevant questions of law and to set aside or reverse any adverse finding of material fact that is clearly erroneous; and

WHEREAS, veterans often experience substantial delays in the VA adjudication process, resulting in many years before their appeals are heard by the Court; and

WHEREAS, in numerous cases, rather than addressing each legal argument raised by an appellant, the Court will remand the appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) solely based on the VA General Counsel's confession of error regarding the Board's failure to provide adequate reasons or bases for its decision; and

WHEREAS, such limited remands allow the VA to reopen the evidentiary record and introduce new evidence that can further support denial of the claimed benefit, delaying final resolution; and

WHEREAS, this process can require a veteran to appeal to the Court multiple times—sometimes two, three, or even four times—before receiving a ruling on the merits of all arguments raised; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation requiring the Court to decide each assignment of error raised by the appellant and to reverse any such errors found; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation granting the Court express authority to modify or remand any Board decision containing one or more errors, including the authority to order the award of benefits in appropriate cases; and allowing appellants to expressly waive any confession of error made by the appellee, thereby enabling the Court to adjudicate all properly raised legal issues in a single proceeding.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 24 OPPOSE REDUCING OR ELIMINATING VA BENEFITS

WHEREAS, American citizens owe their freedoms and way of life to disabled veterans who made extraordinary personal sacrifices and who suffer lifelong disabilities as a consequence; and

WHEREAS, those who serve in our armed forces stand ready to endure any hardships and to be exposed to any hazards on behalf of their country and our citizens; and

WHEREAS, our government did not hesitate in asking them to give life or limb, if necessary; and

WHEREAS, our elected officials surely should not renege on our reciprocal obligation when our disabled veterans ask for so comparatively little in return; and

WHEREAS, we, as a nation, owe no more important indebtedness nor greater moral obligation than the indebtedness and obligation we have to disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, some elected officials nonetheless prefer to minimize or ignore the suffering of disabled veterans, despite this debt and this national responsibility; and

WHEREAS, any effort on the part of legislators to find ways to avoid compensating disabled veterans, especially in time of war, is unconscionable; and

WHEREAS, honorable and great nations of conscience do not abandon their wounded, injured or ill wartime veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, reminds our elected officials of our undebatable responsibility to fairly and fully compensate veterans for all the effects of disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty as provided for in the equitable standards of current law and regulations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV vigorously opposes any recommendations made for the purpose of reducing, adding limitations on or eliminating benefits for service-connected disabled veterans and their families.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 25 OPPOSE REDUCTION, TAXATION OR ELIMINATION OF VETERANS BENEFITS

WHEREAS, veterans benefits are earned benefits paid to veterans and their families for their service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, veterans benefits are part of a covenant between our nation and its defenders; and

WHEREAS, certain government leaders have continued to attack veterans benefits in an attempt to tax those benefits, reduce them or eliminate them completely; and

WHEREAS, these attacks recur with regularity and serious intent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 26 SUPPORT EXEMPTING VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES FROM PAYGO RULES

WHEREAS, wartime-disabled veterans have earned the benefits and services they and their dependents and survivors receive from the VA as a result of injuries sustained during wartime service; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services received by wartime-disabled veterans as a result of their service-connected disabilities are an extension of the costs of war; and

WHEREAS, this country has a moral obligation to continue to care for these citizen soldiers who have risen in defense and support of the ideals of this great nation and who have returned to civilian life with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to America's veterans, dependents and survivors have not caused this nation's deficit problems; and

WHEREAS, congressional PAYGO rules require any new benefits or services to be offset by cuts to existing benefits or programs, in effect requiring one group of disabled veterans to give up a benefit or service so that another worthy group of wartime-disabled veterans can receive benefits or services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 mandates that all new legislation changing taxes, fees or mandatory spending—taken together at the end of each two-year Congress—must not increase projected federal budget deficits; otherwise, the Office of Management and Budget must order a sequestration to cut all federal programs to eliminate that deficit; and

WHEREAS, sequestration can result in cuts to veterans' programs, negatively impacting the delivery of benefits and services to wartime-disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to wartime-disabled veterans are earned through their service and are not a gratuitous benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to exempt VA benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from PAYGO rules and statutes as well as from any budget caps or sequestration legislation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 27

OPPOSE OFFSETTING VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BY ANY OTHER AWARDED FEDERAL BENEFIT

WHEREAS, consideration has been given to offsetting Social Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits from any other federal benefit; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to veterans who have a compensable service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, such an offset creates undue hardship on totally disabled service-connected veterans and their families by drastically reducing their total income; and

WHEREAS, benefits received from the VA or under military retirement pay and other federal programs have differing eligibility criteria compared to eligibility for SSI or SSDI benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any measure that proposes to offset the payment of any other federal benefit or earned benefit entitlement from VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 28

SUPPORT ALL VETERANS TO RECOVER TAXES ON DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY

WHEREAS, certain funds received by military service members determined to be unfit for duty as a result of personal injury or disability are not taxable; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) continues to tax military disability severance pay as regular income; and

WHEREAS, a United States District Court held that such military disability severance pay is nontaxable income; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has subsequently acquiesced to the District Court holding; and

WHEREAS, a three-year statute of limitations prevents individuals who have been discharged for more than three years from recovering the taxed funds taken by the IRS; and

WHEREAS, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 addressed the issue of veterans being taxed on disability severance payments received after being injured or disabled in combat; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly supports legislation that would allow all veterans to recover taxes from their disability severance pay.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 29
SUPPORT OVERSIGHT OF VA PRACTICES IN EVALUATING DISABILITY CLAIMS
FOR RESIDUALS OF MST

WHEREAS, an estimated 1 in 3 female veterans and 1 in 50 male veterans in the VA health care system report experiencing military sexual trauma (MST); and

WHEREAS, while women are statistically more likely to experience MST, the absolute number of male veterans who report it is significant; and

WHEREAS, an absence of documentation of MST in the personnel or military unit records of injured individuals prevents or obstructs adjudication of claims for disabilities of this deserving group injured during their service and may interrupt or prevent their care by the VA once they become veterans; and

WHEREAS, the DOD has created an office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) to establish department-wide policies and procedures for the handling of sexual assault and injury cases for active military service members and members of Reserve and Guard units, including documentation, records retention and protection of the privacy of the individuals involved in such cases; and

WHEREAS, both the DOD and VA have agreed on some procedures that would govern documentation sufficient to justify service connection for sexual assault and other MST; and

WHEREAS, the VA has issued a regulation (section 3.304(f)(5), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations) that provides for a liberalization of requirements for establishment of service connection due to personal assault, including military sexual trauma, even when documentation of an "actual stressor" is not found, but when evidence in other records exists of a "marker" indicating that a stressor may have in fact occurred; and

WHEREAS, the VA has trained adjudication personnel, especially its rating staffs in VA regional offices, in better evaluating disability claims for military sexual assaults and has emphasized these particular claims must be made subject to special attention in consonance with the new regulation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the VA's practices in evaluating disability claims associated with military sexual trauma and urges the VA to conduct rigorous oversight of adjudication personnel and review of data to ensure the present policy is being faithfully followed and standardized in all VA regional offices.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 30
INCREASE THE VA HOME IMPROVEMENT AND STRUCTURAL
ALTERATIONS GRANT

WHEREAS, under section 1717, Title 38, United States Code, the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) program, veterans with service-connected disabilities or veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities may receive assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities; and

WHEREAS, a HISA grant is available to veterans who have received a medical determination indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, a veteran may receive both a HISA grant and either a Special Home Adaptation grant or a Specially Adapted Housing grant; and

WHEREAS, the HISA improvement benefit provides up to \$6,800 to service-connected veterans, and up to \$2,000 to nonservice-connected veterans as a result of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls for a reasonable increase in HISA benefits for veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 35
SUPPORT AUTHORIZING THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR ALL
RADIOGENIC DISEASES AND ELIMINATING DOSE ESTIMATE REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, members of the United States armed forces participated in test detonations of nuclear devices; served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, following the detonation of nuclear weapons, including

"cleanup" operations at test sites; and have conducted other activities exposing them to ionizing radiation; and

WHEREAS, the United States government knew or should have known the potential harm to the health and well-being of these service members but did not consistently keep adequate records on radiation exposure; and

WHEREAS, those described as "atomic veterans" served our nation with honor, courage and devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, remedial legislation passed by Congress in 1984 has not been effective in ensuring that all atomic veterans are compensated for their radiogenic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the VA has indicated only about 50 claimants have been awarded disability compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation pursuant to Public Law 98-542, the Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act; and

WHEREAS, section 3.311, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, requires dose-estimate exposure levels for claims based on radiation and is a higher standard than for other disabilities associated with exposure, such as claims based on herbicide exposure during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the government has spent tens of millions of dollars to provide dose reconstruction estimates that do not accurately reflect actual radiation dose exposure of these veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9-12, 2025, calls on Congress to enact legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any veteran involved in cleanup operations following a detonation of a nuclear device hereinafter be considered an atomic veteran for purposes of eligibility for benefits and services provided by the VA; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to support the elimination of dose-exposure estimates required for diseases presumptive to ionizing radiation exposure and presume exposure to ionizing radiation for any radiation-exposed veteran with proof of radiation risk activities, to include atmospheric and underwater detonations.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 36

SUPPORT AWARDING SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION AT R1 TO VETERANS WITH ANATOMICAL LOSS OR LOSS OF USE OF THREE EXTREMITIES

WHEREAS, veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use, or a combination of anatomical loss and loss of use, of three extremities are significantly impaired in their ability to conduct activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS, veterans with loss or loss of use of three extremities require the assistance of others for the ability to dress and undress themselves, or to keep themselves clean and presentable, or to perform frequent adjustment of special prosthetic or orthopedic appliances, or to attend to bowel and bladder self-care, or to protect themselves from hazards or dangers incident to their daily environment; and

WHEREAS, these factors are considered basic criteria for determining the need for regular aid and attendance by the VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9-12, 2025, supports legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of section 1114(r)(1), Title 38, United States Code, to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 37

EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE PROTECTION LIFE INSURANCE TO SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS RATED PERMANENT AND TOTAL

WHEREAS, Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) is presently available to veterans entitled to the Specially Adapted Housing award under section 2101(a), Title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled cannot obtain mortgage life insurance through commercial insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, their survivors and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VMLI program provides mortgage life insurance to severely disabled veterans and service members who have also received a Specially Adapted Housing grant from the VA; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VMLI to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 38

SUPPORT CAPPING ATTORNEY FEES FOR BENEFITS COUNSELING AND CLAIMS SERVICES

WHEREAS, our nation established veterans programs to repay veterans for their service and sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, these benefits are intended to be provided through an open, helpful system, ensuring veterans receive all entitled benefits with government assistance; and

WHEREAS, these programs ensure veterans and their families receive full aid from disability compensation and other payments without taxation or diversion; and

WHEREAS, Congress set benefit rates to be minimally adequate for assisting disabled veterans and their families, without allowing reductions for attorney fees; and

WHEREAS, requiring veterans to hire attorneys and surrender a portion of their benefits contradicts the spirit of these programs; and

WHEREAS, it is inappropriate for Congress to pass off the government's obligation to ensure veterans receive their benefits to the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 109-461 allows attorneys to charge fees for counseling and claims services following a Notice of Disagreement; and

WHEREAS, the Appeals Modernization Act allows attorneys to charge fees for counseling and representation following a supplemental claim, higher-level review, or Notice of Disagreement; and

WHEREAS, the initial intent of veterans benefits was that no disabled veteran should have to pay significant attorney fees to obtain their rightful benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, seeks legislation to provide for a reasonable cap on the amount of fees an attorney can charge veterans for benefits counseling and claims services before the VA.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 39

SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE VA BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS AND PROVIDE AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS

WHEREAS, the National Cemetery Administration burial allowance provides partial reimbursement for eligible funeral and burial costs, with a maximum payment of \$2,000 for service-connected burial allowance, \$978 for nonservice-connected burial allowance and \$978 for nonservice-connected plot allowance; and

WHEREAS, the plot allowance introduced in 1973 was an attempt to provide a plot benefit for veterans who did not have reasonable access to a national cemetery, but neither the plot allowance nor the burial allowance was intended to cover the full cost of a civilian burial in a private cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the \$2,000 for service-connected burial and funeral expenses has not increased, nor is it indexed to the Consumer Price Index for annual adjustments; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to increase the burial allowance payable in the case of death due to service-connected disability regardless of whether the death occurs in a VA facility and provide for automatic annual adjustments indexed to the rise in the cost of living.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 40

SUPPORT INCREASES IN VA COMPENSATION RATES TO ADDRESS LOST QUALITY OF LIFE

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (Commission) was established by Public Law 108–136, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004, to address several measures, one of which was loss of quality of life; and

WHEREAS, current law requires that the VA rating schedule compensates service-disabled veterans for average impairment of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded early in its deliberations that VA disability compensation should recompense veterans not only for average impairments of earning capacity but also for their inability to participate in usual life activities and for the impact of their disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) reached the same conclusion; moreover, it made extensive recommendations on steps to develop and implement a methodology to evaluate the impact of disabilities on veterans' quality of life and to provide appropriate compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded that the VA rating schedule should be revised to include compensation for the impact of service-connected disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, for some veterans, quality of life is addressed in a limited fashion by special monthly compensation for loss of limbs or loss of use of limbs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission urged Congress to consider increases in special monthly compensation awards to address the profound impact of certain disabilities on quality of life and to assess whether other ancillary benefits might be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, while a recommended systematic methodology is being developed for evaluating and compensating for the impact of disability on quality of life, the Commission recommended that an immediate interim increase of up to 25% of compensation rates be enacted; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 41 OPPOSE SUBJECTING DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO MEANS TESTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of our nation heretofore have honorably recognized their indebtedness to those who sacrificed in military service by providing disability compensation as restitution for injuries, illnesses or diseases suffered in such service; and

WHEREAS, a disabled veteran is rightfully entitled to compensation for the effects of service-connected disability, without regard to any good fortune or income of the veteran or spouse from sources independent of the government's obligations to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair for the government to seek to disclaim its obligation to disabled veterans or their survivors merely because of the receipt of other, unrelated income; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the special status of disability compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, efforts have been made to deploy a means test to reduce or eliminate them in cases in which the veteran, spouse or survivor has obtained other income; and

WHEREAS, degrading compensation by providing it to the extent of the veteran's or survivor's economic needs, rather than as a measure of restitution for personal injury or illness, thereby disassociates compensation from that which merits it and associates it with factors that govern purely gratuitous benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any proposal to means-test disability compensation and DIC.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 42 SUPPORT A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING FOR 21 DAYS OR MORE DUE TO INCAPACITATION

WHEREAS, with advances in modern medicine and increasing emphasis on more efficient use of health care resources, health care providers are being encouraged to utilize suitable alternatives to inpatient care; and

WHEREAS, consequently, veterans are often treated through home health services or convalesce at home rather than in the hospital; and

WHEREAS, convalescent ratings are currently only authorized where inpatient or outpatient treatment resulted in surgery or immobilization of a major joint by cast; and

WHEREAS, there are instances where the veteran's treatment did not involve surgery or casting of a major joint, but the veteran has undergone healing, convalescence or a therapeutic course in the home, with a duration of more than 21 days; and

WHEREAS, exacerbation of a service-connected disability sometimes makes work activities contraindicated for periods of more than 21 days; and

WHEREAS, in such instances, the therapeutic course, convalescence or restriction from work would occur in the home in lieu of hospitalization for more than 21 days; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports a change in section 4.30, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide for a temporary total rating if treatment or exacerbation of a service-connected disability results in a condition of temporary total incapacity for employment; or temporary unavailability for employment by reason of home health care or ambulatory care, bed rest or confinement to the home; or contraindication of work activities for more than 21 days.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 43

OPPOSE PERMANENT ROUNDING DOWN OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

WHEREAS, to maintain the worth of veterans' benefits, they must be adjusted to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, long-term rounding down of adjusted rates to the next lower dollar amount erodes the value of these benefits over time and thus does not keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, the rounding down of veterans' cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) unfairly targets disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors for cost savings to the government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes long-term rounding down of COLAs for all compensation benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 44

AMEND THE LAW TO PROVIDE A 10-YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATINGS

WHEREAS, section 110, Title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation ratings that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more years; and

WHEREAS, permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings that have been continuously in effect for 10 years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports amendment of section 110, Title 38, United States Code, to provide that disability ratings in effect be permanently protected after a period of 10 continuous years.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 45

SUPPORT INCREASING COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor provides statistical information and analysis that impacts the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for disabled veterans, military retirees and Social Security recipients; and

WHEREAS, the calculations regarding COLAs are the domain of the Social Security Administration, using a formula that has been directly linked to the Consumer Price Index since 1975, prescribed by law when calculating any COLA increase; and

WHEREAS, in general, a COLA is equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of one year to the third quarter of the next, and if there is no increase, there is no COLA; and

WHEREAS, the formula that derives the level of increase is tied to the United States economy on a very broad basis; stagnant economic activity does not mean disabled veterans' cost of living is flat; in fact, as they age and suffer from associated illnesses of aging, their costs increase; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair that disabled veterans are denied necessary increases in disability payments due to a formula that actually has little to do with the costs they bear; and

WHEREAS, there have been recent attempts to adjust the COLA downward in various methods such as "Chained CPI"; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans disability compensation has not kept pace with the rest of the economy; even in years when there were COLA payments, disability benefits lagged; and

WHEREAS, many disabled veterans and their survivors are on fixed incomes and rely on COLAs to keep pace with their current living expenses; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to provide a realistic cost-of-living allowance for our nation's disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 46

SUPPORT EXCLUDING VA COMPENSATION AS COUNTABLE INCOME

WHEREAS, by virtue of their service and sacrifices, disabled veterans deserve special benefits that are separate and in addition to benefits the government provides to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, compensation for the effects of service-connected disabilities is counted as income in determinations of eligibility for other government benefits and programs, such as low-income housing through the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the value of compensation is negated and its purposes are defeated when a veteran's receipt of compensation is used to reduce or deny entitlement to government benefits or services available to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, when a veteran's compensation is offset against other entitlements, it is in effect deducted from eligibility for services generally available to citizens who did not serve, and thus the veteran receives nothing for their disability and is thus not compensated; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, seeks legislation to exclude veterans disability compensation from countable income for purposes of eligibility for benefits or services under other government programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 47

SUPPORT REMOVING THE DELIMITING DATE FOR PERSIAN GULF VETERANS' ILLNESSES

WHEREAS, thousands of Gulf War veterans still suffer from chronic and unexplained physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, current law limits filing dates for illnesses and injuries in veterans from certain service during active-duty periods, including the Southwest Asia theater of military operations; and

WHEREAS, section 3.317(i), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), stipulates that diseases associated with service in the Persian Gulf must "manifest either during active military, naval, or air service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, or to a degree of 10% or more not later than December 31, 2026"; and

WHEREAS, the numerous symptoms experienced by sick Gulf War veterans are not well understood, and the causes of such symptoms remain elusive, and answers could likely remain obscure for some time; and

WHEREAS, little significant research is being conducted on long-term health effects of many of the agents to which veterans were potentially exposed during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, additional research into the long-term health effects of exposures is needed, a fact confirmed in the Gulf War and Health: Volume 10: Update of Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War, 2016, on the health effects of exposures during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, filing periods for injuries and illnesses related to service in any theater of military operations must remain open-ended to ensure that benefits and services are available when those conditions ultimately manifest; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to support legislation to remove the delimiting date for disabilities as a result of active-duty services in the Southwest Asia theater of operation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 80
SUPPORT RESEARCH TO EVALUATE CONDITIONS OF THE THYROID AS A
PRESUMPTIVE GULF WAR DISORDER

WHEREAS, the VA has an established list of disabilities that are presumptively associated with service in Southwest Asia (SWA); and

WHEREAS, SWA refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations for certain veterans, as defined in section 3.317(e)(2), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the VA recognizes signs or symptoms of undiagnosed illness and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses associated with SWA service to include (1) fatigue, (2) signs or symptoms involving skin, (3) headache, (4) muscle pain, (5) joint pain, (6) neurological signs or symptoms, (7) neuropsychological signs or symptoms, (8) signs or symptoms involving the respiratory system (upper or lower), (9) sleep disturbances, (10) gastrointestinal signs or symptoms, (11) cardiovascular signs or symptoms, (12) abnormal weight loss and (13) menstrual disorders; and

WHEREAS, 10 of the common symptoms of a thyroid disorder include fatigue, weight changes (gain too much weight with hypothyroid and too little weight with hyperthyroid); muscle and joint pain; neck swelling (goiter); hair and skin changes; bowel changes; menstrual abnormalities; depression; carpal tunnel (weakness or tingling in the arms, wrists, hands and legs); and, finally, family history; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, proposes that the VA immediately establish studies to determine whether thyroid disorder(s) is more common in veterans with SWA service than the general population, given that many of the common symptoms of a thyroid disorder are also the currently recognized signs or symptoms of undiagnosed illness and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses associated with SWA service.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 81
SUPPORT STUDIES, HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS RESULTING FROM TOXIC
EXPOSURES AT KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE, UZBEKISTAN

WHEREAS, over 15,000 U.S. service members were deployed to the Karshi-Khanabad Air Base (K2), also known as Camp Stronghold Freedom in Uzbekistan from 2001 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, while it was a Soviet air base, K2 had contained chemical weapons and soil saturated with fuels and other solvents; and

WHEREAS, air samples at the base found elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene, as well as the residuals of chemical weapons including cyanide in the showers; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 U.S. Army study found that veterans exposed at K2 have a 500% increased likelihood of developing cancer, to include malignant melanoma and neoplasms of the lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2024, the VA acknowledged potential exposures of jet fuel, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, depleted uranium, asbestos, lead paint and lead contaminated water; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports a formal acknowledgment of the existence of toxic substances and environmental hazards at K2 and a concession of exposure for all U.S. service members who served at K2 between January 1, 2001, and December 31, 2005; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to grant K2 veterans priority eligibility to VA health care, to include hospital care, medical services and nursing home care, by expanding the definition of toxic-exposure risk activity in section 1710, Title 38, United States Code; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports studies to identify illnesses and diseases that have a positive association, including a sufficient, limited or suggestive association, with exposure to any toxic substances.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 83
SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE AGENT ORANGE ACT

WHEREAS, the Agent Orange Act of 1991, codified at section 1116, Title 38, United States Code, provides for presumptive service connection for diseases related thereto; and

WHEREAS, subsection (b) provided requirements for the VA Secretary to follow when prescribing new presumptive diseases, including determinations of positive association of diagnosed or undiagnosed illnesses; reports from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM); and positive significantly statistical association; and

WHEREAS, subsection (c) provided that, not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report from NASEM, the Secretary shall determine whether or not a presumption is warranted for each illness covered by the report; and

WHEREAS, if the Secretary determines that a presumption of service connection is warranted, the Secretary shall, not later than 60 days after making the determination, issue proposed regulations setting forth the Secretary's determination; and

WHEREAS, if the Secretary determines that a presumption of service connection is not warranted, the Secretary shall, not later than 60 days after making the determination, publish in the Federal Register a notice of the determination, and the notice shall include an explanation of the scientific basis for the determination; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Agent Orange Act of 1991, as noted above in subsection (b) and subsection (c), expired on September 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, there are no longer any requirements for a positive association or time requirements for the Secretary to act on scientific reports; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to reauthorize all sections of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to ensure that the presumptive process for diseases related to toxic exposures, as noted, remains available for veterans exposed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 84
SUPPORT RECOGNIZING AND ADDRESSING THE INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACT OF CHEMICAL EXPOSURES

WHEREAS, many veterans have been exposed to hazardous chemicals, including but not limited to Agent Orange, burn pits, depleted uranium, and other toxic substances, during their military service; and

WHEREAS, scientific research has shown that exposure to these chemicals can have long-term and multi-generational health effects, impacting not only the veterans themselves but also their offspring and future generations; and

WHEREAS, children and descendants of exposed veterans have reported a range of health conditions, including congenital disabilities, developmental disorders, and chronic illnesses, which may be linked to parental chemical exposure during service; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for continued research to understand the full scope of intergenerational health impacts and to ensure affected families receive adequate medical care, benefits, and support; and

WHEREAS, many veterans and their families face challenges in obtaining recognition, diagnosis, and compensation for conditions believed to be related to military toxic exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the relevant government bodies, such as the VA, DOD and Congress to:

1. Expand and fund comprehensive research into the generational effects of toxic exposures on veterans' offspring;
2. Establish a formal registry for descendants of exposed veterans to track and study potential health conditions;
3. Ensure affected families receive access to specialized health care, including genetic counseling and early intervention services;
4. Expand eligibility for VA health care and disability compensation to include children and descendants suffering from conditions linked to parental toxic exposure;
5. Advocate for increased awareness, outreach, and education regarding the long-term effects of chemical exposure on military families;

6. Work with scientific and medical experts to develop policies and programs that prioritize the health and well-being of affected descendants; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution serves as a commitment to recognizing, addressing, and mitigating the intergenerational consequences of toxic exposure among veterans and their families.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 86

SUPPORT INCREASING SPECIALLY ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER CONVEYANCES

WHEREAS, the VA provides grants to assist eligible disabled veterans and military service members in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, the VA also provides reimbursement for special adaptive equipment, but the rates of reimbursement have not kept pace with present-day costs to repair or replace such equipment; and

WHEREAS, advances in new automobile technologies, such as collision warning systems, electronic stability control, backup cameras and GPS, would enable disabled veterans to more safely operate vehicles; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and policies that would increase the rates of reimbursement for repairs and replacement of specially adaptive equipment for automobiles and other conveyances consistent with present-day costs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and the VA to support legislation and policies that would expand the items approved for reimbursement, such as collision warning systems, electronic stability control, backup cameras, GPS and other available safety technologies.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 87

SUPPORT IMPROVING THE VA FIDUCIARY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the VA Fiduciary Program was established to protect veterans and other beneficiaries who, due to injury, disease or age, are unable to manage their own financial affairs; and

WHEREAS, a VA payee, referred to by the VA as a VA fiduciary, is a paid position held by an individual or organization appointed to manage a veteran's VA benefit payments when a veteran is deemed to be financially incompetent by a court or by the VA; and

WHEREAS, the VA Fiduciary Program has been rife with fraud stemming from fiduciaries funneling money and assets from vulnerable veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that the Eastern Area Fiduciary Hub (EAFH) failed to properly investigate complaints, leading to nearly \$1 million in theft, with potential fraud likely much higher; and

WHEREAS, part of the problem is a lack of oversight; some of the VA-appointed fiduciaries have criminal records but were still approved; and

WHEREAS, OIG investigations also found that the required audits of the fiduciaries were not being done by the VA, and this allowed the thefts to continue for years; and

WHEREAS, in some cases the veteran called the VA to report the financial abuse but was denied help by VA employees, because the vulnerable veteran could not provide "proof" of the abuse; and

WHEREAS, complaints against VA Fiduciary Program employees are not investigated by the VA OIG, but redirected to the fiduciary hub suspected of malfeasance; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable veterans are being wronged by both malfeasance of the VA fiduciary and the institutional incompetence of the VA Fiduciary Program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and changes to applicable regulations that require the VA to improve the VA Fiduciary Program by creating a better monitoring system and a timely dispute resolution system when beneficiaries make complaints; initiate investigations based on suspected reports of fiduciary fraud rather than putting the burden of proof on the vulnerable veteran; and make an outside agency, such as VA OIG, responsible for investigating complaints of VA employees who work in the VA Fiduciary Program and fiduciary hubs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 88

SUPPORT PROHIBITING SPECIAL SEPARATION BENEFIT PAYMENTS FROM BEING WITHHELD FROM VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, as a result of the downsizing of our military forces, many career military personnel have left service prior to becoming eligible for longevity retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are entitled to separation pay; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals also become eligible for VA disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, a VA General Counsel opinion held that any funds received as a result of the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) must be recouped from any VA disability compensation payment; and

WHEREAS, SSB payments are in no way related to a disability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 89

REQUIRE THE VA TO REQUEST MEDICAL RECORDS PRIOR TO ROUTINE FUTURE EXAMINATIONS

WHEREAS, the VA is required to reexamine disabilities that have not become stabilized and are likely to improve; and

WHEREAS, VA regulations require a reduction in rating based on reexaminations disclosing improvement in physical or mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the VA is not required to request any additional private or government medical records from the veteran prior to a future examination; and

WHEREAS, without any additional medical records prior to the examination, the VA rating specialist will not have sufficient evidence to determine whether the evidence makes it reasonably certain that any improvement will be maintained under the ordinary conditions of life and work; and

WHEREAS, reductions or proposed reductions based solely on VA examinations and not the entirety of medical evidence available will not reflect the veteran's true disability picture and functional impairment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, vigorously supports regulatory and statutory requirements to require the VA be mandated to request any private or government medical records prior to scheduling any future examination.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 109

SUPPORT EXTENDING DEPENDENTS COMPENSATION FOR ADULT CHILDREN IN SCHOOL USING CHAPTER 35 BENEFITS

WHEREAS, veterans are able to claim their adult child attending school as a dependent while that child continues to attend school; and

WHEREAS, current law and regulations mandate that once a child establishes entitlement to Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) benefits, the parent veteran is forbidden to also claim that child as a dependent on their compensation claim; and

WHEREAS, the parent veteran is not directly involved in the child's claim other than having established permanent and total (P&T) status where the child, usually with the assistance of a veteran counselor at the school, files their own claim; and

WHEREAS, the VA does not share the claim information of the adult child attending school with the parent veteran because an individual over the age of 18 is considered to be capable of handling their own matters, and it would be a privacy violation to inform the parent veteran of the child's claim status; and

WHEREAS, the parent veteran is frequently charged with overpayment for having received the dependency compensation while the child is also receiving DEA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to allow for a P&T veteran to continue to claim their adult child attending school as a dependent while that child is separately in receipt of DEA under chapter 35.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 113
INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF TOXIC EXPOSURES ON VETERANS STATIONED AT
NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington, was on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund cleanup list and was removed in 2024; and

WHEREAS, NAS Whidbey Island was contaminated with numerous chemicals, including but not limited to TCE; polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); pesticides; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH); dioxins (already covered by the VA as herbicide exposure); heavy metals, to include lead; and arsenic; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 report, *Preliminary Assessment for Per- and Polyfluoralkyl Substances (PFAS)* acknowledges the contaminated water supply at Whidbey Island; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that military personnel stationed at, or on temporary duty to, NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, have a higher chance for certain diseases/cancers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation for a study to be conducted that specifically considers medical problems of military personnel and their families while stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 114
INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF TOXIC EXPOSURES ON VETERANS STATIONED AT
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

WHEREAS, in April 1985, the Hawaii Department of Health informed the U.S. Army that high levels (30 parts per billion) of trichloroethylene (TCE) had been detected in wells supplying drinking water to 25,000 people at Schofield Barracks; and

WHEREAS, Schofield Barracks was on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund cleanup list from 1990 until 2000; and

WHEREAS, high concentrations of TCE exposure can affect the heart, liver, and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, TCE can affect the immune system and interfere with fetal development during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, TCE is classified as a human carcinogen by the EPA; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that military personnel stationed at Schofield Barracks are at risk for neurological disorders, diabetes, cancer and birth defects in children; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation for a study to be conducted that specifically considers medical problems of military personnel and their families while stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 123
SUPPORT VETERANS TO BE AWARDED ALL DEPENDENT VA BENEFITS FOR
CHILDREN UNDER COURT ORDERED CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP

WHEREAS, the term "child" is defined, for purposes of veterans' benefits, as an unmarried person who is a legitimate child, a child legally adopted before the age of 18 years, a stepchild who acquired that status before the age of 18 years and who is a member of the veteran's household or was a member of the veteran's household at the time of the veteran's death, or an illegitimate child and who is (i) under the age of 18 years; (ii) before the age of 18 years became permanently incapable of self-support; or (iii) after reaching the age of 18 years and until completion of education or training (but not after reaching the age of 23 years) is pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution; and

WHEREAS, guardianship of a child is not included within the definition of a veteran's "child" in 38 C.F.R. § 3.57 (a) and 38 U.S.C. § 101 (4)(A); and

WHEREAS, this was specifically addressed in *O'Brien v. Wilkie*, 948 F.3d 1339, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2020) (affg, 30 Vet. App. 21 (2018)), in which the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that a claimant was ineligible to receive additional VA disability compensation as the legal guardian of his grandson because, in its current structure, 38 U.S.C. § 1115 did not recognize a guardianship relationship of a child for all VA benefits compensation under 38 U.S.C. § 101 (4)(A); and

WHEREAS, legal guardianship is essentially a variation of adoption and should be recognized by the VA as a legitimate legal dependency; and

WHEREAS, under civil law, a veteran with legal guardianship holds the same responsibilities for the child as they would for a biological or adopted child, including potential criminal liability for any form of neglect; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to authorize veterans to be awarded all dependent VA benefits for children under court ordered custody or guardianship.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 138

SUPPORT IMPROVING VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE TRAINING

WHEREAS, the VA Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) employee training program was established to ensure that the rating process is accurate and that veterans receive disability benefits in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the current training program is not universally administered across VBA, and some raters are erroneously denying claims for veterans disability compensation without consideration of new laws and changes in policy; and

WHEREAS, some raters are assigning the date of the supplemental review as the effective date of claim, where either the intent to file date or date of claim should be the effective date; and

WHEREAS, these errors delay the correct retroactive pay to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, it could take upward of months to years to reevaluate a claim and for an accurate decision to be made, thus delaying timely decisions for veterans' claims; and

WHEREAS, proper training is not uniformly being administered to VBA employees to ensure accuracy when there are changes in policy and legislation affecting the claims process; and

WHEREAS, VBA should initiate an improved training process to ensure that benefits raters are universally and consistently informed of legal and policy changes with a goal of making fewer errors and producing timely, accurate rating decisions for each veteran, without the need for appeals; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to improve VBA's training program to ensure veterans' claims are adjudicated correctly and in a timely manner.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 139

SUPPORT ESTABLISHING A SUPPLEMENTARY SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING GRANT

WHEREAS, the VA provides grants to service members and veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability; and

WHEREAS, the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant helps veterans with certain service-connected disabilities live independently in a barrier-free environment; and

WHEREAS, SAH grants can be used to construct a specially adapted home on land to be acquired, build a home on land already owned if it is suitable for specially adapted housing, remodel an existing home if it can be made suitable for specially adapted housing, or apply the grant against the unpaid principal mortgage balance of an adapted home already acquired without the assistance of a VA grant; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2024 maximum SAH grant amount is \$117,014 and must be used for the purpose of constructing or modifying a home to meet adaptive needs; and

WHEREAS, the maximum grant amount adjusts annually, and the grant benefit cannot be used more than three times, up to the maximum dollar amount allowable; and

WHEREAS, eligible veterans can use the VA adapted housing grants, not to exceed the maximum amount at the time of the grant, and once the maximum amount is reached, these veterans must bear the full cost of continued accessible living should they move, need to modify a home or suffer an increase in the severity of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, these veterans should not have to choose between surrendering their independence by moving into an inaccessible home or staying in a home simply because they are unable to afford the cost of new modifications; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation to establish a supplementary SAH grant for eligible veterans needing to relocate and for veterans experiencing an increase in the severity of their service-connected disabilities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports the supplementary grant amounts be at least half of the maximum amount at the time of application for the supplementary grant.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 146

SUPPORT ACCESS TO COMPENSATION AND PENSION EXAMS WITH EXAMINER NOTES

WHEREAS, currently, veterans must request Compensation and Pension (C&P) exam results and notes through a Freedom of Information Act or Privacy Act request, which can be quite time consuming; and

WHEREAS, immediate access to exam results and notes could allow veterans to better understand the rationale behind the VA's decisions and identify any potential errors or inconsistencies; and

WHEREAS, early access to information can expedite the appeals process by allowing veterans and their representatives to prepare more effectively, potentially reducing the need for additional exams or evidence gathering; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports providing veterans with immediate access to their VA C&P exams and examiner notes.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 148

SUPPORT RECOGNIZING RACIAL TRAUMA AS A STRESSOR FOR PTSD

WHEREAS, current regulations require credible supporting evidence that the claimed in-service stressor occurred (section 3.304(f), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)); and

WHEREAS, the VA recognizes five situations for special consideration of stressors: (1) diagnosed during service, (2) combat, (3) fear of hostile military or terrorist activity, (4) prisoner of war and (5) in-service personal assault; and

WHEREAS, racial trauma exposes service members to unexpected and uncontrollable scenarios leading to feelings of anger, confusion, disbelief, dysphoria, fear, and other traumatic reactions; and

WHEREAS, these reactions may result in PTSD symptoms such as distressing memories, avoidance, negative alterations in cognition, and changes in arousal and reactivity; and

WHEREAS, current laws require veterans to provide credible evidence of the in-service stressor, which can be difficult when the assailants are in their chain of command or when documentation is lacking due to fear or shame; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to specifically include racial trauma as one of the identified categories of stressors in 38 CFR §3.304(f).

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 151

REFORM FUGITIVE FELON STATUS

WHEREAS, at present, the VA has a recognized policy denying compensation, pension or dependent benefits to an individual listed as a fugitive felon; and

WHEREAS, at present, the VA accepts indications of fugitive status from local authorities, but the VA does not require information from the originating agency that any attempt has ever been made to locate the alleged fugitive, and the VA does not seek clarification on whether or not the claimant was actually fleeing or otherwise avoiding prosecution, custody or confinement, the criteria for establishing fugitive status; and

WHEREAS, the presumption by the VA against the claimant results in loss of VA benefits and significant hardships by the erroneously identified claimant in attempting to reinstate their benefits; and

WHEREAS, the individual often has years of government bureaucracy to overcome, despite the fact that they have lived in the same location for years, without anyone actually attempting to contact them prior to the VA's declaration of fugitive status; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation that requires the VA to verify that the originating agency has actually attempted to locate the claimant and that the claimant has fled justice or was otherwise avoiding prosecution, custody or confinement, before the VA can seize their current benefits and establish overpayment for prior benefits dispensed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 152

INCREASE MAXIMUM EVALUATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED HEADACHES

WHEREAS, the VA rating schedule notes that the minimum schedular rating for consideration of Individual Unemployability is 60% for a single condition or a combination of 70% with one of them being at least 40%; and

WHEREAS, at present, a veteran with the highest schedular rating for headaches, 50%, must be shown to have a very frequent completely prostrating and prolonged attack productive of severe economic inadaptability, as stated at diagnostic code 8100, section 4.124a, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; and

WHEREAS, a veteran currently in receipt of the maximum 50% rating for headaches due to very frequent completely prostrating and prolonged attacks productive of severe economic inadaptability would not also qualify for consideration of a claim for Individual Unemployability based on that single disability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, proposes that the VA amend its regulations to increase the maximum evaluation for an individual with migraine headaches from the current 50% evaluation to a 60% rating to more appropriately address the industrial impairment attributable to that level of disability.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 153

SUPPORT AUTHORIZING IMMEDIATE GRANTS BY THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS ON ALL CASES ADVANCED ON THE DOCKET

WHEREAS, in a case before the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board), an appellant can request the case advanced on the docket due to financial hardship, homelessness and/or a serious illness; and

WHEREAS, once the Board grants an appeal that is advanced on the docket, it is then sent to either the agency of original jurisdiction (AOJ) or the Appeals Resource Center (ARC) for the decision to be granted, authorized and promulgated prior to payment of benefits to an appellant; and

WHEREAS, the average processing time of these cases by the AOJ or the ARC can be more than 90 days; and

WHEREAS, many appellants with serious illness die prior to the grant and authorization; and

WHEREAS, this delay defeats the purpose of the Board granting a case to be advanced on the docket; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the allocation of VA resources either to the Board or via the National Work Queue to grant, authorize and promulgate all cases advanced on the docket and granted by the Board within 30 days of the decision.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 155

DIRECT THE VA SECRETARY TO VERIFY DEPENDENCY STATUS WITH DOD AND VA

WHEREAS, current law and regulations allow for additional compensation for veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 30% or more for their dependents; and

WHEREAS, it is the veteran's responsibility to inform the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) of changes in dependency; and

WHEREAS, veterans are often confused by the different sections of the VA and report changes to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and/or through the DOD's Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS); and

WHEREAS, VBA will establish an overpayment due to dependency changes that were not directly reported to VBA regardless of whether VHA and/or DEERS reflected the changes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to formally direct the VA Secretary to accept any reports of dependency changes made to VHA and/or documented in DEERS to mitigate any alleged overpayment due to changes in dependency status; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to formally direct the VA Secretary to establish a method to accept and incorporate DEERS changes automatically into the VBA process and to allow VHA changes to dependency to be reported to VBA.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 156

OPPOSE PAYMENTS OF ATTORNEY’S FEES BASED ON PERIODS WHEN THE ATTORNEY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE CLAIM

WHEREAS, revisions in the law and regulations governing the VA have allowed for private agents and attorneys to charge for their representation of claimants before the VA; and

WHEREAS, those regulations, section 14.636(e), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, contain some indications that there may be provision for limitation of the final payment awarded to the private agents and attorneys based on reasonable limitations, as noted in the written description of Fees Permitted; and

WHEREAS, fees permitted for services of an agent or attorney admitted to practice before VA must be reasonable. They may be based on a fixed fee, hourly rate, a percentage of benefits recovered, or a combination of such bases; and

WHEREAS, factors considered in determining whether fees are reasonable include:

The extent and type of services the representative performed;

1. The complexity of the case;
2. The level of skill and competence required of the representative in giving the services;
3. The amount of time the representative spent on the case;
4. The results the representative achieved, including the amount of any benefits recovered;
5. The level of review to which the claim was taken and the level of the review at which the representative was retained;
6. Rates charged by other representatives for similar services;
7. Whether, and to what extent, the payment of fees is contingent upon the results achieved; and

WHEREAS, the VA rarely, if ever, restricts the amount of fees paid to the private agents and attorneys beyond restricting the amount to 20% of any retroactive amount payable; and

WHEREAS, many private agents and attorneys act in the role of representative in a particular case for only a matter of months, providing limited interaction on behalf of the claimant and not demonstrating any knowledge of the case; and

WHEREAS, regardless of whether the private agent and/or attorney did any actual work that resulted in the eventual grant of benefits, the claimant is required to pay the 20% fee; and

WHEREAS, this frequently results in a windfall payment to the private agent and/or attorney at the immediate and direct expense of the claimant; and

WHEREAS, some private agents and/or attorneys, once they have engaged the signature of the client on the representation agreement, have prematurely disengaged as the representative without waiving their right of recovery for any future award; and

WHEREAS, that future award is often years later, resulting in an ever-expanding amount of retroactive pay; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation to restrict the amount of payment to a private agent and/or attorney to a reasonable analysis of the actual work put into the case, and in no case should the payment extend beyond the date when either the claimant or the private agent and/or attorney ends the representation, and withdrawal by the private agent and/or attorney should result in a loss of all rights to recovery where they, for whatever reason, have opted to break the client-representative relationship.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 157
EXPAND WARTIME SERVICE PERIODS TO INCLUDE COMBAT ENVIRONMENTS
FROM HOSTILE MILITARY OR TERRORIST ACTIVITY FROM NOV. 4, 1979, THROUGH
AUG. 1, 1990

WHEREAS, the VA recognizes specific periods of time as being wartime periods; and
WHEREAS, the Vietnam era ended on May 7, 1975, and the Persian Gulf War era began on Aug. 2, 1990, according to section 3.2(f) and (i), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; and
WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of United States service members were subjected to combat environments from hostile military or terrorist activity, including:

- Nov. 4, 1979, seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and the subsequent ill-fated rescue mission, Operation Eagle Claw;
- May 1981 terrorist threats from and resulting combat action with Libya;
- April 18, 1983, bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut;
- Oct. 23, 1983, bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut;
- Oct. 25, 1983, invasion of Grenada;
- Dec. 12, 1983, bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait;
- Sept. 20, 1984, bombing of the U.S. Embassy annex northeast of Beirut;
- April 5, 1986, bombing of La Belle, a discotheque in West Berlin known to be popular with off-duty U.S. service members;
- Operation El Dorado Canyon on April 15, 1986, which involved 200 U.S. aircraft bombing Libya;
- 1989 buildup of U.S. troops in Panama with increasing tensions and hostilities leading to the Dec. 20, 1989, invasion of Panama by U.S. troops in Operation Just Cause;
- Jan. 1, 1981, to Feb. 1, 1992, Honduras Operations;
- Unknown number of anti-terrorist activities or locations that remain classified to this day; and

WHEREAS, any of the military participants of any of these combat environments from hostile military or terrorist activity who were wounded, physically or mentally, and exposed to toxins or airborne hazards, are entitled to service- connected compensation from the VA; they are otherwise not entitled to pension; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports a new wartime period covering the time frame of Nov. 4, 1979, until Feb. 1, 1992, plausibly identified as various global locations where U.S. service members endured hostile enemy and terrorist activity, to be eligible to obtain VA benefits and health care.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 158
CLARIFY AND EXPAND ENTITLEMENT TO DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANCE UNDER CHAPTER 35 FOR CHILDREN OF A TWO-VETERAN
HOUSEHOLD

WHEREAS, current law and regulations allow for the child of a veteran permanently and totally (P&T) disabled due to service-connected conditions to receive Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) under chapter 35; and

WHEREAS, upon establishing DEA benefits, the veteran is no longer allowed to claim that adult child attending school as a dependent on their compensation claim; and

WHEREAS, this limitation is carried forward to both veteran parents despite the child receiving chapter 35 benefits only under the P&T parent's entitlement; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to clarify and expand the law and regulations to allow for continued dependency claim for the veteran parent who is not the P&T party upon which DEA benefits are being claimed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 159
ENSURE ENTITLEMENTS TO SPINA BIFIDA AND BIRTH DEFECTS RELATED TO
AGENT ORANGE IN NEW LOCATIONS OF THE PACT ACT

WHEREAS, VA regulations currently recognize and compensate birth defects in children of certain herbicide-exposed veterans, as shown at sections 3.814 (spina bifida) and 3.815 (birth defects), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR); and

WHEREAS, these regulations are limited to veterans who served in Vietnam and certain parts of Korea; and

WHEREAS, many studies performed throughout the past 30 years have shown an expanded list of medical conditions have been linked to herbicide exposure, passed down to biological children conceived after herbicide exposure in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2022, the President signed into law the PACT Act, extensively expanding the areas conceded to have resulted in herbicide exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports expanding the provisions of 38 CFR §3.814 and §3.815 to include all herbicide exposure areas and times now conceded in the PACT Act; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to enact legislation requiring that medical diagnoses shown to be more probable (50% or more likely) due to Agent Orange exposure, beyond spina bifida, be covered by the VA for biological children of Vietnam veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 160

REQUIRE ALL APPEAL WITHDRAWALS TO BE IN WRITING

WHEREAS, VA regulations previously allowed for a withdrawal of an appeal if certain criteria were met, and such withdrawal was in writing; and

WHEREAS, changes to the regulations when the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act was set in place dropped the requirement for the withdrawal to be in writing; and

WHEREAS, often when a client is communicating with a VA employee via telephone to express a desire to withdraw a request for a hearing, the documentation of the call is left ambiguous as to whether it was just the hearing or the entire appeal being withdrawn; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the requirement that any appeal withdrawal be made in writing by the appellant or their authorized representative.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 161

SUPPORT ADDING DISEASES RELATED TO CONTAMINATED WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE

WHEREAS, military personnel and their families were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, from August 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987; and

WHEREAS, the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 established 15 different conditions where the exposed military personnel and their families were eligible to seek treatment at VA health facilities at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the conditions identified for cost-free health care were esophageal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage, scleroderma, neurobehavioral effects and non-Hodgkin lymphoma; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs established the presumptive list for service connection for diseases associated with said water supply exposure as of January 2017 and included only eight conditions: adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary will continue to review relevant information to support the creation of additional presumptive conditions, as it becomes available; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 900,000 service members were potentially exposed to the tainted water; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9–13, 2025, urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to consider expanding the presumptive list to include all conditions set in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–154) that were not previously included.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 163

SUPPORT PAYMENT OF THE MAXIMUM BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS WITH A TOTAL DISABILITY RATING BASED ON INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY

WHEREAS, at present, the VA will pay the maximum burial allowance for the burial and funeral expenses of certain veterans when their death is attributable to a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, the VA will presume, unless it has evidence to the contrary on the date it receives notice of the veteran's death, that a veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability or disabilities if, at the date of death, the veteran was rated totally disabled for a service-connected disability or disabilities; however, 38 CFR 3.17404 excludes a total disability rating based on individual unemployability; and

WHEREAS, the VA separately recognizes the presence of a total disability rating based on Individual Unemployability as sufficient to award death benefits for compensation purposes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, proposes regulatory changes be enacted to presume that a veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability or disabilities if, at the date of death, the veteran was rated totally based on Individual Unemployability.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 166

REDUCE THE BURDEN OF REFILED EVIDENCE FOR BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS REVIEW

WHEREAS, under the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA), appellants have specific designated evidence submission periods for review by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA); and

WHEREAS, current law requires that any evidence submitted outside of these periods must be resubmitted when the evidence window reopens, resulting in unnecessary duplication and confusion for subsequent reviewers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation allowing the BVA to consider evidence submitted outside of the designated period if, during an open evidence window, the appellant, their representative, or the reviewing BVA attorney or Veterans Law Judge identifies that evidence, without requiring physical resubmission.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 167

MAINTAIN ORIGINAL DOCKET NUMBER FOR REPEATED PRE-DECISIONAL ERRORS

WHEREAS, under the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA), when a case is remanded for the correction of a pre-decisional error by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), it is considered to have been fully resolved on appeal; and

WHEREAS, once the Agency of Original Jurisdiction (AOJ) renders a new decision a veteran in disagreement must start the appeal process anew - see 38 C.F.R. § 20.800(e) ("A case will not be returned to the Board following the agency of original jurisdiction's readjudication of an appeal previously remanded by the Board pursuant to Rule 802, paragraph (c) (§ 20.802(c)), unless the claimant files a new Notice of Disagreement. Such cases will be docketed in the order in which the most recent Notice of Disagreement was received"); NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation that would allow the BVA to assign the original docket number to any issue that was part of a prior remanded case upon which the claimant files a new Notice of Disagreement following the AOJ's readjudication.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 168

SUPPORT APPELLANT'S RIGHT TO CHANGE REPRESENTATION AT ANY TIME DURING AN APPEAL

WHEREAS, Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) rules allow an appellant to change representation within a 90-day period following the submission of a Notice of Disagreement (38 C.F.R. § 20.1304); and

WHEREAS, VA claims files are now fully electronic; and

WHEREAS, most business is conducted electronically using internet applications and/or email; and

WHEREAS, when an appellant opts for new representation the new representative has to sign accepting the change; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation that would allow the veteran/appellant to switch representation at any point in the process prior to BVA rendering a decision, without the need to explicitly cite good cause for such change in representation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 185

COMPENSATE VETERANS SUFFERING FROM ILLNESSES CIRCUMSTANTIALLY LINKED TO THEIR SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

WHEREAS, DAV has a significant concern regarding the multitude of ailments reported by a growing number of Persian Gulf War veterans who were exposed to both identified and unknown health hazards; and

WHEREAS, Persian Gulf War veterans were exposed to numerous and various environmental health hazards, including smoke from oil field fires and other petroleum agents, depleted uranium, chemical and biological elements, desert parasites, vaccines, chemoprophylactic agents and vehicle paints; and

WHEREAS, primary investigations and multifarious studies have thus far failed to identify the source or sources of these ailments; and

WHEREAS, the scientific/medical community's inability to identify the source(s) and pathological nature of the disease has caused considerable anxiety for these veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a commonality of ailments plaguing Persian Gulf War veterans; and WHEREAS, these ailments have been unofficially labeled "Persian Gulf Syndrome," "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity" and "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome"; and

WHEREAS, based on Government Accounting Office (GAO) Report (GAO 17-511) findings, approval rates for Gulf War Illness claims are about three times lower than for all other claimed disabilities, which is due, in large part, to current law requiring veterans to suffer from an "undiagnosed" or "medically unexplained" illness for eligibility to receive disability compensation for medical conditions occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans; and

WHEREAS, based on the available medical evidence, medical examiners must rule out all known diseases that could cause the veteran's symptoms for it to be determined as an undiagnosed illness or unexplainable illness; and

WHEREAS, clinicians are highly unlikely to provide a diagnosis of an undiagnosed illness or unexplainable illness in most cases, creating an unfair standard for Gulf War veterans to be properly service-connected for conditions related to their military service; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the requirements in the existing law, these brave veterans suffering from these unknown ailments are often prevented from obtaining service connection and providing for their own basic needs and for the needs of their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, vigorously supports the VA's expeditious handling of Persian Gulf War veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for those diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions associated with their service in the Persian Gulf theater or related exposures to certain chemical, biological and environmental toxins; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV strongly urges that these Persian Gulf War veterans continue to receive priority medical treatment for those ailments that may be associated with their service in the Persian Gulf; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV vehemently urges the VA, the DOD, and the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to cooperate in tests and studies to unlock the mysteries surrounding the ailments suffered by Persian Gulf War veterans, including the possibility of exposure to chemical agents by United States military personnel.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 186
SUPPORT THE ELIMINATION OF THE 30-DAY REQUIREMENT FOR DISEASES
ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINANTS IN THE WATER SUPPLY AT
CAMP LEJEUNE

WHEREAS, section 3.307(a)(7)(i), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), provides contaminants in the water supply means the volatile organic compounds (VOC) trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE), benzene and vinyl chloride were in the on-base water supply systems located at United States Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR §3.307(a)(7)(iii) notes that a veteran, or former reservist or member of the National Guard, who had no less than 30 days (consecutive or nonconsecutive) of service at Camp Lejeune during the period beginning on August 1, 1953, and ending on December 31, 1987, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to the contaminants in the water supply; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day requirement is not based on the potential systemic, external and internal exposures to the VOCs; and

WHEREAS, review of the National Research Council, Committee on Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune study, Contaminated Water Supplies at Camp Lejeune: Assessing Potential Health Effects, notes that the internal doses of TCE from showering provide inhalation and dermal exposure that is equivalent with ingesting 2 liters of water; and

WHEREAS, the VA notice of proposed rulemaking on the above-referenced subject, as published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2016, notes, "VA experts agree that there is no science to support a specific minimum exposure level for any of the conditions"; and

WHEREAS, the VA plainly states the 30-day requirement is intended to provide consistency with the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, Public Law 112-154; and

WHEREAS, the VA notes in multiple instances that the 30-day requirement is to keep consistency with the requirement for health care but does not assert that there is a scientific basis or legal requirement for the 30-day period; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day requirement is not consistent with any other laws or regulations providing presumptive service connection for exposure to toxic substances, such as veterans exposed to herbicide agents during service in Vietnam; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9-12, 2025, supports the elimination of the 30-day requirement for diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, as it is not based on the potential systemic, external and internal, exposures to the VOCs; predicated on any science; based on any legal requirements; nor consistent with existing laws and regulations concerning presumptive service connection for exposure to toxic substances.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 187
SUPPORT RESOURCES AND OVERSIGHT OF THE APPEALS PROCESS

WHEREAS, in 2019, the VA implemented the Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act (AMA), which impacts decisions at the Veterans Benefits Administration, the existing legacy appeals and AMA appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board); and

WHEREAS, the Board process is multi-staged and non-linear, requiring multiple layers of review; and

WHEREAS, this can lead to lengthy delays and repeated cycles of redevelopment and re-adjudication; and

WHEREAS, veterans often face long wait times for decisions, which can be frustrating and stressful; and

WHEREAS, the appeals process can be difficult to navigate, especially for veterans without legal representation; and

WHEREAS, while the AMA offers three options for review (Higher-Level Review, Supplemental Claim, and Board Appeal), choosing the right option can be confusing; and

WHEREAS, submitting new and relevant evidence in a Supplemental Claim can be a complex process, and veterans may need assistance in gathering this evidence; and

WHEREAS, the Board is also experiencing staffing shortages, which can impact the efficiency and timeliness of appeals processing; and

WHEREAS, the VA OIG has identified severe occupational staffing shortages across various VA facilities, including those affecting the Board situation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on Congress to provide effective and continued oversight of the legacy and AMA appeals processes to ensure that adequate resources are provided to resolve the backlog of legacy appeals and the backlog of pending hearings at the Board, as well as provide regular oversight to monitor and measure the VA's progress so these reforms achieve their intended purpose.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 189

SUPPORT STUDIES AND PRESUMPTIVE DISEASES RELATED TO PFAS EXPOSURE

WHEREAS, the acronym “PFAS” relates to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are man-made chemicals with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom, are present in firefighting foams and do not break down in the environment; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, the DOD began using aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) to fight fuel fires and emergency response, and AFFF is a major source of PFAS contamination of ground water on military bases; and

WHEREAS, according to 2023 DOD data, more than 700 U.S. military sites are known or likely to have discharged PFAS, typically from the use of firefighting foam; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report, Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up, found sufficient evidence of an association with PFAS exposure with decreased antibody response, dyslipidemia and increased risk of kidney cancer, and the report found limited or suggestive evidence of an association with PFAS exposure with increased risk of breast cancer, liver enzyme alterations, increased risk of pregnancy-induced hypertension, increased risk of testicular cancer, thyroid disease and dysfunction, and increased risk of ulcerative colitis; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2024, the VA announced it will be conducting a scientific assessment to determine if there is a relationship between PFAS exposure and kidney cancer; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to establish and maintain a registry for eligible individuals who may have been exposed to PFAS to ascertain and monitor the health effects of the exposure of members of the armed forces; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports the establishment of a presumption of service connection for PFAS and diseases related thereto.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 195

SUPPORT COMPENSABLE EVALUATIONS FOR CERTAIN DISABILITIES CURRENTLY AT ZERO PERCENT

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities assigns a noncompensable rating for asymptomatic disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a noncompensable rating does not contemplate required medications, prosthetic appliances or employment interference; and

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a compensable rating of 10% for other disabilities that require medication only, such as chronic fatigue disorder, coronary artery disease and hypothyroidism; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the assignment of a compensable evaluation of 10% for noncompensable disabilities that require medication or prosthetic appliances or show employment interference.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 197

ESTABLISH MULTIPLE AUTOMOBILE GRANTS

WHEREAS, Congress authorizes the VA to provide financial assistance to eligible veterans through an automobile grant in the amount of \$21,058.69; and

WHEREAS, this one-time grant is used toward the purchase of a new or used automobile to accommodate a veteran or service member with certain disabilities that resulted from a condition incurred or aggravated during active military service; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (DOT) reports the average useful life of a vehicle is 11.5 years; and

WHEREAS, vehicles that have been modified structurally, including modifications to accommodate the weight of a veteran and their wheelchair, can have an accelerated depreciation of usefulness; and

WHEREAS, on average, the cost to replace modified vehicles ranges from \$40,000 to \$65,000 when the vehicle is new and \$21,000 to \$35,000 when the vehicle is used; and

WHEREAS, these substantial costs, coupled with inflation, present a financial hardship for many disabled veterans who need to replace their primary mode of transportation once it reaches its life of service; and

WHEREAS, the cost of replacing modified vehicles purchased through the VA automobile grant program presents a financial hardship for veterans who must bear the full replacement cost once the adapted vehicle has exceeded its useful life; the divergence of a vehicle's depreciating value and the increasing cost of living only compound this hardship; and

WHEREAS, annual inflation was 2.9% in December 2024 and continues to increase as time has passed; and

WHEREAS, the current grant only covers about 65% of the actual cost of the adapted vehicle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation to establish multiple automobile grants for veterans to use once every 10 years, equaling the current grant maximum in effect at the time of vehicle replacement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports the grant being increased to keep up with the cost of inflation avoiding financial hardships on veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 199 INCLUDE PUERTO RICO AS A DOD AND VA RECOGNIZED LOCATION OF AGENT ORANGE AND OTHER HERBICIDES

WHEREAS, the Agent Orange Act of 1991, Public Law 102-4, conceded exposure to all veterans who served in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-23), extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS, the DOD released its 2019 report, *DOD List of Locations where Tactical herbicides and Their Chemical Components Were Tested, Used or Stored Outside of Vietnam*; and

WHEREAS, not all the locations outside of Vietnam have been codified or added via regulatory provisions; and

WHEREAS, although Puerto Rico is not listed in the 2019 report, the VA, in several Board of Veterans' Appeals decisions, has officially accepted that Puerto Rico was also home to the storage and testing of Agent Orange from 1956 to 1957, and then again from 1966 to 1968; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, the Dow Chemical Company, a manufacturer of Agent Orange, was awarded a DOD research contract, the objective of which was to prepare mixtures of various herbicides in the form of pellets, and to test them on various types of vegetation; and

WHEREAS, this occurred in many locations spanning Puerto Rico, including Mayaguez, Guanica, Joyuda, Loquillo, Las Marias and near the Rio Grande; and

WHEREAS, at an International Penal Law Symposium in San Juan, Puerto Rico, attorneys reported that Agent Orange was sprayed on plants at El Yunque Rainforest and similar chemicals used island-wide between 1956 and 1968, with highly concentrated solutions used in Mayaguez in 1956-57; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to expand the DOD and VA recognized locations of Agent Orange and other herbicides used, tested or stored outside of Vietnam to include Puerto Rico; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports the codification or adding via regulatory provisions all of the locations noted by DOD in their 2019 report.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 200
REPEAL GRAVE MARKER RESTRICTION IN PRIVATE CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, existing legislation prevents the issuance of a VA grave marker for veterans who passed away before November 1, 1990, limiting their recognition to a medallion that can be attached to their headstone; and

WHEREAS, cases such as that of Technical Sergeant Ernest A. Brauner—who died in January 1990 after distinguished World War II service but was denied a VA headstone due to this restriction—demonstrate the unfairness families continue to face today; and

WHEREAS, this arbitrary date restriction denies equal recognition to thousands of veterans who honorably served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other eras, creating inequity among veterans based solely on the year of their death rather than their service; and

WHEREAS, families who wish to honor their loved one's service with a government-furnished headstone are often burdened by out-of-pocket costs or forced to accept less visible recognition, despite their veteran's sacrifice and earned entitlement; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to eliminate the current restrictions on grave markers for veterans buried in private cemeteries who died prior to November 1, 1990, allowing them to receive a VA grave marker instead of just a medallion.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 233
REQUIRE THE VA TO IMPLEMENT AN OPTIONAL PATH FOR TELEPHONIC INITIAL CONTACT FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED VETERANS

WHEREAS, section 12102, Title 42, United States Code, establishes persons' disabilities and major life activities to be covered; and

WHEREAS, in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Congress intended that the Act "provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities" and provide broad coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is required as a public entity to follow the precepts of the ADA; and

WHEREAS, it is also a VHA policy that contacting the hospital via a telephonic device requires the veteran to engage the automated system through a series of keypad tones; and

WHEREAS, these actions are prohibitive where numeric depressions on a keypad, landline, devices such as a landline or mobile device are difficult if not overwhelming for a visually impaired veteran; and

WHEREAS, a second person is often required to assist the veteran in initiating first contact, counter to the precepts of the ADA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to develop and implement a consistent policy requiring that VA health care facilities and Veterans Benefits Administration offices and call centers offer optional paths for telephonic initial contact.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 234
ELIMINATE ONE-YEAR MANIFESTATION REQUIREMENT FOR CHLORACNE, PCT, AND PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY FROM AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE

WHEREAS, the VA currently recognizes a total of 14 diseases as presumptive to Agent Orange exposure; and

WHEREAS, section 1116, Title 38, United States Code, establishes presumptive service connection for diseases based on exposure to Agent Orange, which requires that chloracne and porphyria cutanea tarda become manifest to a degree of 10% or more within one year after service in the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, section 3.307(a)(6)(ii), title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, requires the presumptive disease, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy to become manifest to a degree of 10% or more within one year of exposure to herbicides; and

WHEREAS, the limitations placed on the three above noted diseases create unreasonable requirements on veterans to provide evidence of manifestations of symptoms from 50 years ago and create an inequity; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to remove the requirement of manifestation of symptoms to a compensable degree within one year of exposure for chloracne and porphyria cutanea tarda and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 239

SUPPORT SERVICE CONNECTION FOR CONDITIONS FROM TOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES

WHEREAS, veterans of all military conflicts from the world wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to toxic and environmental exposures such as mustard gas, herbicides, cold weather, chemicals, biological agents, harmful levels of radiation and other combat operation exposures; and

WHEREAS, veterans may not know for years or decades about the toxic or environmental conditions they were exposed to during military service; and

WHEREAS, returning from war, veterans subsequently suffer from disabling conditions that are not immediately identified as a result of such exposures; and

WHEREAS, the DOD has not always been willing to publicly share information regarding exposures during military service with other government departments or agencies or with the individuals involved; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the National Institutes of Health, DOD and the VA, and other federal agencies has focused on relationships between toxic and environmental exposures and health outcomes of veterans and pending claims; and

WHEREAS, such research is necessary to ensure veterans receive high-quality health services and benefits to which they are entitled due to diseases or injuries resulting from deployment exposures; and

WHEREAS, in studies mandated by Congress, the National Academy of Sciences continues to review and evaluate scientific literature including specific research studies to determine whether a link exists between exposure and certain physical disorders; and

WHEREAS, the VA and DOD must collaborate and share necessary deployment, health and exposure data to better address the health conditions experienced by disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, these studies to establish and recognize relationships between exposures and diseases take several years to accomplish, requiring veterans to establish claims on a direct basis without conceded exposure to such toxins; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to establish a concession of individual exposures while awaiting conclusions of studies for presumptive diseases and conditions associated with all veterans' related exposures to toxic and environmental hazards; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV vigorously supports the VA's expeditious handling of veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for conditions associated with all veterans' service and related exposures to toxic and environmental hazards.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 240

SUPPORT MEANINGFUL CLAIMS AND APPEALS REFORM

WHEREAS, Congress created a system for veterans benefits, with the VBA responsible for processing claims and appeals; and

WHEREAS, the number and complexity of claims and appeals are growing, leading to a large backlog and the need for improved accuracy; and

WHEREAS, VBA's focus on reducing the disability claims backlog has increased non-rating claims and appeals backlogs; and

WHEREAS, VBA has sought assistance from veterans service organizations, particularly DAV, for claims processing reform; and

WHEREAS, VBA has made progress in reducing the disability claims backlog and improving accuracy; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, DAV collaborated with VBA and other stakeholders to reform and modernize the VA appeals process; and

WHEREAS, VBA is modernizing the system for adjudicating veterans' appeals; and

WHEREAS, non-rating claims should be included in VBA's average days pending reports; and
WHEREAS, claims and appeals reform must preserve veterans' due process rights and ensure fair, accurate, and timely adjudications; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on Congress and VBA to support significant and meaningful claims and appeals processing reform to address the VA's overall claims and appeals workloads; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and VBA to ensure proposals to streamline and automate the claims process protect veterans' rights and provide sufficient information in decision letters; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA and Congress to ensure sufficient funding for reform initiatives; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to strengthen training, testing, quality control, and accountability within VBA; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to give due deference to private medical evidence and encourage its use, including access to Disability Benefit Questionnaires for private physicians.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 250

RECOGNIZE COLD WAR NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNICIANS AS RADIATION- AND TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS

WHEREAS, Cold War-era military veteran nuclear weapons technicians worked in silence to maintain our nation's nuclear weapons, directly contributing to our nuclear defense and deterrence; and

WHEREAS, live nuclear weapons in our nation's stockpile emitted radiation through their exterior surfaces and through exposed components during maintenance and handling; and

WHEREAS, veteran nuclear weapons technicians worked with numerous toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, without adequate protection, while maintaining nuclear weapons and related equipment; and

WHEREAS, the primary duties were to maintain, repair, disassemble, replace components on, assemble, modify, test, calibrate, transport and store live nuclear weapons in the care and custody of the DOD; and

WHEREAS, those routine tasks exposed veteran nuclear weapons technicians to ionizing radiation every time they worked on or near a live nuclear warhead, weapon or weapon system; and

WHEREAS, the VA's compensation programs have generally not included nuclear weapons technicians from the Cold War period, nor their dependents or survivors, as veterans being exposed to radiation or toxic substances; and

WHEREAS, due to long latency periods, the uniqueness of the dangers to which they were exposed and inadequate exposure data, many of these individuals have been unable to obtain compensation benefits; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons technicians also worked without adequate respiratory and other personal protection from toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, organic solvents, compounds and metals during nuclear weapons and associated equipment maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the VA does not "presume exposure" to veterans who served as nuclear weapons technicians as it is presumed with several other categories of veterans who were exposed to radiation and other toxic substances; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons technicians want nothing more than the same respect, recognition, support, health care and related benefits as other veterans who were exposed to radiation and other toxic substances; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation that nuclear weapons technicians will receive recognition and certification as members of a category, class, cohort or group of veterans with duties designated as "radiation-risk" and "toxic-exposure-risk" activities and including related "presumed exposure" for both.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 254
SUPPORT ADEQUATE, TIMELY AND RELIABLE FUNDING FOR ALL VA PROGRAMS,
BENEFITS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, DAV believes that wounded, injured and ill veterans, through their extraordinary sacrifices and service, earned the right to health care, benefits and services provided by the VA; and

WHEREAS, this nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of this country; and

WHEREAS, DAV worked for more than two decades to reform the budget process to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care programs; and

WHEREAS, DAV developed and supported legislation to ensure advance appropriations, new transparency and accountability requirements covering VA health care budget requests; and

WHEREAS, budget caps and sequestration have often limited the ability of congressional appropriations committees to fully fund all veterans programs, services and benefits; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted Public Law 111-81 and Public Law 113-235, to require advance appropriations for VA health care programs and Veterans Benefits Administration accounts; and

WHEREAS, advance appropriations have allowed the VA to deliver timely, quality health care to enrolled veterans and protect VA health care programs from government shutdowns; and

WHEREAS, the remainder of the VA's discretionary budget could benefit from advance appropriations, particularly during budget stalemates, continuing resolutions and sequestration; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025, supports legislation to authorize advance appropriations for all of the VA's discretionary and mandatory budget, including IT, medical and prosthetic research, major construction, minor construction, State Veterans Home construction, state cemetery construction grants, general operating expenses (VBA and general administration), the National Cemetery Administration, the Office of Inspector General and all other mandatory benefits; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV continues to call on Congress and the VA to fully and faithfully implement Public Law 111-81, to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation and policies to exempt veterans health care funding from budget cap laws, rules, agreements, and sequestration.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 256
SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS AND REFORMS TO DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY
COMPENSATION BENEFITS

WHEREAS, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) was created in 1993 and has only been minimally adjusted since then; and

WHEREAS, DIC payments were intended to provide surviving spouses with the means to maintain some semblance of economic stability; and

WHEREAS, survivors who rely solely on the disabled veteran's compensation face significant financial hardships upon the death of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, monthly benefits for survivors of federal civil service retirees are calculated as a percentage of the civil service retiree's Federal Employees Retirement or Civil Service Retirement System benefits, up to 55%; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation has reduced the survivor's remarriage age from 57 to 55; and

WHEREAS, now survivors in receipt of DIC benefits risk losing entitlement if they remarry before the age of 55; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9-12, 2025, strongly supports legislation that improves and reforms DIC benefits to include increasing the monthly amount and lowering the remarriage age for survivors of disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 268

OPPOSE LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, disability compensation is paid monthly to an eligible veteran on account of and at a rate commensurate with diminished earning capacity resulting from the effects of service-connected disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, such compensation, by design, continues to provide relief from the service-connected disability for as long as the veteran continues to suffer its effects at a compensable level; and

WHEREAS, by law, the rate of compensation is determined by the level of disability present, thereby requiring reevaluation of the disability upon a change in its degree; and

WHEREAS, various entities have suggested lump-sum payments as a way for the government to avoid the administrative costs of reevaluating service-connected disabilities and as a way to avoid future liabilities to service-connected disabled veterans when their disabilities worsen or cause secondary disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such lump-sum payments would not, on the whole, be in the best interests of disabled veterans but would be more intended for government savings and convenience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 269

OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMIT FOR FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS

WHEREAS, some veterans suffer lifelong impairments from disabilities incurred in connection with military service; and

WHEREAS, disability compensation is a benefit available to veterans at any time they choose to claim it; and

WHEREAS, veterans who, for whatever reason, do not initially desire to claim and receive compensation should not forfeit the right to claim and receive it at some later time; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the VA claims processing system, suggested a time limit for filing compensation claims as a way to reduce the VA's workload; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 270

OPPOSE REDEFINING SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OR RESTRICTING ITS ESTABLISHMENT

WHEREAS, current law authorizes service connection for disabilities incurred or aggravated during service in the United States armed forces in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, various proposals have been made to limit service connection to disabilities caused directly by the performance of duty; and

WHEREAS, disability incurred in the line of duty is sometimes not directly due to a job injury but may be due to less obvious factors attributable to the armed forces environment; and

WHEREAS, proof of a causal relationship may often be difficult or impossible notwithstanding an inability to dissociate the disability from service-related factors; and

WHEREAS, current law equitably alleviates the onerous burden of establishing performance of duty or other causal connection as a prerequisite for service connection; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine and restrict the conditions under which service connection may be established.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 271
MAINTAIN TOTAL DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR ALL VETERANS REGARDLESS OF
AGE OR OTHER EARNED FEDERAL BENEFITS

WHEREAS, when a veteran's disability is rated less than a total 100% evaluation but they are unable to obtain or maintain substantial gainful employment, VA regulations allow the veteran to apply for Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU); and

WHEREAS, TDIU is based on the severity of the individual veteran's unique disability picture and its impact on the veteran's ability to obtain and maintain substantial gainful employment; generally, the veteran must have a single disability rated at 60% or a combined evaluation of 70% to be eligible for TDIU; and

WHEREAS, a report published by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in December 2024, as well as the Government Accounting Office (GAO) report in June 2015, made recommendations to limit TDIU based on age and entitlement to additional earned federal benefits; and

WHEREAS, the December 2024 CBO report contained a proposal to terminate IU ratings for veterans at the age of 67, and cut off TDIU benefits for any veteran already in receipt of Social Security retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, VA regulation section 4.19, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, states the VA is precluded from considering the veteran's age in its determination of a TDIU; and

WHEREAS, TDIU is not a retirement or pension program and is neither similar nor related to Social Security retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, a VA determination of a TDIU is not the same nor is it similar to federal unemployment insurance; it is a disability compensation benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to enact legislation to protect TDIU for it to remain available for all veterans regardless of age or receipt of any other earned federal benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 282
TREAT PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS AS
VA BENEFIT CLAIMS

WHEREAS, many service members have suffered from diseases that are recognized to be presumptive; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from diseases that include many types of cancer, as well as diabetes and other chronic diseases, may not be aware that they may be eligible for service connection, even if they are being treated in a VA facility; and

WHEREAS, many VA medical facilities are not currently staffed or equipped to provide appropriate counseling to veterans or their families on how to file a claim for service-connected benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to enact legislation requiring that treatment by the VA for a condition recognized as a presumptive will be considered as an Intent to File for service connection for compensation purposes.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 283
INCREASE GRANT FUNDING FOR LOCAL VETERANS CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, the VA Veterans Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement the VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA); and

WHEREAS, the program was established to assist states, territories and federally recognized tribal governments in providing gravesites for veterans in those areas where the VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs; and

WHEREAS, the funding of the grant may be used only for the purpose of establishing, expanding or improving veterans cemeteries that are owned and operated by a state, federally recognized tribal government or U.S. territory and can only be provided to these entities; and

WHEREAS, the consistently flat and inadequate annual appropriation levels for the program in recent years have severely limited NCA's ability to support the construction of new state cemeteries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, requests an increase in the VA's Veterans Cemetery Grant Program budget to cover the costs of the annual Conforming State, Territory and Tribal Government Construction Grant Applications.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 287
EXTEND VETERANS BENEFITS TO SURVIVORS FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD
FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE VETERAN

WHEREAS, when a service-connected veteran dies, the compensation only continues to the veteran's surviving spouse or family for the month of the veteran's death; and

WHEREAS, a claim for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by the surviving spouse can take over four months to be adjudicated by the VA; and

WHEREAS, the surviving spouse and family are still responsible for the regular monthly household expenses, such as mortgage/rent, utilities and car payments; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, the surviving spouse has become the veteran's caregiver, given up a career and has no other source of income; and

WHEREAS, not only are these families dealing with the loss of the veteran, but many are put in a financial hardship due to the loss of the veteran's compensation and waiting potentially more than four months for DIC benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to extend a deceased veteran's VA compensation benefits to the surviving spouse and family for a certain period of time to assist during the transition after the veteran's death.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 288
SUPPORT REMOVING PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION FROM A
VETERAN'S CLAIM FILE

WHEREAS, an individual's Social Security number is now assigned at birth and is directly linked to bank accounts, income taxes and all personal credit references; and

WHEREAS, the VA promised many years ago to discontinue using veterans' Social Security numbers as the veteran's claim number; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the VA discontinuing use of Social Security numbers and promptly assigning a unique claim number to all veterans who have or will file a disability claim with the VA.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 293
SUPPORT INCREASING DISABILITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, it is the policy of DAV that this nation's first duty to veterans is to provide for the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled; and

WHEREAS, the percentage ratings for service-connected disabilities represent, as far as can be practicably determined, the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from such disabilities in civil occupations; and

WHEREAS, compensation increases should be based primarily on the loss of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans who are unable to work because of service-connected disabilities should be entitled to compensation payments commensurate with the after-tax earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to bring the standard of living of disabled veterans in line with that which they would have enjoyed had they not suffered their service-connected disabilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 294
REQUIRE VA TO CONSIDER PRIVATE MEDICAL EVIDENCE FROM LICENSED PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, section 5125, Title 38, United States Code, Acceptance of Reports of Private Physician Examinations, authorizes the VA to accept private reports in the adjudication of claims for veterans disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration personnel, to include nurse practitioners and physician assistants in independent practices, of equal training and background to their private sector counterparts, are authorized to complete such medical reports for VA adjudication purposes; and

WHEREAS, submission of private medical records by a claimant, if otherwise adequate for rating purposes, provides claimants with an alternate means to procure evidence in support of their claims, rather than being required to attend mandatory compensation and pension examinations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to consider private medical evidence supplied by licensed private health care providers to include, but not be limited to, reports from nurse practitioners and physician assistants in private practices.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 296
PROTECT CLAIMANTS FROM PARTIES CHARGING FEES FOR VA CLAIMS PREPARATION, PRESENTATION OR PROSECUTION

WHEREAS, claims agents and attorneys recognized by the VA can assist a claimant in the preparation, presentation or prosecution of a claim; and

WHEREAS, fees may not be charged, allowed or paid for services of agents or attorneys with respect to services provided before the date on which a Notice of Disagreement is filed with respect to the case; and

WHEREAS, veterans service organizations and the VA provide free assistance in the claims process; and

WHEREAS, many reports, past and present, have identified that certain entities charge claimants fees for the preparation, presentation or prosecution of a claim; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to prohibit and penalize those who knowingly solicit or contract for charges or receive any fee or compensation for providing advice on how to file a VA claim; the preparation, presentation or prosecution of such a claim; or unlawfully withhold from any claimant any part of a benefit or claim, all prior to the date on which a higher-level review, supplemental claim or a Notice of Disagreement has been filed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 354
SUPPORT ADDING TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITY FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO RED HILL WATER CONTAMINATION

WHEREAS, built in the 1940s, the Red Hill underground bulk fuel storage facility contains 20 tanks that are 250 feet tall and can hold a total of 250 million gallons of fuel used by ships and aircraft based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam; and

WHEREAS, the site has had several leaks since its construction; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2021, 27,000 gallons of fuel that leaked from a storage tank at the Red Hill facility flowed into the ground surrounding the facility and into an underground aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has admitted the November 20, 2021, spill at the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility caused a nuisance for the 17 “bellwether” plaintiffs, representing a cross-section of relatives of military members representing more than 7,500 others, including service members; that the United States “breached its duty of care”; and that the plaintiffs suffered compensable injuries; and

WHEREAS, a survey jointly conducted by the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 87% of individuals surveyed reported being sickened and 37% of those surveyed reported seeking medical care to address their symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the VA does not currently recognize the fuel-contaminated water as a toxic-exposure risk activity or concede that exposure; and

WHEREAS, the VA has not conducted or contracted any studies specific to the exposures from the Red Hill fuel contamination; and

WHEREAS, the VA identifies conditions of ongoing health problems and offers cost-free health care for veterans and family members; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to concede exposure to contaminated water from Red Hill, to contract studies for negative long-term health impacts and to provide presumptive service connection for any related diseases.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 369

SUPPORT INVESTIGATING CANCER LINKS TO INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE BASES

WHEREAS, in 2023, Air Force Global Strike Command approved a comprehensive study designed by the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine to conduct a formal assessment that addresses specific cancer concerns raised by missile community members; and

WHEREAS, the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine will take “a comprehensive look across multiple Air Force Specialty Codes, locations and possible additional cancer” concerns raised by the missileer community at bases in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Air Force officials are investigating whether service members in a wide assortment of jobs who have served at any of the nation’s intercontinental ballistic missile bases are at risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma and other cancers; and

WHEREAS, missileers are exposed to a variety of chemicals and toxins, ranging from paint in small spaces to fumes from burning classified documents to aerial asbestos and radon exposure; and

WHEREAS, missileers are at times in close proximity to nuclear weapons containing enriched uranium, plutonium and tritium gas; and

WHEREAS, missileers are at times inside enclosed missile silos containing toxic missile propellants, including ammonium perchlorate composite, monomethyl hydrazine and nitrogen tetroxide; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly encourages the DOD and VA to investigate and complete an assessment that addresses specific cancer concerns raised by missile community members and if the assessment proves a positive correlation to cancer; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV will lobby Congress to pass legislation to address this issue, similar to the PACT Act of 2022.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 370

PROTECT PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE FAIR ACCESS, REPRESENTATION AND SUPPORT FOR DISABLED VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND CAREGIVERS

WHEREAS, many veterans and their families are unaware that diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives directly support disabled veterans by enhancing access to benefits, services, and opportunities they have earned through their service; and

WHEREAS, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives include critical efforts such as veteran hiring preferences, accessibility enhancements like handicap ramps and sidewalk modifications, mental health support programs addressing PTSD and other service-connected conditions, and educational programs that promote higher education opportunities for veterans; and

WHEREAS, these efforts recognize the sacrifices and unique experiences of disabled veterans and aim to reduce barriers they face in employment, health care, education, and daily living; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to expanding inclusive excellence and opportunity and inclusion initiatives to explicitly recognize veteran status and service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such efforts are essential to ensuring that disabled veterans benefit from equitable access, meaningful opportunity, and respectful inclusion across all programs and services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the inclusion of disabled veterans, their families, and caregivers within all diversity, equity, and inclusion in programs, services and outreach—regardless of the terminology used—so long as such efforts promote equitable access, elimination of barriers, and ensure recognition of the unique experiences and needs of all those who have served.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 393
PROVIDE COMPENSABLE RATING FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED VETERANS REQUIRED
TO USE HEARING AIDS

WHEREAS, veterans can be rated at 0% based on their audiometric results and still be required to use hearing aids due to their specific type of hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) is predicated on the industrial impairment that each disability provides to the disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss can impact a veteran's ability to communicate and negatively affect relationships, school/work performance, safety and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, section 4.10, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, notes that "the basis of disability evaluations is the ability of the body as a whole, or of the psyche, or of a system or organ of the body to function under the ordinary conditions of daily life including employment"; and

WHEREAS, a National Institutes of Health study, *The Socioeconomic Impact of Hearing Loss in U.S. Adults*, published in March 2015, noted, "Even after controlling for education and important demographic factors, hearing loss is independently associated with economic hardship, including both low income and unemployment/underemployment. The societal impact of hearing loss is profound"; and

WHEREAS, the VASRD does account for required prostheses or required medication for control, as it provides a 10% evaluation for over 15 different disabilities that require daily medication for control of said disability; and

WHEREAS, it is a general principle of the VASRD that ratings are not offset by the function artificially restored by a prosthetic device; and

WHEREAS, assigning a compensable rating for medically required hearing aids would be consistent with minimum ratings otherwise provided throughout the rating schedule; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the VA granting veterans with high-frequency hearing loss a compensable rating (10%) when it has been medically determined that the veteran requires and has been issued a hearing amplification device.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 394
SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR TEMPORARY TOTAL
DISABILITY RATINGS

WHEREAS, with advances in modern medicine and increasing emphasis on more efficient use of health care resources, health care providers are being encouraged to utilize suitable alternatives to inpatient care; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence, veterans are often treated through home health services or convalesce at home rather than in a hospital; and

WHEREAS, convalescent ratings are currently only authorized where inpatient or outpatient treatment resulted in surgery or immobilization of a major joint by cast; and

WHEREAS, instances occur in which a veteran's treatment does not involve surgery or casting of a major joint, but the veteran undergoes healing, convalescence or a therapeutic course in the home, with a duration of one month or more; and

WHEREAS, exacerbation of a service-connected disability sometimes contraindicates work or other activities for periods of one month or more; and

WHEREAS, in such instances, a therapeutic course, convalescence or restriction from work for one month or more would occur in the home in lieu of hospitalization; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports a change in section 4.30, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide a temporary total rating of a veteran if treatment or exacerbation of a service-connected disability results in a condition of temporary total incapacity for employment or temporary unavailability for employment by reason of home health care or ambulatory care, bed rest or confinement to the home, or contraindication of work activities for one month or more.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 395
SUPPORT REFORMS RELATING TO RECOVERY OF DEBTS BY THE VA

WHEREAS, it is a reasonable expectation that recipients of overpayments are required to repay the debt; and

WHEREAS, the current overpayment and debt system allows the VA to collect debts regardless of when the debt was created; and

WHEREAS, debt collections by the VA include complete recoupment of the veteran's monthly benefit payments and, in many cases, put the veteran at risk of financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, additional amounts of debt created by the VA's lack of timely action are often added to the debt, thus creating an inequity for the veteran; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to reform the VA overpayment and debt collection systems; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to limit the amount of monies recouped from the veteran's monthly payment to not greater than 25% of the payment amount; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation preventing the VA from collecting debts incurred more than five years prior; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation that requires the VA to waive any additional amounts of debt created by their own lack of timely action on evidence and information received.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 409
SUPPORT PROVIDING DIC BENEFITS TO PARENT CAREGIVERS

WHEREAS, parents' DIC is a tax-free income-based monthly benefit for the parent(s) of military service members who died in the line of duty or veteran's death resulted from a service-related injury or disease; and

WHEREAS, the financial status of the surviving parent caregiver is compromised due to the care required by the totally disabled veteran and provided by the parent caregiver; and

WHEREAS, parent caregivers who rely solely on the disabled veteran's compensation and VA caregiver benefits face significant financial hardships upon the death of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, current monthly benefits for DIC rates for parents are based on that parent's income and substantially less than a surviving spouse; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the surviving full-time parent caregiver should be treated or categorized any less than that of a surviving spouse receiving DIC; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025, strongly supports legislation that provides DIC benefits to surviving full-time parent caregivers at the same rate and benefits as that of a surviving spouse.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 410
SUPPORT INCLUDING MCMURDO STATION, ANTARCTICA, AS A RADIATION RISK ACTIVITY

WHEREAS, Operation Deep Freeze was a U.S. Navy-operated small nuclear power plant at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, from 1962 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, the reactor was shut down in 1972, when a leak was discovered, and the reactor was decommissioned from 1974 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, per the Defense Threat Reduction Agency report of June 2013, all support personnel stationed at McMurdo Station were potentially exposed to external gamma and neutron radiation and internal radiation from the intake of radioactive materials by inhalation or ingestion; and

WHEREAS, seven potential sources of external exposure were identified, to include the reactor, radioactive waste, radioactive effluent, radioactive materials in passing plumes and contaminated soil deposited on the ground, while six potential sources of internal exposure were identified, to include radioactive materials deposited in the tissues and organs after breathing air and ingesting water, soil and dust that contained radioactive material; and

WHEREAS, the report concluded that calculated doses are low and the associated probability that disease could have arisen from these doses is also low; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently does not recognize those veterans who served at McMurdo Station were exposed to radiation levels that warrant inclusion in the definition of radiation risk activities; and

WHEREAS, veterans who served at McMurdo Station have a difficult time establishing direct service connection for cancers related to the radiation exposure; and

WHEREAS, the presumption of service connection for radiation exposure applies to radiation risk activity participants, which does not include those who served at McMurdo Station; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on Congress to enact legislation to expand radiation risk activities and presume exposure to those service members who served at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 411

INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF TOXIC EXPOSURES ON VETERANS STATIONED AT TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) was on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund cleanup list; and

WHEREAS, Tyndall AFB water was contaminated with lead pellets, chlorinated solvents, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and breakdown products, and various metals; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the DOD published its assessment that the water supply was contaminated with PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances); NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation for a study to be conducted that specifically considers medical problems of military personnel and their families while stationed at Tyndall AFB, Florida.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 412

SUPPORT RECOGNIZING OKINAWA AS AN OFFICIAL LOCATION OF AGENT ORANGE USE, TESTING OR STORAGE OUTSIDE VIETNAM

WHEREAS, the Agent Orange Act of 1991, Public Law 102-4, conceded exposure to all veterans who served in country; and

WHEREAS, the DOD released its 2019 report *DOD List of Locations where Tactical herbicides; and Their Chemical Components Were Tested, Used or Stored Outside of Vietnam*; and

WHEREAS, not all of the locations outside of Vietnam have been codified or added via regulatory provisions; and

WHEREAS, although Okinawa is not listed in the 2019 report, a U.S. Army report from 2003, *An Ecological Assessment of Johnston Atoll* indicates that approximately 25,000 barrels of Agent Orange were stored on Okinawa before being shipped to Johnston Atoll; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 all of the key chemical components of Agent Orange were discovered at a former military dumpsite in Okinawa City (i.e. 61 barrels containing 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, and TCDD) and was the first time in which all three chemical components have been identified on the former U.S. military property on Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, roughly half of the barrels found had the markings of the Dow Chemical Company, one of the largest manufacturers of Agent Orange for the U.S. military; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to recognize Okinawa as a location that Agent Orange was used, tested or stored outside of Vietnam.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 420

SUPPORT ALLOWING A VETERAN'S SURVIVOR TO RECEIVE MEDAL OF HONOR SPECIAL PENSION AND DIC CONCURRENTLY

WHEREAS, surviving spouses of service-connected disabled veterans are eligible for DIC when found the veteran's death is related to service-connected disabilities.

WHEREAS, surviving spouses of Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients are eligible for the MOH special pension after the veteran's death, but not to DIC; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports an amendment to Title 38, United States Code, to allow a surviving spouse of a Medal of Honor recipient to receive a special pension concurrently with DIC.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 436

SUPPORT REPLACING AND CLARIFYING CURRENT INTENT TO FILE FEDERAL LAWS AND VA POLICIES

WHEREAS, section 3.155, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, indicates that upon receipt of an intent to file a claim, the VA will furnish the claimant with the appropriate application form prescribed by the Secretary; and

WHEREAS, if a formal application is received within one year, the effective date will be considered the date of receipt of the intent to file; and

WHEREAS, if a veteran files a claim on an incorrect formal claim form, the VA will send the veteran a request for application letter and request the veteran to submit a claim on the correct form within 60 days; and

WHEREAS, in turn, the veteran may lose the intent to file effective date for that claimed disability, which was filed on the incorrect form; and

WHEREAS, the VA has tolling time limits to file claims, for up to one year, for a condition, such as temporary 100% claims based on surgery requiring convalescence or hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, based on current VA policy, the impact of assigning an active intent to file claim date to a formal claim on an incorrect form or temporary 100% claim is a loss of up to one year of benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to replace and clarify current intent to file federal laws and VA policies to ensure veterans and their survivors have the most favorable interpretation of existing laws, to include extended tolling and time frames to allow for correction and clarification of the claimant's intentions, that are in line with the pro-veteran and nonadversarial policy currently in place at the VA; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any outdated form received by the VA be considered an intent to file and the veteran be allowed one year to file the current dated form, in which the VA honors the date of receipt of the outdated form as the earliest effective date as related to section 3.155(c), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 439

OPPOSE CHANGING THE VA DISABILITY RATING STANDARD FROM “AVERAGE IMPAIRMENTS OF EARNINGS CAPACITY”

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) requires ratings based on average impairments of earning capacity, as stated in section 1155, Title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, this standard, first adopted under the War Risk Insurance Act of 1917, has been the basis for veterans disability compensation for over a century; and

WHEREAS, the VASRD has been updated to reflect advances in medical knowledge, but the standard of average impairments of earning capacity remains unchanged due to its practicality and fairness; and

WHEREAS, this standard ensures equal treatment for veterans with similar disabilities, regardless of age, education, work experience, or current work status; and

WHEREAS, basing ratings on average impairments encourages disabled veterans to seek vocational rehabilitation without fear of penalty; and

WHEREAS, the VA is committed to updating the VASRD every five years, considering numerous proposals; and

WHEREAS, replacing the average impairment standard with individual earnings loss or functionality measurements would undermine the VA disability compensation program, create disincentives for rehabilitation, and reduce compensation for millions of disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, eliminating consideration of impairments outside the workplace fails to recognize the full impact of disability on a veteran's life; and

WHEREAS, modeling the VA disability compensation program on Social Security Disability Insurance or workers' compensation programs ignores the unique challenges faced by veterans; NOW
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any attempt to change or modify the VASRD, or the statute and regulations underlying it, which would change the long-standing, accepted and successful policy that ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 448

AMEND ELIGIBILITY FOR AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE VETERANS WHOSE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY IMPAIRS SAFE VEHICLE OPERATION

WHEREAS, section 3902, Title 38, United States Code (USC), and section 17.119(a), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, restrict the eligibility for adaptive automobile equipment to those veterans who qualify for the automobile grant as specified in 38 USC §3901; and

WHEREAS, not all veterans whose service-connected disabilities prohibit the safe operation of a motor vehicle meet the requirements of 38 USC §3901; and

WHEREAS, these service-connected disabled veterans should be provided the adaptive equipment necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation that would authorize the VA to provide or assist in providing the adaptive equipment deemed necessary to any veteran whose service-connected disability interferes with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 453

AMEND THE VA SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES FOR MENTAL DISORDERS

WHEREAS, under section 4.130, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, the criteria for evaluating mental disorders are ambiguous; and

WHEREAS, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders; delirium, dementia, and amnesic and other cognitive disorders; anxiety disorders; dissociative disorders; somatoform disorders; mood disorders; and chronic adjustment disorders are all evaluated using the same general rating formula for mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders specifically lists different symptoms for post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia and other psychiatric disorders; and

WHEREAS, one veteran service-connected for schizophrenia and another veteran service-connected for another psychiatric disorder should not be evaluated using the same general formula; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports amendment of section 4.130, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to formulate different criteria to evaluate the various mental disorders under the appropriate standards applicable to each diagnosis.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 472

SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF THE LINK BETWEEN CHRONICITY AND CONTINUITY FOR CHRONIC DISEASES LISTED IN FEDERAL REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, service connection may be granted for a disability resulting from disease or injury incurred in or aggravated by service; and

WHEREAS, to prevail on the issue of service connection, there must be competent evidence of a current disability, medical or lay evidence of in-service occurrence or aggravation of a disease or injury, and medical or lay evidence of a nexus between the present disability and the in-service occurrence or aggravation; and

WHEREAS, a veteran may establish service connection by "chronicity" if the evidence demonstrates the existence of a chronic disease in service and later manifestations of the same disease; and

WHEREAS, prior to the precedent decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *Walker v. Shinseki*, 708F.3d 1331 (Fed. Cir. 2013), veterans could establish a nexus between a present disability and an in-service occurrence or aggravation by chronicity when evidence demonstrates the existence of a disease in service and present manifestations of the same disease; and

WHEREAS, prior to the precedent decision, the veteran might alternatively establish service connection by "continuity of symptomatology" if the evidence demonstrated a condition was "noted" during service, there was post-service evidence of the same symptomatology, and there was medical or lay evidence of a nexus between the current disability and the post-service symptomatology; and

WHEREAS, the precedent decision limited establishing service connection by chronicity only for the specific chronic diseases listed in section 3.309(a), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR); and

WHEREAS, the precedent decision additionally abrogated previous decisions by the court extending the use of continuity of symptomatology to establish service connection for chronic diseases not specifically listed in the regulation, thereby overruling an entire body of case law; and

WHEREAS, the precedent decision removes veterans' ability to argue chronicity and continuity of symptomatology in all claims for service connection and places a higher standard than intended or required by the plain language of the statute, thereby hindering the nonadversarial nature of the VA claims system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation to establish service connection for a disease not specifically listed in 38 CFR §3.309(a) using chronicity or continuity of symptomatology.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 473

SUPPORT REMOVING THE PROHIBITION ON DAV MEMBERS WHO ARE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FROM COMMUNICATING WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES ON DAV'S BEHALF

WHEREAS, in order to support DAV's mission to aid service-connected disabled veterans, it often requires DAV members to communicate on behalf of DAV with federal agencies, including the VA; and

WHEREAS, DAV members who are federal employees are subject to federal ethics representational and communication prohibitions, including section 205, title 10, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 205 provides representational and communication prohibitions that any federal employee is barred from acting as an agent of any organization other than the federal government when communicating with federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is responsible for ethics policy in the federal government; and

WHEREAS, OGE has recognized that section 205 bars many reasonable communications by federal employees acting in their personal capacity with federal agencies, even when assisting charitable and service organizations; and

WHEREAS, OGE has recommended changes to section 205, but the changes have not been enacted; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports a legislative amendment to section 205 to establish a statutory exception to the representational and communication prohibitions for the benefit of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations, including DAV.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 522

SUPPORT ESTABLISHING PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISEASES RELATED TO TOXIC EXPOSURE AT FORT MCCLELLAN, ALABAMA

WHEREAS, after World War II until the base closed in 1999, Fort McClellan, located in Anniston, Alabama, was home of the Chemical Corps and Chemical Weapons School for the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Fort McClellan conducted Operation Top Hat, which used military personnel to test exposure and decontamination methods that included sulfur, mustard and nerve agents; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Fort McClellan added the Biological Radiological Agency, Aberdeen Proving Grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Monsanto Chemical Plant, located in Anniston, was instrumental in the development and testing of the herbicides used during Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Monsanto Chemical settled a class action lawsuit with more than 200,000 residents of Anniston for more than \$700 million; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, *Contaminants in the Subsurface: Source Zone Assessment and Remediation*, shows that there were 67 different disposal sites on Fort McClellan containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) trichloroethylene (TCE), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), semi-volatile organic compound (SVOC), pesticides, explosives, heavy metals (Pb), unexploded ordnance (UXO), radioactive sources and non-stockpile chemical materials; and

WHEREAS, the Honoring Our PACT Act, signed into law in August 2022, mandated the VA to conduct an epidemiological study on the health trends of veterans who served there between January 1, 1935, and May 20, 1999; and

WHEREAS, this study aims to examine potential links between service at Fort McClellan and the development of certain health conditions; and

WHEREAS, Prometheus Federal Services were contracted to conduct the study; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to establish a concession of exposure to toxins and legislation to establish presumptive service connection for the veterans who were exposed on Fort McClellan.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 538

SUPPORT ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM EVALUATION STANDARD FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

WHEREAS, veterans with severe profound service-connected hearing loss may require a cochlear implant; and

WHEREAS, a cochlear implant is a surgically implanted neuroprosthesis that bypasses damaged parts of the inner ear (the cochlea) and directly stimulates the auditory nerve with electrical signals; and

WHEREAS, cochlear implants do not restore hearing to its pre-loss state and are not a cure for deafness; and

WHEREAS, after implantation, listening therapy and rehabilitation are crucial for the brain to learn how to interpret the new auditory input; and

WHEREAS, to account the for functional impact of the therapy and rehabilitation required status post implant, VA must establish a minimum evaluation; and

WHEREAS, VA should collaborate with audiologists and otolaryngologists to determine the minimum evaluation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025, supports VA establishing a minimum evaluation status post-cochlear implant.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 545

SUPPORT AWARDING A 10% DISABILITY RATING FOR HYPERTENSION REQUIRING MEDICATION

WHEREAS, to receive compensation from the VA for hypertension at 10%, diastolic pressure must be between 100 and 109, or systolic pressure must be predominantly 160 or higher; and

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a compensable rating of 10% for other disabilities that require medication only, such as chronic fatigue disorder, coronary artery disease and hypothyroidism; and

WHEREAS, most veterans diagnosed with hypertension are put on medication for control; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to automatically grant veterans diagnosed with hypertension and prescribed medication a 10% disability rating.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 552
SUPPORT STREAMLINING AND IMPROVING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING AND
SPECIAL HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT PROCESSING

WHEREAS, the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant have eligibility requirements, benefits and limitations that are very specific and distinct from each other, which can cause confusion among veterans and VA adjudicators; and

WHEREAS, once eligibility has been established by the VA, the remaining grant processes have numerous requirements, which can be cumbersome and lengthy, that include feasibility studies, minimum property requirements, and the veteran finding three separate contractors to solicit bids and then approval by the VA, all of this even before construction begins; and

WHEREAS, while the required SAH modifications must be compliant with both local municipalities' building codes and the VA's own code, there must be a balanced focus on the immediate needs of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, contractors often decline to participate in these projects, as the VA has not completely digitized its payment processes, thus contractors may wait months before payment, all while increasing the processing time; and

WHEREAS, these often lengthy processes become of great concern for veterans with severely restricting disabilities or terminal illnesses, as veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other terminal illnesses often do not survive long enough to benefit from the improvements that an SAH grant could afford them; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to streamline the SAH and SHA eligibility requirements, improve the length of processing time, digitize VA payments, and expedite all applicants with ALS and other terminal illnesses.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 566
SUPPORT VA COVERAGE OF TOTAL COST FOR ADAPTIVE VEHICLES FOR
ELIGIBLE VETERANS, INCLUDING SHIPPING

WHEREAS, the VA supplies specially adaptive vehicles to eligible veterans that need them, at no cost to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the veteran to pay all costs associated with getting the vehicle from a dealership or VA facility to their home; and

WHEREAS, deliveries can be costly, especially but not limited to veterans who reside in Hawaii, Alaska or any of the United States territories; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation requiring that the VA be responsible for paying the total purchase price of the automobile or other conveyances, to include the total shipping price to deliver the adaptive automobile or other conveyance to the veteran's home of record.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 567
SUPPORT GRANTING AID AND ATTENDANCE ENTITLEMENT TO A VETERAN'S
SERIOUSLY DISABLED CHILD

WHEREAS, part 3, section 356, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), provides additional compensation for a veteran whose child is shown to be permanently incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical defect at the date of attaining the age of 18 years; and

WHEREAS, a veteran's seriously disabled and/or handicapped child is significantly impaired in their ability to conduct activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS, section 1114, Title 38, United States Code, provides aid and attendance benefits for veterans, their spouse and dependent parents who have significant disabilities as to be in need of regular aid and attendance; and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR §3.352 states entitlement is held to exist when the veteran requires the assistance of others for the ability to dress and undress themselves, or to keep themselves clean and presentable, or to perform frequent adjustment of special prosthetic or orthopedic appliances, or to attend to bowel and bladder self-care, or to protect themselves from hazards or dangerous incidents to their daily environment; and

WHEREAS, the veteran's seriously disabled child, in many cases, requires the aid and attendance of another individual to perform functions of daily living; and

WHEREAS, the seriously disabled child is already deemed to be handicapped by the VA; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the veteran and the seriously disabled child carry this additional burden without additional compensation despite being an immediate family member of the veteran; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to allow the seriously disabled child of a veteran who meets the aforementioned criteria be granted the ability to seek additional compensation by way of aid and attendance.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 619

SUPPORT MODIFYING VA FORMS TO RETRIEVE RECORDS FROM COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES FOR VETERAN BENEFIT CLAIMS

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Veterans Claims Assistance Act (VCAA), as codified in section 5103A, Title 38, United States Code, and section 3.159, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, the VA must make reasonable efforts to assist a claimant in obtaining the evidence necessary to substantiate a claim for benefits; and

WHEREAS, a modification is needed to include VA community care medical facilities on VA claims forms, eliminating the need for a veteran to complete a separate VA Form 21-4142 and/or VA Form 21-4142A; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports modification of certain VA claims forms and current processes to allow the department to request a veteran's records directly from a VA community care medical facility when identified by the claimant.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 620

SUPPORT USING THE PROPOSED REDUCTION DUE PROCESS FOR ALL DISABILITY EVALUATION REDUCTIONS

WHEREAS, section 3.105(e), Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, requires that a reduction in a disability evaluation that results in a reduction of compensation payments or the overall combined evaluation must include a notice of a proposed reduction with all material facts, a 60-day period to present additional evidence and the right to request a predetermination hearing prior to a final reduction decision; and

WHEREAS, the VA has determined that if a reduction in a disability evaluation does not result in a reduction of compensation payments, overall combined evaluation, a proposed reduction is not warranted; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, the VA will grant increases and new benefits in the same decision as reducing a disability evaluation but not changing the previous combined evaluation, thus leaving the veteran without proposed reduction due process, to include submitting new evidence and requesting a predetermination prior to a final reduction decision; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the proposed reduction due process be applied to all reductions of a disability evaluation even when it does not change compensation payments or the overall combined evaluation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 621

SUPPORT REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS LIFE INSURANCE

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States created a modernized service-disabled veterans life insurance program, which replaced the previous Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) program on January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the modernized insurance program allows veterans to enroll at any time, which is a change from the existing S-DVI, which only allowed veterans to apply within two years of a VA decision that established a new grant of service connection; and

WHEREAS, veterans enrolled in the modernized insurance program may elect to be insured in the amounts of \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000 and \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, inflation has significantly increased, and the value of the maximum amount of S-DVI coverage has significantly decreased since the existing coverage amounts were set in law; and

WHEREAS, the previous S-DVI provided a waiver of premiums on the basic coverage of \$10,000 for eligible totally disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the modernized insurance program does not provide a waiver of premiums at any amount for totally disabled veterans, effectively eliminating an existing benefit for future eligible veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports strong oversight of the implementation of the modernized service-disabled veterans insurance program by Congress and chartered veterans service organizations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports a waiver of premiums for totally disabled veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV continues to support an increase in the maximum amount of coverage allowed by the service-disabled veterans insurance.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 622

SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF VA'S HOME LOAN GUARANTY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the VA helps veterans, service members and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners; and

WHEREAS, the VA provides a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related programs to help buy, build, repair, retain or adapt a home for personal occupancy; and

WHEREAS, the VA home loan benefit includes no down payment requirement, competitively low interest rates, limited closing costs and no need for private mortgage insurance and is a lifetime benefit that can be used multiple times; and

WHEREAS, the VA has now backed more than 24 million home loans since the program's inception in 1944; and

WHEREAS, the VA advocates for veterans by limiting fees that lenders can charge and monitoring for unscrupulous lending practices; and

WHEREAS, recent events have caused nearly 40,000 veterans and their families to possibly lose their homes to foreclosure due to unforeseen circumstances; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to consider modernizing and improving the VA home loan process to improve veterans' access to home ownership for them and their families.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 623

SUPPORT PROVIDING STUDIES, HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS FOR TOXIC EXPOSURES IN BOSNIA AND KOSOVO

WHEREAS, beginning in December 1995, U.S. and allied nations deployed peacekeeping forces to Bosnia and Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Endeavor as part of the United Nations (U.N.) mission; and

WHEREAS, the U.N. mission completed its mandate on December 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the DOD acknowledged that burn pits were used at U.S. bases in Bosnia and Kosovo; and

WHEREAS, during Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia in 1995–1996, military preventive- medicine personnel recognized that open burning of waste might be an operational necessity during combat operations, but they emphasized that burning should be used to the minimum extent feasible and that burn pits should be located as far as possible downwind of personnel; and

WHEREAS, researchers from the VA Epidemiology Program, Post Deployment Health Services, studied the cause-specific mortality risks among veterans who deployed to Bosnia and Kosovo between 1996 and 2002; and

WHEREAS, this study focused on mortality due to leukemia, respiratory disease, respiratory cancer and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, media reports of leukemia and other cancers among European U.N. peacekeepers who served in the Balkans, and a scientific finding of excess Hodgkin lymphoma among Italian U.N. peacekeepers who served in Bosnia, suggested a link between cancer incidence and depleted uranium exposure; and

WHEREAS, veterans may not know for years or decades about the toxic or environmental conditions they were exposed to during military service; and

WHEREAS, the VA does not recognize or acknowledge burn pit exposure for those who served in Bosnia or Kosovo; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the recognition of the existence of toxic substances and environmental hazards in Bosnia and Kosovo and concession of exposure for all U.S. service members who served there between 1995 and 2002; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to grant Bosnia and Kosovo veterans eligibility to VA health care, to include hospital care, medical services and nursing home care, by expanding the definition of toxic exposures in section 1710, Title 38, United States Code; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports studies to identify illnesses and diseases that have a positive association, including a sufficient, limited or suggestive association, with exposure to any toxic substances or high levels of particulate matter and dust resulting from open burn pits in Bosnia and Kosovo.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 624 SUPPORT CHANGING THE AMA RULE OF EVIDENCE THAT A VETERANS LAW JUDGE CAN REVIEW

WHEREAS, on Feb. 19, 2019, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act (AMA) was officially implemented to streamline the appeals process and expedite decision timelines; and

WHEREAS, a veterans law judge (VLJ) is limited in their ability to review all evidence pertaining to the veteran's specific appeal; and

WHEREAS, a veteran or their representative must resubmit evidence already of record within 90 days of a hearing or within 90 days of the VA Form 10182 Notice of Disagreement (NOD) being filed; and

WHEREAS, any record outside the 90-day window cannot be reviewed by a VLJ; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the veteran or their representative be responsible to resubmit evidence pertaining to a claim within the 90 days required by AMA if the evidence is of record; and

WHEREAS, the inability for a VLJ to review all evidence in the record, whether veteran-supplied or evidence gathered by the VA in the process of additional claims, has caused additional delay in the ability of a VLJ to grant benefits sought on appeal to which the veteran is entitled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to amend the AMA to allow any and all evidence that pertains to the appeal be reviewed by a VLJ.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 625 SUPPORT ESTABLISHING PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISEASES AND ILLNESSES RELATED TO TOXIC EXPOSURE AT MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, MONTANA

WHEREAS, Malmstrom Air Force Base (AFB) was constructed in 1942 as Great Falls Army Air Base in Montana; and

WHEREAS, several air and bombardment groups trained at the base starting in World War II; and

WHEREAS, following the war, this site became a hub for supply transportation to the northern Pacific and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Malmstrom AFB is home to a vast field of 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile silos; and

WHEREAS, missileers, to include missile alert facility managers, ride caged elevators deep underground into a small operation bunker encased in a thick wall of concrete and steel; and

WHEREAS, they remain there sometimes for days, ready to turn the launch keys if ordered to by the President; and

WHEREAS, missileers, to include missile alert facility managers, are exposed to a variety of chemicals and toxins ranging from paint in small spaces to fumes from burning classified documents to aerial asbestos and radon exposure; and

WHEREAS, spills or leaks of propellant occurred frequently, contaminating silos for up to six weeks—a period in which the missiles were manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, Malmstrom AFB has a grim legacy of toxic contamination, particularly with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

WHEREAS, these dangerous chemicals are usually dubbed PFAS or “forever chemicals,” encompassing over 9,000 different substances; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Air Force is aware that there are indications of a possible association between cancer and missile combat crew service at Malmstrom AFB; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to authorize scientific studies of the environmental and toxic exposures at Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

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RESOLUTION NO. 626

SUPPORT INCLUDING SERVICE NEAR THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER STATION AS A RADIATION RISK ACTIVITY

WHEREAS, due to a major earthquake in Japan, a 15-meter tsunami disabled the power supply and cooling of three Fukushima nuclear reactors, causing a nuclear accident on March 11, 2011, which caused severe damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, which resulted in the release of radiation into the environment; and

WHEREAS, the DOD estimates that nearly 75,000 DOD-affiliated individuals were on or near the mainland of Japan during the period of March 12 to May 11, 2011; and

WHEREAS, after the nuclear accident, the DOD established the Operation Tomodachi Registry to monitor the health impacts of those service members exposed to radiation; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation's (UNSCEAR's) May 2013 report to the General Assembly concluded, “the doses to the general public, both those incurred during the first year and estimated for their lifetimes, are generally low or very low”; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, UNSCEAR decided to update the report to reflect the latest findings, publishing their report in March 2021, which broadly confirms the major findings and conclusions of the 2013 report; and

WHEREAS, despite the conclusions of reports from UNSCEAR, the Japanese government in 2018 acknowledged a connection between the death of a former plant worker and radiation exposure; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently does not recognize those veterans who served near Fukushima were exposed to radiation levels that warrant inclusion as a radiation risk activity; and

WHEREAS, veterans who served at Fukushima have a difficult time establishing direct service connection for cancers related to their radiation exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on Congress to enact legislation to expand radiation risk activities and presume exposure for those service members who served in the identified locations during the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident of March 11, 2011.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 627

SUPPORT PROVIDING MEDICAL BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION FOR PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY SARIN NERVE GAS

WHEREAS, the United States had a buildup of almost 700,000 U.S. troops deployed to the Persian Gulf region during the height of the buildup and the war; and

WHEREAS, since returning, many of these veterans have experienced medical issues unique to their service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations; and

WHEREAS, while the exact cause of these symptoms were unknown, the DOD has stated that a variety of potentially hazardous symptoms, such as pesticides, some from oil well fires, and depleted uranium could be linked; and

WHEREAS, the VA provides disability compensation benefits to veterans who served in Southwest Asia for illnesses that fall into the following three categories: (1) Undiagnosed illnesses (established in 1994); (2) Medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illnesses (established in 2001); (3) Nine specific infectious diseases (established in 2010); and

WHEREAS, according to VA more than 1.1 million veterans served in the Southwest theater of operations and estimates that 44% of veterans who served have medical issues commonly referred to as Gulf War Illness; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) 2017 report states that Gulf War Illness claims were denied at a higher rate than all other claimed disabilities; and

WHEREAS, unclassified records confirm that rockets filled with sarin and cyclosarin were found at a munitions storage depot in Iraq and were destroyed by U.S. troops in 1991 and an undetermined amount of the gas was released into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 250,000 service members were exposed to these nerve agents; and

WHEREAS, in the May 2022 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives Journal*, Dr. Robert Haley stated that his findings provide strong evidence for an etiologic role of the nerve agent in Gulf War Illness; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to concede sarin gas exposure for all veterans who served in the Southwest Asia area of operations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports scientific studies and reports to determine the potential long-term negative health impacts of sarin and cyclosarin; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports establishing benefits and presumptive diseases related specifically to the two nerve agents.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 628

INVESTIGATE THE HEALTH EFFECTS ON VETERANS STATIONED AT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, ARIZONA

WHEREAS, the VA has determined that contamination of water at Camp Pendleton caused various cancers, and other medical problems due to such chemicals as TCS, PCE, DCE, and other chemicals;

WHEREAS, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma was on EPA's Superfund Cleanup list; and

WHEREAS, MCAS Yuma was found to have Benzene, mercury, lead, TCE, DCE, PCE, and asbestos; and

WHEREAS, asbestos is a known item that can cause mesothelioma; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that military personnel stations at MCAS Yuma, Arizona, are at a risk for certain diseases/cancers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation that the VA conduct a study, and review similar studies, that entails medical problems to military personnel, and their families, while stationed at MCAS Yuma, Arizona, that the Superfund Cleanup site included.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 629

SUPPORT PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR CUMULATIVE BRAIN TRAUMA FROM MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL BLAST EXPOSURE AND HIGH-G OPERATIONAL FORCES

WHEREAS, a wide range of military occupational specialties (MOSs) and duty assignments—including combat arms, special operations, combat support, explosive handling, range safety, and weapons training roles—routinely expose service members to repetitive mechanical forces, high-G acceleration, and blast overpressure events (both low-level and high-intensity), placing them at elevated risk for traumatic brain injury (TBI), chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), cognitive decline, and other long-term neurological and psychological impairments; and

WHEREAS, military personnel assigned to high-speed watercraft operations—including, but not limited to, U.S. Navy Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen (SWCC), SEAL boat crews, Coast Guard tactical and port security units, and Marine Corps and Army small boat elements—are repeatedly exposed to high-frequency, high-G impacts known as “wave slamming” during maritime operations; and

WHEREAS, these impacts have been biomechanically documented to exert vertical and rotational acceleration-deceleration forces on the brain that far exceed thresholds for maintaining white matter integrity, with individual operators experiencing millions of impacts over the course of their careers; and

WHEREAS, service members in blast-intensive occupational specialties—including, but not limited to, breachers, artillerymen, mortarmen, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians, combat engineers, anti-tank gunners, and heavy weapons specialists—as well as instructors and range personnel repeatedly exposed to live-fire training, demolition exercises, shoulder-fired weapon systems, and other high-energy overpressure events, experience cumulative neurotrauma from both low-level and high overpressure blast exposures; and

WHEREAS, emerging clinical, biomechanical, and neuropathological evidence from the DOD, VA, and independent researchers demonstrates clear links between these occupational exposures—including repetitive wave slamming and cumulative blast events—and long-term neurological and physiological outcomes such as diffuse axonal injury, neuroinflammation, vestibular dysfunction, cognitive decline, CTE, endocrine disruption, psychiatric comorbidities, and other persistent functional impairments; and

WHEREAS, these forms of repetitive brain trauma are often undocumented or underrecognized during military service, resulting in significant barriers to timely recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and compensation through the VA system; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently lacks a presumptive framework for compensating chronic neurological, cognitive, and psychological conditions stemming from repetitive occupational exposures, as it has for other recognized toxic and environmental hazards such as Agent Orange, radiation, and burn pits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and Congress to recognize chronic, repetitive sub-concussive trauma as a valid mechanism for TBI, CTE and other associated long-term neurological and psychological conditions; to establish presumptive service connection for health outcomes resulting from both repetitive high-G force exposure during military fast boat operations and from cumulative blast exposure—including both low-level and high overpressure events—sustained in a wide range of military occupations and training environments; to include TBI, CTE, post-concussive syndrome, vestibular disorders, cognitive impairment, psychiatric comorbidities, autonomic dysfunction and related spinal, endocrine, and sensory conditions among those presumed to be service connected; to develop and implement standardized screening tools for service members in high-risk occupations, both before and after deployment; and to revise the VA's disability rating schedule to accurately reflect and compensate for the long-term effects of cumulative neurotrauma and its associated health consequences; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to mandate the inclusion of these occupational exposure patterns in VA's regulatory and compensation frameworks, and to authorize funding for longitudinal studies on affected service members and veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 644

SIMPLIFY ACCEPTABLE CLAIMS FORM APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, the VA claims process coupled with specific VA form requirements is becoming cumbersome and complex while creating unnecessary burdens upon the veteran; and

WHEREAS, the veteran's first claim must be submitted on VAF 526; and

WHEREAS, to simplify the processes after this original claim, VBA should accept a single form to use for all subsequent claims; and

WHEREAS, this claims form will be able to identify the veteran and the specific claim sought; and

WHEREAS, if the veteran uses an outdated claims form and there is sufficient information to prosecute the claim, VBA must act; however, if there is not enough information, VBA will accept the outdated form as a claim and the veteran will have one year to perfect it; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on Congress and VBA to accept a single claim form to address the VA's overall claims and appeals workloads.

* * *

(Whereupon, the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: You made it. (Applause) You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. FRED WAGAR: Mic 1.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 1.

MR. WAGAR: Mic 1 is Fred Wagar, Chapter 12, great State of Nevada, your host state for this convention, proudly seconds the motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions?

Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights chair withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would like to call upon Chairperson Leena Dees, for the report of the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services chair advanced to the lectern.)

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LEENA DEES: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DEES: The National Convention Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services was called to order on Aug. 10th, 2025, by the Committee Advisors Jon Retzer and John Kleindienst.

The first order of business was the election of the Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Leena Dees was elected as chairperson and Phil Nadeau was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the national convention. For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

2, support streamlining and standardizing VA volunteer onboarding and certification.

3, support strengthened services and protections for family caregivers of severely-disabled veterans of all service eras.

4, support expediting CHAMP-VA enrollment for dependents.

5, ensure seamless access to veterans' medical records across VA facilities.

6, improve staffing levels and reduce wait times for veterans' medical care.

7, support expanded training and awareness of VA health care and benefit for veterans, families and caregivers.

17, support consistent access to integrative health services for veterans with chronic conditions.

48, support granting the president, vice-president and congress the privilege to exclusively use the Veterans Healthcare System. (Applause)

49, support comprehensive outpatient dental care for all service-connected disabled veterans through the VA Healthcare System. (Applause)

50, support expanding eligibility for assisted reproductive technologies for veterans with service-connected infertility.

51, support comprehensive and effective care for veterans with dementia within the VA.

52, support medical screening, treatment, and research for veterans exposed to depleted uranium.

53, expand eligibility for comprehensive VA healthcare for all Korean War veterans.

54, ensure sustained investment in research and care for toxic-exposed veterans.

55, support guaranteed access to second medical opinions in the VA and community care.

56, support expansion and reform of VA Rural Transportation Service and Grant programs.

57, strengthen and modernize the state veterans' home program.

61, support providing free meals or meal vouchers to homeless veterans at VA facilities.

62, support access to VA community living centers for homeless veterans to shower and perform self-care.

63, support full and fair reimbursement of veterans' travel costs to all VA medical care.

74, support expanding access to VA medallions in private cemeteries.

82, support expanding eligibility to VA mental health transition services to all service members upon discharge.

85, urge the VA to extend PIC Card validity for VAVS volunteers.

90, support improving oversight and accountability for VA critical skills incentive use.

92, support full spectrum rehabilitation and research for veterans with blast-related TBI and chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

93, support VA research into hyperbaric oxygen therapy for treatment-resistant TBI and PTSD.

94, encourage the VA to submit candidates for the DAV Scholarship Program.

95, support establishing service connection for health conditions linked to the Anthrax vaccine.

96, support comprehensive, age-appropriate and outcome-focused care for veterans with poly-trauma.

97, support funding innovation and equitable access in VA prosthetic and sensory aid services.

98, support ongoing assisted technology training for VA blind rehabilitation personnel.

99, support adequate representation for underserved and underrepresented subgroups of service-connected veterans.

100, support expansion of VA fitness, physical activity, and nutrition programs to improve health outcomes for service-connected veterans.

101, urge VA to improve community partner access by reforming certification and recertification processes.

102, support continuity of clinically-appropriate community care for veterans while recognizing VA's role as primary care and care coordinator.

115, support childcare assistance for veterans with dependents.

116, support mandatory veterans' informed consent for prescription medication.

126, support comprehensive healthcare services and research for women veterans.

129, support adequate healthcare access for veterans living in rural or remote areas.

130, support scholarships for mental health practitioners serving veterans.

133, support to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD healthcare copayments for service-connected disabled veterans.

134, ensure access to VA facilities and relief area for service dogs.

140, support lung cancer screening and preventative prevention guidelines for at-risk veterans.

141, urge VA to establish a uniform coordinated care policy for veterans with dual state residencies.

147, support empowering VA and community providers to fully participate in veterans' disability comprehension claims.

169, support to protect and strengthen and oppose when it threatens VA medical research.

170, support appeals for VA community care program decisions.

171, support expanded access and research into treatment for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, ALS.

172, support expanded CHAMP-VA eligibility for adult children.

175, support suicide prevention and mental healthcare for all veterans, regardless of discharge status.

203, support research on infertility among veterans due to toxic exposures.

204, support research on burn pit exposure among Vietnam veterans.

205, support research on menopause and reproductive health in women veterans.

209, support adequate staffing for patient advocates in veterans' healthcare.

211, support improvements to maternity care coordination for women veterans.

212, support standardized testing for ovarian cancer. (Applause)

213, support recruitment of physician assistants in the Veterans' Health Administration.

214, support automatic travel reimbursement for disabled veterans.

215, support funding to improve services for homeless veterans.

216, support improvements to urgent and emergency care for service-connected veterans.

217, support establishing a peer infertility care coordinator role at the VA.

219, support standards in oversight for service and guide dog programs.

220, support a centralized claims tracking and accountability system in the Veterans' Health Administration.

222, support research on post-partum depression among women veterans.

223, support research and service connection for health conditions linked to COVID-19 vaccinations.

224, ensure equitable quality and access in VA and community care.

225, support expanding service connection to include obesity caused by medication prescriptions for service-connected disabilities. (Applause)

231, support strengthening coordination of care between VA, Medicare and Medicaid.

236, support VA research and expansion of immersive technology in veterans' healthcare.

242, support expansion of VA Foreign Medical Program coverage for veterans living abroad.

243, support improvements to the VA nursing home program.

244, support medical equity for veterans in state veterans' homes.

248, support the automatic transfer of veterans' medical records from DoD to VA.

249, support fair and trauma informed review of "Other than Honorable Discharges" for veterans with service-related conditions.

297, support streamlined VA hiring for transitioning military healthcare professionals.

298, support protections for veterans in the VA clinical appeals process.

305, support modernizing VA healthcare infrastructure.

307, oppose reimbursement claims from third parties for service-connected care.

309, support enhanced access to care for military sexual trauma survivors.

310, support improvements to VA's Substance Use Care for Veterans.

311, support strengthening and expansion of VA mental health and suicide prevention programs.

313, promote health equity among veterans by addressing social determinants of health.

315, create a three-digit number to report intimate partner violence.

318, urge comprehensive VA research on intergenerational health effects of herbicide exposures.

321, support waiver of retirement penalties to encourage the return of retired VA healthcare professionals.

322, oppose means testing for VA healthcare eligibility of service-connected veterans.

323, support mental health services for families of service-disabled veterans.

324, support safe, veteran-centered pain management in VA healthcare.

326, support comprehensive VA research into medical cannabis for veterans.

327, support automatic VA healthcare enrollment for medically-retired veterans with opt-out option.

329, support enhancing CHAMP-VA benefits and services.

330, support expanding long-term services and supports for service-connected disabled veterans.

336, support programs for comprehensive assistance for family caregivers, PCAFC eligibility expansion to include veterans with individual unemployability.

337, oppose the practice of tablet splitting.

338, support advancing spinal cord injury research and care for veterans.

357, support equal and timely VA reimbursement for emergency care services.

378, support improvements to VA beneficiaries' travel, self-service systems, and reinstatement of travel reimbursement kiosks.

384, ensure all veterans have access to health care.

386, support access to routine and specialized obstetric and gynecological care for military women and women veterans.

397, protect veterans' VA benefits when participating in state-approved medical marijuana programs.

413, support accessible VA communications for visually-impaired veterans via telephone.

414, support timely VA payments for purchased care and protection from financial penalties.

421, support VA research on suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ veterans.

422, support research on early onset menstrual disorders and hysterectomy in women veterans.

477, support comprehensive VA healthcare and funding reform.

478, support reform of VA community nursing home eligibility rules.

481, support Section 1151 protection for veterans receiving VA purchased care resulting from negligence or malpractice.

482, support research on health risks from plastic water bottle chemicals in service members and veterans.

495, support rights and benefits for Native American and Alaska Native veterans.

508, support adequate funding for VA readjustment counseling and vet centers.

509, support submission of completed compensation and pension, C&P, examinations into the VA medical records.

510, support strengthening security at VA healthcare facilities.

528, support affordable rent-controlled assisted living for disabled and low-income veterans.

585, support naming the VA Mare Island Clinic in Vallejo, California as the Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic. (Applause)

586, support greater VA collaboration with Fisher House Foundation.

588, ensure full accessibility to VA facilities, programs, and information for veterans with disabilities.

589, support expansion of Gero-Fit, Geriatric and Extended Care Fitness Programs, across all VA healthcare facilities.

605, support nursing students volunteering in veterans' nursing homes to address staffing vacancies.

608, support to allow disabled veterans to use tax-free IRA funds for continuing care retirement community, CCRC, interest fees.

634, support inclusion of mental health residential treatment and VA total disability compensation eligibility.

635, protect dual healthcare access for medically-retired veterans.

636, support VA oversight and facility policy for service dog access in VA healthcare settings.

637, support adequate funding for VA medical and prosthetic research programs.

638, support equity in access to VA benefits and services for racial and ethnic minority veterans.

639, encourage VA voluntary service program managers to submit nominations for DAV Volunteer of the Year.

640, support VA research and access into psychedelic therapies for PTSD and TBI.

641, support integration of DoD medical innovations into VA healthcare.

642, support expanding travel and lodging reimbursement for veterans enrolled in the VA Foreign Medical Program.

643, support inclusion of qualified non-family caregivers for disabled veterans.

645, support strengthening the VHA workforce to meet veterans' health needs.

646, support for a pilot program in assessing the effectiveness of post-traumatic growth programs.

647, support equitable and consistent access to VA transportation for disabled veterans.

648, support increasing veterans access at the VA facilities by extending coverage on weekdays and weekends.

649, providing beneficiary travel benefits for unscheduled visits to receive care from the VA.

650, ensure quality and timely access in the Veterans Health Administration and veterans community care programs.

652, support VA dental coverage for oral health conditions caused by service-connected disabilities.

653, strengthen and protect the VA healthcare system.

654, support top-priority access for service-connected veterans within the VA healthcare system.

660, extend appreciation to the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System for support of the 2025 DAV national convention.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services. On the behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the national convention. (Applause)

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 2 SUPPORT STREAMLINING AND STANDARDIZING VA VOLUNTEER ONBOARDING AND CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, many DAV members and other civic-minded individuals wish to volunteer in VA medical facilities and affiliated community programs that serve disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer onboarding process has long varied across VA facilities, resulting in delays caused by inconsistent background screenings, interviews, orientations and training requirements; and

WHEREAS, prospective volunteers frequently encounter burdensome clearance procedures and lengthy application processes, which create frustration, deter participation and limit the support available to veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program managers are tasked with facilitating timely onboarding and engagement of volunteers, whose efforts contribute significantly to cost savings and improved quality of care for veterans; and

WHEREAS, federal law requires VA to establish and maintain national policies for volunteer certification, such as those governing medical exams for drivers in the Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN), but implementation of such policies has not always been consistent or timely; and

WHEREAS, fluctuations in the number of volunteers and total volunteer hours highlight the importance of reducing administrative barriers and maintaining effective engagement strategies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the VA to promptly finalize and disseminate a clear, consistent, and timely national onboarding process for all VA volunteers, especially drivers in the Volunteer Transportation Network; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to launch a robust outreach and recruitment campaign to re-engage lapsed applicants and attract new volunteers who may have been discouraged by excessive administrative barriers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 3

SUPPORT STRENGTHENED SERVICES AND PROTECTIONS FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF ALL SERVICE ERAS

WHEREAS, severely disabled veterans have complex acute, rehabilitative, and long-term care needs that are often met by family caregivers who take on demanding responsibilities, including medical and supportive care, while sacrificing employment, education, financial security, and personal well-being; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of family caregivers, the burden and cost of care would fall primarily on the VA and DOD, resulting in increased expenditures and potential declines in veterans' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, VA operates caregiver support programs, including the Program of General Caregiver Support Services and the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), which provide vital resources such as stipends, health coverage, respite care and case management to eligible caregivers; and

WHEREAS, PCAFC has undergone programmatic expansion to include veterans of all service eras, with ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access and participation across the veteran population; and

WHEREAS, VA continues to evaluate and revise caregiver support policies to improve program administration, expand eligibility, reduce administrative burdens, and increase flexibility through options such as telehealth; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on VA to complete the final phase of PCAFC expansion to ensure full access for veterans of all service eras, and to fully implement the *Beaudette* decision by guaranteeing due process, judicial review, and the right to representation for veterans and caregivers appealing PCAFC determinations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress provide robust oversight and ensure VA receives sufficient resources to efficiently process caregiver applications and deliver consistent, high-quality support services; increase funding and enact legislation to strengthen caregiver benefits—including financial assistance, respite care, homemaker services, health care, education, and training; and that VA and Congress collaborate to develop a national caregiver research strategy to assess service effectiveness, monitor caregiver well-being, and guide future policy improvements; and that resources be made available to assist caregivers transitioning to employment or retirement, including access to job placement services, retirement counseling, and bereavement support.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 4

SUPPORT EXPEDITING CHAMPVA ENROLLMENT

WHEREAS, dependents of veterans who have been rated 100% service-connected disabled or determined to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions and granted Individual Unemployability (IU) with a permanent and total (P&T) designation are eligible for benefits under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA); and

WHEREAS, many eligible dependents experience significant delays in the application and enrollment process for this critical health care benefit; and

WHEREAS, the VA already maintains dependent information for veterans rated 30% or higher through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) systems, such as the Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) and the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS); and

WHEREAS, leveraging this existing data could enable timelier and more streamlined enrollment in CHAMPVA without requiring redundant documentation from veterans or their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports expediting CHAMPVA enrollment for eligible dependents of veterans granted a 100% service-connected disability rating or determined to be permanently and totally disabled due to Individual Unemployability; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to establish a process by which the VBA automatically transmits notification of a permanent and total disability rating to the Health Administration Center's CHAMPVA program office, thereby triggering the initiation of enrollment for qualifying dependent(s) without requiring a separate application; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislative or regulatory action to streamline and automate the enrollment process for CHAMPVA, ensuring timely access to health benefits for eligible dependents of severely disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 5

ENSURE SEAMLESS ACCESS TO VETERANS' MEDICAL RECORDS ACROSS VA FACILITIES

WHEREAS, VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, serving millions of veterans at nearly 1,400 locations, including medical centers, outpatient clinics, Vet Centers, and long-term care settings; and

WHEREAS, veterans frequently relocate or seek care across different VA facilities and with community care partners, requiring their medical records to be securely and consistently available regardless of location; and

WHEREAS, timely and comprehensive access to veterans' medical records is essential to delivering high-quality, coordinated, and data-informed care and treatment decisions; and

WHEREAS, the current lack of full interoperability across all VA sites and with federal and private-sector partners creates unnecessary delays in scheduling, diagnosis, treatment coordination, and care delivery; and

WHEREAS, barriers in accessing complete health records contribute to fragmented care, duplicate testing, safety risks, and inconsistent veteran experiences across VA and community care providers; and

WHEREAS, the DOD employs a standardized recordkeeping system across most military branches, ensuring medical data is centrally available, but similar consistency has yet to be achieved across the VA; and

WHEREAS, a modern, interoperable, and centralized electronic health record (EHR) system, accessible across all VA and partner care settings, is vital to ensuring continuity of care and improving health outcomes for veterans; NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports and urges the VA to fully implement a national, secure, and interoperable health record system that ensures every veteran's complete medical history is accessible across all VA facilities and eligible provider networks; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA and policymakers to adopt and enforce EHR standardization, ensure real-time record availability, and facilitate the automatic transfer of military service and medical records from the DOD into a centralized repository upon separation from service, so that no veteran is left behind in accessing the care they have earned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 6

IMPROVE STAFFING LEVELS AND REDUCE WAIT TIMES

WHEREAS, staffing shortages across critical positions in the VA health care system continue to delay disabled veterans from receiving timely, high-quality, veteran-focused care; and

WHEREAS, the VA Office of Inspector General has repeatedly reported widespread shortages in both clinical and nonclinical roles at VA medical centers, including physicians, nurses, psychologists, primary care providers, medical technologists, and essential support personnel such as custodians, medical support assistants, engineers, and police officers; and

WHEREAS, these workforce shortages contribute to unacceptably long wait times for medical appointments—delays that in some cases are life-threatening—and threaten the quality, continuity, and accessibility of care for veterans; and

WHEREAS, the nation has a solemn obligation to ensure that the men and women who have honorably served in the Armed Forces receive timely and effective health care through the VA; and

WHEREAS, VA faces strong competition from private sector health care employers, particularly in rural and underserved areas, and is further hindered by a slow and overly complex federal hiring process; and

WHEREAS, health care professionals transitioning from military service bring unique skills and insight into veterans' needs, making them particularly well suited for VA employment; and

WHEREAS, current federal personnel systems are not optimized to attract or retain high-quality clinical and nonclinical employees in the competitive health care labor market; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the creation of a streamlined VA personnel system that covers all Veterans Health Administration employees, incorporates private-sector best practices, and provides competitive pay and benefits to better attract and retain qualified staff; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to develop fast-track hiring and credentialing pathways for transitioning military health care professionals to facilitate their timely onboarding into the VA workforce; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and the Administration to ensure adequate funding, staffing authorities, and workforce planning resources are provided to the VA to recruit, hire, and retain the necessary health care workforce—particularly in high-demand clinical and support roles—to eliminate excessive wait times and ensure all veterans receive the prompt, high-quality care they have earned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 7

SUPPORT EXPANDED TRAINING AND AWARENESS OF VA HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS

WHEREAS, many veterans are unaware of the full range of health care services and other benefits they, their families, and their caregivers have earned through military service; and

WHEREAS, numerous veterans have diagnosed or undiagnosed service-connected disabilities that may entitle them—and in some cases their family members and caregivers—to specific VA benefits and services, including access to health care, caregiver support, and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, these benefits are provided in recognition of the sacrifices made by veterans, their families, and caregivers in defense of our nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the expansion of comprehensive training on available VA health care and benefits to be incorporated into both initial military training and the Transition Assistance Program at the time of separation from active duty; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges this training include timely, detailed, and accessible information on the full range of VA benefits available to veterans, their family members, and caregivers—including health care, CHAMPVA, caregiver support programs, disability compensation, education, home loan guaranty, employment services, and survivor benefits—to ensure they are fully informed and empowered to access the support they have earned.

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RESOLUTION NO. 17

SUPPORT CONSISTENT ACCESS TO INTEGRATIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHRONIC CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, veterans with chronic and degenerative health conditions often rely on Complementary and Integrative Health (CIH) services—such as massage therapy, acupuncture, and biofeedback—as part of their long-term treatment plans to manage pain, improve function, and enhance quality of life; and

WHEREAS, access to these CIH services varies widely across Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) and VA medical facilities due to inconsistent policies and implementation; and

WHEREAS, such inconsistencies create significant barriers for veterans, including arbitrary limits on the number of authorized treatment sessions and requirements to restart the approval process; and

WHEREAS, these barriers disrupt continuity of care, delay treatment, and undermine the clinical effectiveness of CIH therapies, negatively impacting veterans' health outcomes and well-being; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to establish consistent, uninterrupted, and clinically appropriate access to CIH services specifically for veterans with chronic and degenerative conditions, in full alignment with the recommendations of their health care providers; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls for the implementation of oversight and accountability measures to guarantee uniform application of CIH policies nationwide, eliminating arbitrary session limits and administrative hurdles that interfere with veterans' access to these essential therapies.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 48

SUPPORT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS THE PRIVILEGE TO EXCLUSIVELY USE THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, while veterans' health care is funded through an advance appropriation, Congress ultimately determines the level of funding required to meet the medical care needs of ill and injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, despite increased funding for the VA health care system over the past decade, veterans often experience delays and difficulty accessing timely care; and

WHEREAS, the VA is widely regarded—by independent studies including those by RAND, Dartmouth and others—as a national leader in providing high-quality integrated health care; and

WHEREAS, the President, Vice President and Members of Congress would better understand the resource needs, infrastructure gaps and care delivery challenges of the VA system if they were required to use it themselves; and

WHEREAS, these federal leaders frequently travel and maintain multiple residences while serving the nation, yet still have access to premier private and public health systems not available to most citizens; and

WHEREAS, veterans must rely solely on the VA for much of their health care, and disparities in access, staffing, infrastructure, and wait times remain a critical issue; and

WHEREAS, the devotion and sacrifices of public officials are appreciated, but the exclusive use of VA care by those in power would reinforce their obligation to ensure that the system meets the highest standard of care for those who have borne the battle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to grant the President, Vice President and Members of Congress the privilege—and requirement—of receiving all health care exclusively through the VA health care system during their time in federal office.

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RESOLUTION NO. 49

SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE OUTPATIENT DENTAL CARE FOR ALL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, oral health is an essential part of overall health and directly impacts a person's ability to eat, speak, and manage chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently provides outpatient dental care only to certain veterans—such as those who are 100% service-connected disabled, former prisoners of war, or those who experienced dental injuries during service—leaving most disabled veterans without access to needed dental care; and

WHEREAS, VA is already authorized to offer preventive health services that help veterans stay healthy and avoid more serious medical problems, and dental care clearly fits within that goal; and

WHEREAS, studies show that veterans living with chronic illnesses like diabetes or heart disease often suffer worse health outcomes when they also have poor dental health, highlighting the need for integrated care that includes oral health; and

WHEREAS, many veterans with lower disability ratings still struggle with dental issues that, if untreated, can lead to more severe health problems, increased pain, and higher overall medical costs; and

WHEREAS, although the VA does have dental clinics and programs in place, most veterans with service-connected disabilities below 100% are not eligible to use them, creating a major gap in care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to authorize and provide comprehensive outpatient dental care to all veterans with any service-connected disability rating who are enrolled in the VA health care system, consistent with the goals of preventive and chronic disease-integrated care.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 50
SUPPORT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE
TECHNOLOGIES FOR INFERTILITY

WHEREAS, during the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, reliance on dismounted patrols and frequent exposure to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) significantly increased the incidence of genitourinary (GU) trauma; and

WHEREAS, genitourinary trauma has been a significant component of combat injuries, with the largest proportion of such injuries in U.S. military history occurring during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, according to data from the DOD Joint Theater Trauma Registry; and

WHEREAS, the majority of service members who sustained these injuries were of childbearing age and injured primarily due to explosive mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, sexual function can be impaired by physical, psychological, and social factors following service-connected injuries, significantly diminishing quality of life and family-building options; and

WHEREAS, the DOD currently provides access to assisted reproductive technologies (ART), including in vitro fertilization (IVF), for active-duty personnel and certain retirees who have lost the ability to procreate due to service-connected injuries; and

WHEREAS, the VA, while offering limited reproductive services, currently excludes many veterans, including those who are unmarried or whose reproductive situation requires use of donor gametes or surrogacy, due to legal and biological restrictions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to expand eligibility for assisted reproductive technologies under VA health care to all veterans who have lost the ability to procreate due to a service-connected injury or illness, including unmarried veterans and those requiring the use of donor gametes or gestational carriers, and to remove restrictions based on marital status or reproductive biology that currently limit access to these services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 51
SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE CARE FOR VETERANS WITH
DEMENTIA

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of veterans live with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, with cases expected to continue rising in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, veterans at increased risk for dementia include women, African Americans, Hispanic individuals and those exposed to military-related risk factors such as traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression—conditions associated with a significant portion of new dementia diagnoses; and

WHEREAS, dementia is a progressive, chronic condition that impairs memory, executive function, self-care capacity and overall quality of life, placing substantial emotional, physical and financial strain on family caregivers; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis, healthy lifestyle interventions, non-pharmacologic treatments and caregiver education have been shown to improve dementia-related outcomes and are safer than the off-label use of antipsychotic medications for managing behavioral symptoms; and

WHEREAS, VA Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) teams, including memory care coordinators, provide essential services such as comprehensive assessments, care planning, caregiver support and coordination of long-term care for veterans with dementia; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the expansion of VA dementia care programs, increased support for caregivers and the placement of dedicated memory care coordinators at every VA medical center to ensure comprehensive, patient-centered and effective care for all veterans living with dementia.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 52
SUPPORT MEDICAL SCREENING, TREATMENT, AND RESEARCH FOR VETERANS
EXPOSED TO DEPLETED URANIUM

WHEREAS, the United States military has used depleted uranium (DU) in armor-piercing munitions and vehicle armor during multiple conflicts, including the Persian Gulf War, operations in the Balkans and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, exposure to depleted uranium can occur through inhalation, ingestion, embedded fragments or contact with contaminated equipment or environments, placing thousands of service members at potential risk; and

WHEREAS, some veterans sustained high-level exposure to DU through retained fragments and inhalation of airborne particles during combat operations, while others experienced lower-level exposure through dust inhalation or incidental ingestion; and

WHEREAS, the VA established the Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program to evaluate and monitor veterans with known or suspected exposure, yet access and participation remain limited; and

WHEREAS, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) have recommended ongoing surveillance and research to address persistent gaps in knowledge about the health consequences of DU exposure; and

WHEREAS, the VA Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses and other scientific bodies have underscored the need for continued research, clinical attention and policy support to address potential long-term health effects of DU exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to provide prompt, accessible medical screening and appropriate treatment for all veterans who may have been exposed to depleted uranium during military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports additional federally funded research to examine the short- and long-term health effects of depleted uranium exposure among veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 53

EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPREHENSIVE VA HEALTH CARE FOR ALL KOREAN WAR VETERANS

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2023, the VA announced that all World War II veterans are now eligible for no-cost VA health care—eliminating inpatient and outpatient copayments, enrollment fees, and monthly premiums for those who served between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946; and

WHEREAS, the health care needs of Korean War veterans are increasingly urgent due to their advanced age and the growing prevalence of chronic medical conditions common among this population; and

WHEREAS, Korean War veterans who do not have a service-connected disability or who do not meet the VA's income-based means test thresholds are currently not eligible for enrollment in VA health care; and

WHEREAS, many Korean War veterans served honorably—often in combat—and were discharged under honorable conditions, yet remain ineligible for VA health care solely due to income level or lack of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, as of 2025, the VA estimates approximately 861,000 Korean War veterans are still living, with projections indicating that number will decline to fewer than 200,000 by 2030, and between 10 and 15 Korean War veterans pass away each day; and

WHEREAS, Korean War veterans have earned access to comprehensive health care through their military service and should not be denied care in their final years due to financial or administrative barriers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to amend Title 38, United States Code, to authorize the VA to provide no-cost hospital care, medical services and nursing home care to all Korean War veterans, regardless of income or service-connected disability status.

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RESOLUTION NO. 54

ENSURE SUSTAINED INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH AND CARE FOR TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS

WHEREAS, veterans from every era—from World War II to ongoing operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere—have been exposed to a wide range of toxic substances and environmental hazards, including burn pits, chemical and biological agents, contaminated water, radiation, particulate matter and extreme environmental conditions; and

WHEREAS, many veterans suffer from chronic, disabling, and often fatal conditions linked to these exposures, yet face significant challenges in obtaining accurate diagnoses, effective treatments, and timely recognition through service-connected benefits; and

WHEREAS, sustained, well-funded scientific research by the VA, the DOD and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is essential to identifying the long-term health effects of toxic and environmental exposures and informing evidence-based medical care and benefits policy; and

WHEREAS, independent assessments conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM), along with Congressional oversight, continue to shape VA decisions on presumptive service connections and guide federal investments in exposure-related research and care; and

WHEREAS, ongoing research is vital to developing effective screening tools, targeted medical interventions and equitable policies to compensate and care for veterans affected by toxic exposures; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to strengthen oversight of VA research on military toxic and environmental exposures; increase funding for exposure-related research, screening and treatment programs; improve DOD-VA collaboration and transparency in the collection, tracking and use of military exposure data; and ensure that VA delivers timely, high-quality and specialized health care to all veterans affected by military-related toxic and environmental hazards.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 55

SUPPORT GUARANTEED ACCESS TO SECOND MEDICAL OPINIONS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides care annually to millions of veterans through numerous medical centers and outpatient sites staffed by tens of thousands of independently licensed health care practitioners; and

WHEREAS, the VA is committed to delivering patient-centered, respectful, and discrimination-free care, consistent with federal law, VA policy and accreditation standards; and

WHEREAS, VHA policy outlines clinical appeal procedures for areas such as community care, caregivers, dental services and women's and transgender health, yet lacks explicit support for a veteran's right to a second medical opinion; and

WHEREAS, many veterans seek care across VA and community settings to access needed services or obtain second opinions, which may influence treatment in up to 58% of cases; and

WHEREAS, the VA patient's bill of rights currently does not guarantee access to second opinions in either VA facilities or the community care network; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to revise its patient's bill of rights to explicitly include the right of veterans—and individuals they designate—to request and receive a second medical opinion; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if no alternative provider is available at a VA facility, the veteran shall be referred to a provider through the community care network; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all costs associated with obtaining a second opinion, including travel reimbursement, be fully covered by the VA.

RESOLUTION NO. 56

SUPPORT EXPANSION AND REFORM OF VA RURAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND GRANT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the VA provides beneficiary travel benefits to eligible veterans based on criteria such as service-connected disability rating, receipt of a VA pension or documented medical need; and

WHEREAS, the locations of VA medical treatment have evolved, with increased reliance on community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) and community care providers, yet transportation support has not sufficiently adapted to meet the needs of veterans residing in highly rural areas; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans with disability ratings below 30% often lack equitable access to VA transportation services despite ongoing medical needs; and

WHEREAS, rural transportation options remain inadequate due to a shortage of volunteer drivers, limited availability of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant vehicles and constrained VA Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) resources; and

WHEREAS, early intervention and timely access to health care can improve health outcomes and reduce overall long-term health care costs; and

WHEREAS, rural veterans often face barriers to care due to prohibitive travel costs, insufficient emergency preparedness training for volunteer drivers, and a lack of reliable, accessible transportation infrastructure within the VA system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to expand eligibility for beneficiary travel assistance to include: All veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 0% or higher;

Veterans receiving a VA pension or whose income does not exceed the VA pension threshold;

Veterans required to travel for scheduled Compensation and Pension examinations;

Veterans traveling to receive VA-approved care at VA medical centers, CBOCs, or community care providers; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA must strengthen and expand rural transportation services by collaborating with affiliated organizations, state and local governments, and nonprofit entities to ensure that safe, reliable, and ADA-compliant transportation is available for all veterans in need.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 57

STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE THE STATE VETERANS HOME PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State Veterans Home program partners with the federal government to provide long-term care for veterans; and

WHEREAS, more than 150 State Veterans Homes serve nearly 30,000 veterans and their eligible dependents through skilled nursing care, domiciliary care and adult day health care (ADHC); and

WHEREAS, the VA provides per diem payments to support these facilities, including full payment for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 70% or higher or those in need of nursing home care for a service-connected condition; and

WHEREAS, some State Veterans Homes offer specialized services to meet the complex needs of veterans with severe mental health conditions, behavioral challenges and memory-related disorders such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, modern nursing home models and facility designs—incorporating private rooms, infection control features, and home-like settings—enhance safety and quality of life but require greater capital investment and higher operating costs; and

WHEREAS, changes in federal oversight and clinical requirements for domiciliary and ADHC programs have increased costs for states without a corresponding increase in VA per diem support or funding flexibility; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress and the VA to provide sufficient and sustained funding for the State Veterans Home program, including increased per diem payments and grants to support modernization and expansion of facilities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls for enhanced collaboration and innovative partnerships among the VA, state governments and community providers to meet the needs of veterans requiring specialized long-term care for severe mental health, behavioral and memory-related conditions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 61

SUPPORT PROVIDING FREE MEALS OR MEAL VOUCHERS TO HOMELESS VETERANS AT VA FACILITIES

WHEREAS, studies have consistently found that veterans experience higher rates of food insecurity compared to their nonveteran peers; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity—defined as inconsistent or unreliable access to adequate food necessary for an active and healthy life—is associated with increased risks of depression, suicide, and homelessness among veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Food Security Office (FSO) promotes veteran health and well-being by advancing efforts to identify and address food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, VA social workers and interdisciplinary care teams connect veterans with critical resources such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), food banks, and community-based programs; and

WHEREAS, some VA medical centers already screen for food insecurity, but additional on-site support, such as free meals or meal vouchers, could provide immediate relief to homeless or food-insecure veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities with food service operations or Veterans Canteen Service cafeterias are well positioned to offer such support; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation, policies, and programs that authorize and fund the provision of free meals or meal vouchers to homeless or food-insecure veterans at VA facilities, in order to reduce food insecurity, improve health outcomes, and prevent and reduce veteran homelessness.

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RESOLUTION NO. 62

SUPPORT ACCESS TO VA COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS TO SHOWER AND PERFORM SELF-CARE

WHEREAS, VA health care facilities operate Community Living Centers (CLCs), which periodically have unoccupied rooms or spaces available; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of veterans experience homelessness nationwide, as consistently reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, many homeless veterans lack access to safe, private spaces to perform essential self-care activities, such as regular showers and personal hygiene; and

WHEREAS, inadequate access to hygiene facilities contributes to increased risk of skin infections, communicable diseases, poor mental health, and hinders reintegration into society; and

WHEREAS, VA homeless programs offer limited and inconsistent access to hygiene facilities, which often fail to meet the demand among homeless veterans; and

WHEREAS, allowing homeless veterans access to unused CLC rooms for scheduled hygiene and self-care supports VA's mission to promote the health, dignity, and well-being of all veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports providing homeless veterans with weekly access to unoccupied rooms at VA Community Living Centers to conduct hygiene and self-care activities, including showers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 63

SUPPORT FULL AND FAIR REIMBURSEMENT OF VETERANS' TRAVEL COSTS TO ALL VA MEDICAL CARE

WHEREAS, the VA provides travel reimbursements to eligible veterans under Section 111, Title 38, United States Code, to support access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, current VA policy reimburses veterans at a flat rate of 41.5 cents per mile, a rate unchanged since 2008, despite the General Services Administration's (GSA) current mileage rate being 68 cents per mile; and

WHEREAS, the VA withholds a \$3 deductible from each one-way trip, or \$6 round trip, unless waived due to financial hardship, shifting travel-related administrative costs onto veterans; and

WHEREAS, veterans are reimbursed based only on mileage to the nearest VA facility where care could be provided, rather than where care is actually delivered—despite veterans often needing to travel farther due to availability, specialty care, or scheduling issues; and

WHEREAS, outdated reimbursement rates, geographic restrictions, and automatic withholding policies create avoidable financial burdens that disproportionately impact low-income veterans, rural veterans, elderly veterans, and those requiring frequent care; and

WHEREAS, these policies discourage timely treatment, undermine continuity of care, and conflict with VA's mission to eliminate barriers to health care access for service-connected disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and VA policy reforms to:

Repeal the beneficiary travel deductible for all service-connected disabled veterans;

Increase the mileage reimbursement rate to align with the current GSA standard;

Reimburse veterans based on the actual distance traveled to and from authorized VA medical appointments, not merely the nearest possible facility; and

Eliminate automatic withholding of any portion of veterans' travel reimbursements.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 74

SUPPORT EXPANDING ACCESS TO VA MEDALLIONS IN PRIVATE CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, the VA provides a bronze medallion to honorably recognize the military service of veterans interred in private cemeteries who are not receiving a traditional government headstone or marker; and

WHEREAS, the medallion is designed to be affixed to a privately purchased grave marker and is inscribed with the word “VETERAN” and the individual’s branch of service; and

WHEREAS, this benefit, currently limited to veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990, excludes earlier generations of veterans from equal recognition when buried in private cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, extending this honor to all honorably discharged veterans regardless of date of death would provide families a dignified, lasting tribute and ensure all veterans receive equitable acknowledgment of their service; and

WHEREAS, the VA has historically failed to recognize certain service-connected disabilities in a timely manner, including conditions later presumed to be linked to toxic exposures, radiation or combat-related trauma, denying some veterans the full honors and benefits they earned during their lifetimes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and policy changes to expand eligibility for the VA medallion to include all honorably discharged veterans interred in private cemeteries, and to ensure that no veteran is denied this lasting recognition of service due to arbitrary date restrictions, administrative limitations or historical errors in disability determinations.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 82

SUPPORT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY TO VA MENTAL HEALTH TRANSITION SERVICES TO ALL SERVICE MEMBERS UPON DISCHARGE

WHEREAS, the VA currently offers limited mental health transition services primarily to individuals who have sustained a traumatic physical injury; and

WHEREAS, service members who are being discharged with severe mental health conditions stemming from traumatic experiences during military service—including but not limited to combat exposure, military sexual trauma (MST), and other emotionally distressing events—are not consistently identified or enrolled in transition-focused mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the VA has publicly committed to expanding suicide prevention initiatives and improving the continuum of mental health care for transitioning service members; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the enactment of legislation that would expand eligibility for VA mental health transition services to all individuals who have been, or are reasonably suspected to have been, exposed to traumatic events, including, but not be limited to: MST, combat exposure, hostile military or terrorist activity, natural or man-made disasters or other individually experienced traumatic events that a reasonable layperson would conclude are likely to have caused significant emotional distress.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 85

URGE THE VA TO EXTEND PIV CARD VALIDITY FOR VAVS VOLUNTEERS

WHEREAS, the Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card is a federally issued credential used by the VA to verify identity and grant access to secure VA facilities and systems, and is currently issued to VA employees, contractors, and authorized volunteers, including those serving in the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program; and

WHEREAS, DAV Transportation Network drivers who serve as VAVS volunteers typically do not require access to secure areas or VA information systems, yet are nonetheless subject to the same PIV issuance and renewal requirements as personnel who do; and

WHEREAS, although federal standards established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) permit PIV credentials to be valid for up to five years, many VA medical centers issue six-month credentials or temporary flash badges to VAVS volunteers due to internal policy limitations or delays in background investigations; and

WHEREAS, VAVS volunteers are often required to travel significant distances—frequently at their own expense—to designated VA facilities for initial issuance or renewal of PIV cards, imposing an undue logistical and financial burden, especially on those residing in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the current practice of frequent credential renewals for volunteers who only need basic facility access results in unnecessary administrative workload for VA staff and may deter long-term volunteer participation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to extend the expiration period of PIV cards or authorize alternative long-term identification credentials for VAVS volunteers whose duties do not require access to secure areas or VA information systems, in order to reduce administrative burden, support rural and aging volunteers, and strengthen the VA's volunteer workforce.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 90

SUPPORT IMPROVING OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VA CRITICAL SKILLS INCENTIVE USE

WHEREAS, VA administers Critical Skills Incentives (CSIs) to recruit and retain personnel in high-demand positions essential to delivering timely and high-quality care and benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, audits and oversight reviews have identified instances where CSIs were awarded without sufficient documentation, justification or alignment with identified workforce needs, including awards made to senior executives; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a statutory definition for “critical skill” and inconsistent eligibility criteria have resulted in uneven and potentially inappropriate application of CSIs across the VA; and

WHEREAS, decisions regarding CSI awards should be informed by independent workforce assessments and relevant labor market data to ensure alignment with actual staffing shortages and to maximize value for veterans; and

WHEREAS, transparency in how these incentives are awarded and reported is essential to ensure appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and to promote public trust in VA human resource practices; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to establish a statutory definition of “critical skill” and uniform eligibility standards for CSI awards across the VA; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports requiring VA to base all CSI awards on independent workforce assessments and validated labor market data; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges that CSI award amounts be subject to reasonable limits to prevent excessive or inappropriate expenditures; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports restricting CSI awards to senior executives unless such awards are narrowly defined, clearly justified and independently validated; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to require VA to issue regular, transparent reports detailing CSI recipients, position classifications, justification for awards and total expenditures to ensure effective oversight and accountability.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 92

SUPPORT FULL-SPECTRUM REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH FOR VETERANS WITH BLAST-RELATED TBI AND CHRONIC TRAUMATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a common and serious injury among veterans from multiple conflicts, often requiring lifelong care and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, exposure to both high- and low-level blasts—from combat, training, or weapons firing—can cause lasting neurological damage and contribute to chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disease linked to cognitive decline and behavioral changes; and

WHEREAS, many veterans suffer persistent cognitive, emotional, and physical impairments from blast-related injuries, yet the VA has not fully met the long-term rehabilitation and supportive housing needs of those with moderate to severe TBI and CTE; and

WHEREAS, low-level blast (LLB) exposure may not cause immediate diagnosable injury but can produce cumulative effects over time, with symptoms including headaches, memory problems, dizziness, and coordination difficulties; and

WHEREAS, millions of veterans across all service eras may have been exposed to LLB, highlighting the need for focused research and comprehensive care; and

WHEREAS, the VA and DOD continue important research on blast-related brain injury, including through the LIMBIC consortium, to better understand and treat these conditions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to fully fund and expand comprehensive rehabilitation programs—including the VA's Traumatic Brain Injury Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program—and to support permanent supportive housing for veterans with blast-related TBI and CTE; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA to conduct focused research on the effects of low-level blast exposure and its role in blast-related TBI and CTE across all service eras; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports continued VA and DOD leadership in research on the full spectrum of blast-related brain injuries to improve diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to implement universal screening for blast-related TBI and CTE for all veterans, regardless of era of service, and ensure sustained investment in rehabilitation and recovery programs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 93

SUPPORT VA RESEARCH INTO HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY FOR TREATMENT-RESISTANT TBI AND PTSD

WHEREAS, many veterans receive treatment from the VA for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), but a significant number experience limited improvement despite receiving standard evidence-based therapies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) for conditions such as decompression sickness, carbon monoxide poisoning, and chronic non-healing wounds, and the treatment is generally well tolerated with minimal side effects; and

WHEREAS, emerging case reports and small-scale clinical studies suggest that HBOT may improve cerebral blood flow and alleviate cognitive or psychological symptoms in some patients with TBI and PTSD, although large-scale, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have not yet demonstrated consistent or statistically significant clinical benefits; and

WHEREAS, a randomized, sham-controlled clinical trial involving veterans with treatment-resistant PTSD found that HBOT significantly reduced PTSD symptoms and improved brain connectivity on functional MRI, with a substantial portion of participants achieving remission—representing the most rigorous and promising evidence to date supporting HBOT as a potential non-pharmacologic treatment for PTSD; and

WHEREAS, further rigorous, independently conducted research is needed to evaluate HBOT as a safe, non-pharmacological treatment option for veterans with treatment-resistant PTSD and TBI, especially as an alternative to long-term use of medications associated with risks such as dependency or adverse side effects; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to conduct robust, randomized controlled trials evaluating the clinical effectiveness and safety of HBOT in treating veterans with TBI and PTSD who have not responded to standard evidence-based treatments; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA to provide access to HBOT for eligible veterans, contingent upon conclusive evidence of its safety and efficacy for these conditions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 94

ENCOURAGE THE VA TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES FOR THE DAV SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, DAV established the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program to recruit and recognize young volunteers who serve disabled veterans in VA medical facilities and the local community; and

WHEREAS, the scholarship program awarded \$110,000 to deserving youth volunteers in 2024, including a \$30,000 first-place scholarship, a \$20,000 second-place scholarship, a \$15,000 third-place scholarship, a \$10,000 fourth-place scholarship, two \$7,500 fifth-place scholarships, and four \$5,000 scholarships; and

WHEREAS, DAV annually solicits nominations from VA Voluntary Service program managers, encouraging them to submit the name of one outstanding youth volunteer from their facility for scholarship consideration; and

WHEREAS, nomination response rates from VA medical facilities remain low despite the importance of recognizing and encouraging the next generation of veteran advocates; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the dedication of youth volunteers helps strengthen the culture of service within VA facilities and promotes continued engagement in veterans' programs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving youth volunteer for consideration in the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program, thereby ensuring their contributions to the care and support of America's veterans are recognized and rewarded.

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RESOLUTION NO. 95

SUPPORT ESTABLISHING SERVICE CONNECTION FOR HEALTH CONDITIONS LINKED TO THE ANTHRAX VACCINE

WHEREAS, veterans were required to receive the anthrax vaccine during the Gulf War for both deployed and non-deployed service members; and

WHEREAS, both deployed and non-deployed veterans report similar chronic symptoms potentially linked to anthrax vaccine exposure; and

WHEREAS, research at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis VA has explored a potential link between the anthrax vaccine and Gulf War Illness, including persistent vaccine antigens associated with respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurological symptoms; and

WHEREAS, while neurological effects are studied, definitive evidence linking the anthrax vaccine directly to brain atrophy requires further investigation; and

WHEREAS, independent Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) analysis indicates the anthrax vaccine demonstrates higher rates of adverse reactions compared to some other vaccines; and

WHEREAS, the anthrax vaccine is warranted for personnel at high risk of overseas deployment, but its cost-benefit in lower-risk populations remains debatable; and

WHEREAS, health care providers should diligently report all anthrax vaccine adverse reactions to VAERS to ensure accurate monitoring; and

WHEREAS, post-Gulf War studies show deployed veterans experience higher rates of health issues than non-deployed veterans, prompting ongoing investigations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to revise its policy to automatically qualify all veterans who received the anthrax vaccine for VA health care benefits, independent of a Gulf War Syndrome diagnosis.

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RESOLUTION NO. 96

SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE, AGE-APPROPRIATE AND OUTCOME-FOCUSED CARE FOR POLYTRAUMA

WHEREAS, veterans with polytrauma—including traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputations, spinal cord injuries, sensory loss, burns and internal organ damage—often require lifelong, interdisciplinary rehabilitation and medical care; and

WHEREAS, the VA Polytrauma System of Care (PSC), which includes Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers, Polytrauma Network Sites and Polytrauma Support Clinic Teams, delivers critical services but continues to face challenges related to capacity, staffing and access to age-appropriate and geographically accessible facilities; and

WHEREAS, veterans with moderate to severe polytrauma frequently experience cognitive, physical and emotional impairments that complicate recovery and hinder successful community reintegration; and

WHEREAS, younger veterans with catastrophic injuries are often inappropriately placed in geriatric long-term care settings due to a lack of residential programs focused on rehabilitation, education, employment and independent living; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers play an essential role in the recovery process but often lack adequate training, respite care, financial assistance and emotional support to sustain their caregiving responsibilities over the long term; and

WHEREAS, insufficient coordination between acute inpatient care, residential rehabilitation and long-term community-based services can delay recovery, reduce functional gains and compromise quality of life; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to expand and modernize polytrauma care by providing age-appropriate residential rehabilitation, strengthening interdisciplinary clinical teams, enhancing community reintegration services, and advancing research into the long-term impacts of complex injuries; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on VA to improve caregiver support through comprehensive training, adequate respite services, financial assistance, and full inclusion in the veteran's care planning and recovery process; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress and VA to ensure sustained funding, staffing, and care coordination throughout the veteran's lifetime to meet the unique and evolving needs of those living with polytrauma.

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RESOLUTION NO. 97

SUPPORT FUNDING, INNOVATION AND EQUITABLE ACCESS IN VA PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICES

WHEREAS, VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) has long provided life-enhancing prosthetic and sensory devices, significantly improving the quality of life for veterans, including women with unique anatomical and functional needs; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to VA procurement processes have negatively impacted the timeliness, quality, and customization of prosthetic care, reducing access to essential devices for many veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA must retain highly skilled prosthetic and rehabilitation professionals to ensure the proper fitting, instruction, and ongoing support for prosthetic and assistive devices; and

WHEREAS, sustained investment in research, staff training and emerging technologies is vital to restoring and preserving veterans' mobility, independence and functional capacity; and

WHEREAS, many veterans are forced to pay out-of-pocket for medically necessary prescription eyeglasses with enhanced features, resulting in inequitable access to vision care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to maintain dedicated funding for PSAS to ensure timely, high-quality and equitable prosthetic care for all veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VA should provide medically necessary eyeglasses and related vision aids at no cost to eligible veterans as part of its prosthetic services; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VA improve its procurement policies, enhance staff training and streamline delivery systems to better serve veterans with severe injuries and disabilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 98

SUPPORT ONGOING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR VA BLIND REHABILITATION PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Blind Rehabilitation Service is responsible for evaluating and training blind and visually impaired veterans to use assistive technology that supports independence in areas such as daily living, orientation and mobility, manual skills, and computing; and

WHEREAS, these veterans rely on a wide range of rapidly evolving assistive and adaptive technologies to meet their individualized rehabilitation needs and improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, VHA has acknowledged ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified computer-assistive technology instructor specialists due to national workforce shortages and increasing demand; and

WHEREAS, personnel who assess and train veterans must remain current on the capabilities, applications and limitations of emerging assistive technologies to ensure safe, effective and timely delivery of rehabilitation services; and

WHEREAS, maintaining high standards of care requires that such personnel receive structured, ongoing training and professional development; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the VA in ensuring that all personnel within the Blind Rehabilitation Service who assess or train blind and visually impaired veterans receive regular and up-to-date training—through continuing education, certification, or credentialing—in assistive technologies and adaptive aids, to promote safe, effective, and modern rehabilitation care.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 99

SUPPORT ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION FOR UNDERSERVED AND UNDERREPRESENTED SUBGROUPS OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, adequate representation is a critical social determinant of health that ensures the unique needs, experiences, and preferences of specific veteran subgroups are understood, acknowledged, and addressed; and

WHEREAS, many veterans with service-connected disabilities who rely on the VA belong to historically underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, women and those living in rural, remote or medically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, VA research and veteran feedback have shown that members of these subgroups frequently encounter barriers to care, including unwelcoming environments, bias or harassment and disparities in access, treatment and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, examples include women veterans delaying or forgoing care due to harassment in VA facilities; racial and ethnic minority veterans perceiving bias or discrimination from providers; and LGBTQ+ veterans experiencing stigma or a lack of culturally competent care; and

WHEREAS, veterans residing in rural or geographically isolated areas face additional logistical barriers and resource shortages that compromise access to timely, high-quality VA services; and

WHEREAS, despite current VA initiatives—such as targeted outreach campaigns and specialized programs—significant gaps persist in equity, representation and outcomes for underserved veteran populations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to establish dedicated program offices and advisory committees focused on the unique needs of underrepresented and underserved veteran subpopulations to ensure meaningful representation in VA policy, planning, and service delivery; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to proactively identify, monitor, and address disparities raised by subgroup representatives, and to develop and implement sustainable programs and accountability measures aimed at eliminating health and service inequities to ensure equitable access, treatment, and outcomes for all veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 100

SUPPORT EXPANSION OF VA FITNESS, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans face physical and mental health challenges that affect their quality of life and long-term well-being; and

WHEREAS, regular physical activity and proper nutrition reduce the risk of depression, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, stroke and certain cancers, while also supporting bone density, cognitive function, balance, energy, immune response and endurance across all age groups; and

WHEREAS, healthy eating habits and physical activity can reduce reliance on pharmaceuticals and costly medical interventions, thereby improving overall health outcomes and lowering long-term health care expenditures; and

WHEREAS, VA programs such as MOVE!, Healthy Living and Be Physically Active Today primarily focus on weight management or post-injury recovery, but do not fully address the ongoing, long-term nutrition and fitness needs associated with whole health; and

WHEREAS, access to consistent, evidence-based nutritional counseling and education may be limited by staffing, funding or eligibility criteria, particularly for veterans in rural or underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, limitations on community care referrals and visit caps may restrict veterans' access to adequate physical therapy, fitness instruction or supervised exercise and nutrition support beyond prescribed clinical care; and

WHEREAS, ongoing engagement in fitness, physical activity, and nutrition programs beyond clinical treatment can relieve symptoms, enhance quality of life and support long-term wellness for veterans of all ages and disability levels; and

WHEREAS, annual VA health care utilization and expenditure reports could incorporate data to evaluate whether expanded participation in fitness and nutrition programs correlates with reduced reliance on pharmaceuticals, fewer hospitalizations, or other high-cost medical interventions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to expand and enhance access to fitness, physical activity and nutrition programs that support veterans' whole health—not solely weight loss or post-injury recovery; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to incorporate structured, evidence-based physical activity and nutrition programs as a standard component of ongoing care for service-connected veterans, whether initiated through provider referral or veteran self-enrollment, to promote physical and mental health, reduce reliance on medical interventions and support long-term well-being.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 101

URGE VA TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY PROVIDER ACCESS BY REFORMING CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESSES

WHEREAS, the VA health care system relies significantly on community-based providers to deliver medical treatment to veterans who reside outside VA facility catchment areas or beyond mileage access standards; and

WHEREAS, veterans living in rural or underserved areas particularly depend on these community-based providers for treatment of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to VA certification and recertification policies for community providers have contributed to a decline in provider participation, disrupting continuity of care and causing some providers to cease treating veterans altogether; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in provider availability directly affects veterans' ability to obtain timely, consistent, and high-quality health care within their local communities; and

WHEREAS, VA has historically accepted provider credentials based on state licensure and accredited training without widespread issues related to care quality; and

WHEREAS, overly burdensome, duplicative or unnecessarily frequent certification and recertification processes may discourage qualified providers from continuing to participate in VA community care networks; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly urges the VA to review, streamline, and reform its community provider certification and recertification requirements to reduce administrative burdens and encourage continued participation among qualified medical and mental health professionals; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA to retain current community-based providers who meet appropriate performance standards, thereby ensuring that veterans, particularly those in rural or underserved areas, maintain access to the care they have earned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 102

SUPPORT VA AS PRIMARY PROVIDER AND CARE COORDINATOR WHILE ENSURING CONTINUITY OF CLINICALLY APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY CARE FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, the VA serves as the primary provider and coordinator of health care for veterans, ensuring high-quality, veteran-centered care through its nationwide network of facilities; and

WHEREAS, under the VA MISSION Act of 2018, Public Law 115–182, VA is authorized to use community-based providers to supplement VA care when VA facilities are unable to provide timely or necessary treatment, particularly for veterans living in rural or underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, many veterans have established longstanding treatment relationships with community providers due to geographic barriers, specialty care needs, or continuity of care considerations; and

WHEREAS, VA is responsible for coordinating care transitions between its facilities and community providers to maintain continuity and quality of care consistent with veterans' medical needs and preferences; and

WHEREAS, reports have indicated that some veterans have experienced disruptions when community care arrangements were discontinued without sufficient clinical justification or alternative options of care offered to the veteran and their provider, leading to unnecessary travel burdens and delays in care; and

WHEREAS, ensuring seamless transitions between community care and VA direct care is essential to maintaining veterans' trust, supporting optimal health outcomes, and honoring VA's commitment as the primary coordinator of veterans' health services; and

WHEREAS, current VA practices appropriately prioritize adherence to best medical practices and the best medical interests of veterans, while also considering veterans' preferences and clinical recommendations when determining whether to continue community care referrals; and

WHEREAS, while fiscal stewardship is important, cost considerations should not override the timely delivery of medically appropriate care to veterans, especially when VA continues to invest in retention incentives for critical staff while access challenges persist; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and Congress to establish clear regulatory guidance that ensures veterans are not required to discontinue treatment with an established community care provider without a clinically justified reason and without offering alternative options of care that prioritize continuity of care, adherence to best medical practices, and the best medical interests of the veteran and their provider; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA and Congress to strengthen oversight and enforcement of community care access standards to consistently uphold priorities of continuity of care, adherence to best medical practices, and the best medical interests of veterans, while recognizing VA's role as the primary provider and coordinator of veterans' health care services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 115

SUPPORT CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS WITH DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, current federal law only provides childcare assistance to certain veterans who are primary caretakers of children and who are receiving specific types of VA health care services, such as mental health care; and

WHEREAS, this law excludes many veterans with children, including those with service-connected disabilities, who may need childcare to attend medical appointments, rehabilitation programs, or pursue education and training benefits such as the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program, the Post-9/11 GI Bill, or other GI Bill programs; and

WHEREAS, lack of childcare often forces veterans—especially single parents and families with limited support—to miss or delay critical medical appointments, counseling, vocational rehabilitation or education programs that are essential to achieving long-term success and stability; and

WHEREAS, expanding childcare assistance to all veterans with dependents—regardless of the type of care or educational programs they are pursuing—would remove unnecessary barriers to accessing these vital benefits and services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the enactment of legislation to ensure that all veterans with dependents have access to childcare assistance when receiving VA health care or participating in education and training programs such as VRE or the GI Bill.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 116

SUPPORT MANDATORY VETERAN INFORMED CONSENT FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

WHEREAS, certain prescription medications are associated with serious adverse effects, including increased risk of suicidal ideation and behavior in some patients; and

WHEREAS, veterans—particularly those with mental health conditions or other vulnerabilities—must be clearly informed of such risks in order to make fully informed decisions about their treatment; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) policy requires that veterans be informed of the potential benefits, risks and alternatives to proposed treatments in order to support informed consent; and WHEREAS, non-pharmaceutical treatment options, including behavioral therapy, peer support and lifestyle interventions, may be safer and more appropriate for some veterans and should be presented as viable alternatives during the treatment planning process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports requiring VA health care providers to give veterans and/or their legal surrogates a clear, understandable explanation of their medical diagnosis and all available treatment options, including associated risks and benefits; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VHA require written informed consent from veterans prior to initiating treatment with prescribed medications; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VA clinicians provide veterans with comprehensive education about prescribed medications, including potential side effects and all evidence-based treatment alternatives; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VHA strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure full compliance with informed consent policies for all clinical treatments and procedures.

RESOLUTION NO. 126

SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND RESEARCH FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, DAV's reports—*Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home, The Journey Ahead, and The Journey to Mental Wellness*—have identified persistent gaps in VA programs, inequitable access to care, and unique challenges faced by women veterans, including military sexual trauma, intimate partner violence, reproductive and mental health needs and higher suicide risk compared to civilian women; and

WHEREAS, women now comprise 10% of all veterans and 17% of active-duty service members, with increasing combat roles, while the number of women veterans using VA health care has doubled in the past decade, with many being younger, having service-connected conditions and relying heavily on VA services; and

WHEREAS, nearly 40% of women veteran VA users are of childbearing age, many are primary caregivers, and their specialized health and mental health needs are not fully met due to VA's shortage of women's health providers, lack of privacy and safety in some facilities and insufficient gender-specific expertise among community care providers; and

WHEREAS, research on women veterans' unique health needs, including cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, menopause, fertility and post-deployment mental health, remains limited and requires greater federal investment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on VA to ensure women veterans receive equal access to comprehensive, gender-specific health care and trauma-informed mental health services; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to uphold privacy and safety standards, expand women's health programs, conduct research, and adopt innovative solutions to eliminate barriers and deliver the high-quality care women veterans have earned; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress and VA to prioritize research into women veterans' health outcomes and the effectiveness of gender-specific services to close data gaps and inform policy improvements.

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RESOLUTION NO. 129

SUPPORT ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR VETERANS LIVING IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS

WHEREAS, a significant portion of active-duty service members identify rural or highly rural areas as their home of record, demonstrating a disproportionate representation from these communities; and

WHEREAS, many rural areas are designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration as Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care, mental health and dental care or for any combination of these practice areas; and

WHEREAS, more than half of rural veterans are enrolled in VA health care, with the majority being elderly, low income, in poorer health and less likely to have internet access, making it harder to receive timely care; and

WHEREAS, VA has invested in rural care through community-based outpatient clinics, telehealth services, transportation programs and rural health workforce training, including initiatives by the Office of Rural Health (ORH); and

WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 expands community care options for rural veterans, but these community providers may lack the veteran-specific knowledge and experience required to deliver high-quality, appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, the ORH has identified key strategies to improve rural care, including expanded collaboration with agencies such as the Indian Health Service and the Health Resources and Services Administration; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, fully supports the right of rural veterans to receive comprehensive care from the VA to the greatest extent possible, and urges VA to develop targeted training and outreach for community and federal partners in rural areas to ensure veteran-specific risks, exposures, and best practices are understood and applied; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA should continue investing in solutions that eliminate barriers to care for rural veterans, especially through expanded telehealth, transportation support, and improved broadband access.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 130 SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

WHEREAS, the nation faces a critical shortage of mental health professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, therapists and counselors; and

WHEREAS, the growing mental health needs of veterans from all eras are placing increasing strain on the VA's ability to meet demand for timely, high-quality mental health care; and

WHEREAS, veterans have earned access to prompt, qualified mental health care through both VA medical centers and community-based programs; and

WHEREAS, recent laws have expanded access to mental health services for not only veterans, but also their caregivers, dependents and survivors—further increasing the need for a strong and sustainable mental health workforce; and

WHEREAS, VA operates scholarship and loan repayment programs that have proven successful in recruiting and retaining qualified health professionals to serve in VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, many community-based outpatient clinics and Vet Centers are currently not included in these programs, which limits the ability to attract mental health professionals in areas where veterans most need care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation or administrative changes to expand VA scholarship and loan repayment programs so they are available to mental health providers working in VA community-based outpatient clinics and Vet Centers, helping to meet the mental health needs of veterans of all generations.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 133 SUPPORT TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE VA AND DOD HEALTH CARE COPAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans have earned the right to comprehensive benefits through their dedicated service and sacrifice to the nation; and

WHEREAS, the American public expects the government to fully honor its moral obligation to care for veterans and provide their benefits and health care without cost; and

WHEREAS, premiums, deductibles, and copayments are features of civilian health care systems where costs are shared between the insured and the insurer, but such models are inconsistent with the intent behind veterans' benefits; and

WHEREAS, research shows that health care cost sharing reduces the use of care, with the greatest adverse effects falling on the poorest and sickest patients, including those with chronic disabilities; and

WHEREAS, requiring veterans to contribute financially to the benefits they have earned undermines the principles of gratitude and national responsibility toward those who served; and

WHEREAS, copayments were originally introduced in the VA system under extraordinary fiscal pressures as a temporary deficit-reduction measure, not as a permanent fixture of veterans' health care; and

WHEREAS, cost sharing in VA and DOD health systems has been used to supplement appropriations, effectively shifting the burden of funding onto the very veterans these systems are meant to serve; and

WHEREAS, the historical philosophy of providing veterans with free benefits as a moral repayment for their sacrifices has eroded over time, despite the ongoing need for lifelong care by many service-disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that service-connected disabled veterans receive care without out-of-pocket costs reflects both a continuing cost of national defense and the nation's highest moral obligation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce out-of-pocket costs for health care provided by the VA and the DOD for service-connected disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 134

ENSURE ACCESS TO VA FACILITIES AND RELIEF AREAS FOR SERVICE DOGS

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration Directive 1188(1) permits service animals to accompany individuals with disabilities across VA properties while veterans remain responsible for their care; and

WHEREAS, many veterans rely on service or guide dogs due to service-connected conditions, including visual, hearing or mobility impairments, or mental illness, to safely navigate VA facilities and access necessary benefits and services, which often require extended stays; and

WHEREAS, the VA recognizes the benefits of service and guide dogs in enhancing rehabilitation, independence and quality of life; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to enforce policies allowing access to facilities for service dogs and guide dogs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress establish standards consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act for admitting and managing service dogs on VA properties; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each VA medical center provide enclosed relief areas where service dogs have access to water, exercise and elimination spaces.

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RESOLUTION NO. 140

SUPPORT LUNG CANCER SCREENING AND PREVENTION GUIDELINES FOR AT-RISK VETERANS

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in both men and women and remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, veterans face a higher risk for lung cancer due to service-connected exposure to environmental toxins such as dioxin, burn pits, and other hazardous substances, with symptoms often undetected or misattributed until the disease is at an advanced stage; and

WHEREAS, studies confirm that low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scans are significantly more effective than chest X-rays in detecting early-stage lung cancer, leading the American Cancer Society and other medical organizations to recommend annual LDCT screening for individuals at high risk; and

WHEREAS, early detection through LDCT screening is critical to improving survival rates and treatment outcomes for veterans diagnosed with lung cancer; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the VA developing and implementing evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the prevention, early detection and treatment of lung cancer, including the appropriate use of LDCT screening for at-risk veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 141
URGE VA TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM COORDINATED CARE POLICY FOR
VETERANS WITH DUAL-STATE RESIDENCY

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans temporarily divide their principal residence between two geographic locations; and

WHEREAS, strong care coordination and continuity are essential components of high-quality health care and are associated with improved health outcomes, including lower hospitalization rates and reduced mortality; and

WHEREAS, current VA policy generally assigns each enrolled veteran to a single primary care provider, limiting flexibility for veterans who regularly reside in two different regions; and

WHEREAS, under Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook 1101.11(3), veterans who spend a significant portion of the year in two regions and have complex health care needs requiring ongoing care management may be eligible for assignment to primary care providers at two geographically distant VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, implementation of this provision has been inconsistent, with some eligible veterans denied access to dual primary care due to lack of awareness among providers or administrative barriers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to improve and standardize its care coordination policy for veterans with dual-state residency—particularly service-disabled veterans with complex health needs—by ensuring equitable implementation and provider awareness of policies that allow assignment to primary care providers at both locations.

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RESOLUTION NO. 147
SUPPORT EMPOWERING VA AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS TO FULLY
PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS

WHEREAS, VA provides critical medical and mental health care services through VA Medical Centers, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), and Vet Centers, while also relying on community care providers and contracted examiners to deliver care to veterans; and

WHEREAS, many veterans receive the majority or entirety of their care through VA-affiliated providers, including physicians, physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), psychologists, licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs) and other credentialed providers, who are well-positioned to assess and document service-connected health conditions; and

WHEREAS, VA policies have historically discouraged or prohibited attending VA physicians and mental health providers from submitting medical opinions, nexus letters or Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) in support of veterans' disability compensation claims, even when they are actively treating the veteran for the claimed condition; and

WHEREAS, mental health providers at Vet Centers and other VA-affiliated clinics are often the only providers with longstanding clinical relationships with veterans, yet they remain restricted from issuing formal diagnoses or nexus opinions needed for claims related to conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression or anxiety; and

WHEREAS, failure to allow treating providers to offer diagnoses or nexus opinions forces veterans to undergo additional, duplicative assessments with examiners unfamiliar with their history, leading to delayed claims, additional emotional distress and unjust denials of benefits; and

WHEREAS, community care physicians treating veterans under VA-authorized programs are also limited in their ability to contribute to veterans' disability claims unless policies explicitly allow their participation in completing DBQs or offering opinions on service connection; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 1134(2), previously issued in support of VA clinicians' role in offering medical opinions for compensation claims, has lapsed and requires reinstatement and reinforcement to protect the role of attending clinicians in the claims process; and

WHEREAS, public access to DBQs is a critical tool for ensuring transparency and enabling both VA and non-VA providers to accurately document veterans' conditions, and restricting their use by non-VA providers limits veterans' rights and access to competent medical evaluations; and

WHEREAS, requiring VA providers to furnish a medical opinion for compensation purposes when requested by a veteran under their care—or authorizing VA to pay for such an opinion from a qualified

non-VA provider—would uphold the VA's duty to assist and reduce financial burden and barriers for veterans pursuing earned benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, that DAV calls on the VA to:

Authorize all VA-affiliated providers—including physicians, mental health professionals, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and licensed social workers at VA Medical Centers, CBOCs, Vet Centers, and community care facilities—to issue official diagnoses and nexus opinions in support of veterans' disability compensation claims;

Reinstate and strengthen VHA Directive 1134(2) to affirm the role of attending VA providers in supporting veterans' claims through the submission of medical opinions and other relevant documentation;

Ensure that VA mental health providers, including those at Vet Centers and affiliated clinics, are allowed to diagnose and provide nexus opinions for mental health conditions—including PTSD, anxiety, depression, and other psychiatric disorders—as part of veterans' claims for service-connected compensation;

Require that VA primary care and specialty medical providers be notified of their responsibility to complete DBQs upon request by a veteran under their care, or, in the absence of provider availability, that VA fund completion of DBQs by a licensed medical provider of the veteran's choosing;

Preserve and expand public access to DBQs and oppose administrative or legislative restrictions that prevent non-VA providers from completing these forms in support of veterans' disability claims;

Establish a uniform VA policy that encourages rather than restricts the participation of attending providers—VA or community-based—in the claims process and reinforces the principle that veterans should be able to rely on their existing care team to support benefit eligibility; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to enact legislation, if necessary, to mandate these changes, codify provider participation in the claims process, and remove longstanding barriers that interfere with timely and equitable access to earned benefits.

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RESOLUTION NO. 169

SUPPORT TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN, AND OPPOSE WHEN IT THREATENS, VA MEDICAL RESEARCH

WHEREAS, the VA is one of the nation's largest sponsors of independent medical research, uniquely focused on the health needs of veterans, including those with service-connected conditions such as spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, toxic exposures and amputations; and

WHEREAS, VA research has led to numerous groundbreaking advances—such as the implantable cardiac pacemaker, liver transplantation techniques, and innovative treatments for mental health conditions—that have improved health outcomes not only for veterans, but for the general public as well; and

WHEREAS, VA's integration of research, education, and clinical care through its partnership with academic affiliates enhances care quality and fosters innovation across the entire VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation in Congress may either bolster or hinder VA's research capacity through changes in funding, data-sharing authorities, ethical standards or collaboration with outside institutions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, support legislative proposals that enhance or expand VA's ability to conduct medical and health-related research, and oppose measures that would restrict, diminish or otherwise jeopardize VA's capacity to remain a leader in medical research.

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RESOLUTION NO. 170

SUPPORT APPEALS FOR VA COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM DECISIONS

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) regulations allow access to community care under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, veterans depend on timely and accurate decisions regarding their access to community care services to ensure continuity of their health care; and

WHEREAS, decisions about eligibility for community care can be complex, and veterans need a transparent and reliable process to avoid unnecessary delays or confusion; and

WHEREAS, nonclinical decisions—such as those based on administrative rules, logistics, or eligibility requirements—are currently routed through VHA's clinical appeals process, even though they do not involve medical judgment; and

WHEREAS, this misalignment creates unnecessary barriers for veterans attempting to challenge decisions that are not medical in nature; and

WHEREAS, current VA policy outlines a clinical appeals process intended for medical decision-making, and while Congress requires clinical decisions to follow this process, it explicitly excludes these types of decisions from review by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board); and

WHEREAS, expanding appeal rights to include nonclinical community care decisions would improve fairness, accountability, and ensure veterans have access to a meaningful review process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and Congress to establish a clear, separate appeal process for nonclinical community care decisions and authorize review outside of the VHA clinical appeals process, including access to the Board where appropriate.

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RESOLUTION NO. 171

SUPPORT EXPANDED ACCESS AND RESEARCH INTO TREATMENTS FOR AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive and terminal neurodegenerative disorder that destroys motor neurons, leading to muscle weakness, paralysis and eventually loss of the ability to speak, swallow and breathe; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no known cure for ALS, and average life expectancy following diagnosis is typically three to five years, with most diagnoses occurring around age 55; and

WHEREAS, military service has been identified as a risk factor for ALS, regardless of era, branch, duty location, or occupational specialty, and research from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) and other institutions has found that veterans are approximately 1.5 to 2 times more likely to develop ALS than the general population; and

WHEREAS, the VA, under 38 C.F.R. § 3.318, recognizes ALS as a presumptive service-connected condition for any veteran with 90 days or more of continuous active duty service; and

WHEREAS, while no cure exists, certain treatments and assistive technologies can improve quality of life and extend function, and emerging therapies—including investigational drugs, gene therapies, and stem cell treatments—have shown promise in clinical trials to slow disease progression or extend survival; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation requiring the VA to expand collaborative partnerships, clinical trials, and research initiatives that increase veterans' access to new and emerging treatments aimed at preventing, diagnosing, slowing or curing ALS; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to prioritize and increase funding for ALS-related research, long-term care strategies, and supportive services for veterans diagnosed with this service-connected disease, recognizing its disproportionate impact on the veteran population.

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RESOLUTION NO. 172

SUPPORT EXPANDED CHAMPVA ELIGIBILITY FOR ADULT CHILDREN

WHEREAS, dependent children of certain veterans are provided medical care under Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA); and

WHEREAS, a child of a veteran is eligible for CHAMPVA if the veteran is rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, was rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition at the time of death, died of a service-connected disability or died on active duty, and the dependent is ineligible for DOD TRICARE benefits; and

WHEREAS, the eligibility of a dependent child for CHAMPVA ends at age 18 unless the dependent is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited school until the age of 23, marries or is a stepchild who no longer resides in the household of the CHAMPVA sponsor; and

WHEREAS, under the Affordable Care Act, specifically Public Law 111-148, Section 2714, group health plans and insurers offering dependent coverage must allow children to stay on a parent's health insurance plan until age 26; and

WHEREAS, children of severely disabled veterans and survivors of those who gave their lives should have the same rights and benefits as every other American in a grateful nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to extend the eligibility of a qualifying veteran's child for CHAMPVA coverage to age 26 under the same conditions as covered adult children of beneficiaries in private health plans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 175

SUPPORT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL VETERANS, REGARDLESS OF SERVICE DISCHARGE STATUS

WHEREAS, Section 201 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020, Public Law 116-214, authorizes the VA to provide or pay for emergency suicide care for eligible veterans at VA and non-VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, current implementation guidance appears to limit this life-saving care to individuals with an honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge, excluding many at-risk former service members; and

WHEREAS, civilian health care providers may be unable to determine a former service member's discharge status in an emergency, which can lead to confusion, delays in care, or denial of services during a mental health crisis; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls for regulatory or legislative changes to ensure that crisis mental health care authorized under the COMPACT Act is extended to all former service members, regardless of character of discharge, when urgently needed to prevent suicide or self-harm.

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RESOLUTION NO. 203

SUPPORT RESEARCH ON INFERTILITY DUE TO TOXIC EXPOSURE

WHEREAS, many veterans have been exposed to toxic chemicals, environmental hazards, and physical and psychological stressors during military service, which may contribute to infertility in both men and women; and

WHEREAS, the VA acknowledges a potential link between toxic exposure and infertility among veterans who served in recent conflicts; and

WHEREAS, a study published in Medical Care titled "Reproductive health among Gulf War veterans: a population-based study" identified increased reproductive challenges among veterans exposed to toxic substances; and

WHEREAS, research in the Journal of General Internal Medicine has found that active-duty service women experience higher rates of difficulty conceiving compared to the general population; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to conduct a comprehensive study to determine the prevalence of infertility among veterans exposed to toxic substances during military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation and regulatory action to ensure timely recognition of infertility as a service-connected condition when linked to toxic exposure, and that affected veterans receive appropriate care and compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 204

SUPPORT RESEARCH ON BURN PIT EXPOSURE AMONG VIETNAM VETERANS

WHEREAS, the VA has expanded presumptive service connection for certain conditions related to Agent Orange and burn pit exposure under the PACT Act, primarily benefiting post-9/11 veterans; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam veterans are currently excluded from PACT Act presumptions related to exposure to toxic smoke from burn pits, burn barrels, and open-air waste burning during their service; and

WHEREAS, many Vietnam veterans were exposed to these toxic substances without adequate protective equipment, yet the specific toxins involved and their associated health risks have not been comprehensively studied; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to conduct a thorough study to identify the toxins to which Vietnam veterans were exposed from burn pits and related sources and to determine the health conditions linked to such exposure.

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RESOLUTION NO. 205

SUPPORT RESEARCH ON MENOPAUSE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that women veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) face an elevated risk of early menopause, contributing to increased risks of cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, chronic pain, and emotional distress; and

WHEREAS, research shows that women veterans are more likely than nonveterans to undergo hysterectomy and removal of ovaries and fallopian tubes, which can lead to early menopause and heightened risks for cardiovascular disease, cognitive decline, and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, menopause symptoms—including anxiety, depression, pain, and irritability—can significantly affect daily life and mental health, especially for veterans managing PTSD and related conditions; and

WHEREAS, sexual dysfunction such as low desire, arousal problems, pain, and dissatisfaction affects approximately 12 to 32 percent of women veterans with a history of military sexual trauma, often exacerbated by PTSD and depression; and

WHEREAS, about 18% of women veterans aged 21 to 52 who use VA health care report infertility, highlighting a significant reproductive health issue within this population; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly supports VA research focused on menopause and reproductive health in women veterans and its effects on their physical and mental well-being.

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RESOLUTION NO. 209

SUPPORT ADEQUATE STAFFING FOR PATIENT ADVOCATES IN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) assigns patient advocates at each VA medical center (VAMC) to collect veteran feedback, help with clinical appeals, and handle complaints; and

WHEREAS, the current handbook is outdated and lacks clear rules on how patient advocates should be managed or who they report to; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has found that unclear reporting structures hurt patient advocates' ability to resolve veterans' complaints effectively; and

WHEREAS, outdated and incomplete guidance may hinder the patient advocacy program's ability to address veterans' complaints in a timely and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the VHA provides limited guidance on staffing levels for patient advocacy, requiring only one patient advocate per VAMC without specifying how to determine adequate staffing needs; and

WHEREAS, GAO concluded that patient advocacy program staff face workloads exceeding their capacity; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports requiring VAMC directors to assign at least one patient advocate for every 13,500 enrolled veterans or enough advocates to meet veterans' needs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports ensuring rural veterans have access to patient advocates at rural community-based outpatient clinics.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 211

SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO MATERNITY CARE COORDINATION

WHEREAS, the VA provides maternity care services to eligible women veterans, including full physical exams, laboratory testing, obstetrical ultrasounds, genetic screening, specialty consultations,

prescription medications, labor and delivery, lactation support, social work, mental health services and in some cases, postpartum maternal care for up to 12 months; and

WHEREAS, VA maternity care coordinators assist women veterans in managing their prenatal and postpartum care, including coordinating services with community providers; and

WHEREAS, many serious health conditions in newborns—such as congenital anomalies, metabolic disorders and heart or respiratory conditions—may not present in the first days of life and require early detection and ongoing medical attention; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports enhancements to VA maternity care coordination services to ensure comprehensive and continuous care for women veterans throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period, including improved access to pediatric care for their newborns and strengthened connections to federal, state, and community-based programs that provide ongoing support for both mother and child.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 212

SUPPORT STANDARDIZED TESTING FOR OVARIAN CANCER

WHEREAS, the Risk of Ovarian Malignancy Algorithm (ROMA) test is a validated diagnostic tool that combines serum biomarkers (HE4 and CA-125) with a patient's menopausal status to assess the likelihood of epithelial ovarian cancer in women presenting with adnexal masses; and

WHEREAS, the ROMA test aids in stratifying patients by risk level and supports appropriate referral to gynecologic oncologists, thereby facilitating timely and specialized care; and

WHEREAS, early detection and referral to specialists significantly improve surgical outcomes and survival rates for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, access to the ROMA test within the VA health care system is inconsistent due to variations in laboratory capabilities across medical centers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to ensure standardized access to the ROMA test across all VA health care system laboratories to support timely diagnosis, risk stratification, and appropriate specialist referral for veterans at risk of ovarian cancer or benign gynecologic disease.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 213

SUPPORT RECRUITMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN VHA

WHEREAS, the VA continues to face persistent staffing shortages that contribute to longer wait times for veterans seeking care; and

WHEREAS, VA medical centers struggle to maintain adequate clinical staffing, particularly in critical areas such as mental health, primary care, emergency medicine, women's health, and geriatric care; and

WHEREAS, Physician Assistants (PAs) play a vital role in expanding access to timely, high-quality health care and improving care delivery across VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, increasing the recruitment of PAs within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will help close staffing gaps and enhance veterans' access to essential services; and

WHEREAS, expanding training, recruitment, and retention initiatives—such as increasing participation in the PA Health Professions Scholarship Program, expanding postgraduate PA residency opportunities, and developing a targeted national recruitment strategy—will help build a sustainable pipeline of qualified PAs committed to serving veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to support the recruitment, hiring, and retention of qualified health care professionals, including PAs, to improve veterans' access to care and suicide prevention; and that PAs be included in dual postings for VHA vacancies to expand clinical expertise in key areas such as mental health, primary care, women's health, emergency medicine and geriatric care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VHA formally recognize PAs as essential providers in mental health care and other critical specialties, and that Congress expand the PA Health Professions Scholarship Program, double the number of PA residency positions, and support the implementation of a national recruitment strategy to increase the number of veteran PAs serving in VA health care.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 214

SUPPORT AUTOMATIC TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, certain service-connected disabled veterans are eligible for beneficiary travel pay to help cover the cost of travel to and from VA health care appointments, including those provided through VA community care; and

WHEREAS, current VA policy requires veterans to manually submit a separate claim for each instance of care, creating an unnecessary administrative burden on disabled veterans simply trying to access their earned health care; and

WHEREAS, the recent shift to an online-only process has significantly increased barriers for many eligible veterans, particularly those with limited access to technology, visual impairments, cognitive challenges, traumatic brain injury and other service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to reapply for each appointment acts as a deterrent to accessing a benefit to which these veterans are already entitled; and

WHEREAS, an automatic reimbursement system, triggered at appointment check-in, would simplify the process, reduce delays and ensure more timely and equitable access to travel pay for eligible veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to implement an automatic travel reimbursement system that initiates payment upon check-in for any VA or VA-authorized appointment, with no further action required by the veteran, thereby eliminating unnecessary barriers and ensuring timely access to this earned benefit.

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RESOLUTION NO. 215

SUPPORT FUNDING TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, compared with nonveterans, veterans are at higher risk of homelessness due to post-deployment conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders acquired during or worsened by their military service, or traumatic brain injuries that may impair their ability to participate in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, women veterans especially face unique challenges increasing their risk of homelessness, including the higher likelihood of being single parents and the need for specialized housing and child care services; and

WHEREAS, the VA's specialized homelessness programs provide critical health care and supportive services, and VA's collaborations with federal, state, faith-based, veterans service organizations, and community partners have made progress in reducing veteran homelessness; and

WHEREAS, public and private programs to assist veterans in preventing or overcoming chronic homelessness remain underfunded; and

WHEREAS, annual point-in-time counts show downward or stable trends in veteran homelessness; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to fully fund and expand VA homelessness prevention programs, including mental health, substance use treatment, vision and dental care, childcare, legal aid and outreach to ensure veterans access these services; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports increasing funding for transitional housing grants, HUD-VASH vouchers, VA case management and supportive services, and the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program to help veterans secure stable housing and employment.

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RESOLUTION NO. 216

SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE

WHEREAS, VA's standard health benefits package is designed to provide enrolled veterans with comprehensive, coordinated care, including preventive services, primary care, hospital treatment, and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, timely access to urgent and emergency care is essential to a complete health care system and must be delivered in a manner that is clear and accessible to the veterans who rely on it; and

WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–182) authorized VA to offer urgent care through community providers, creating a lower-cost alternative to emergency departments and helping veterans receive care in the right setting at the right time; and

WHEREAS, the policies and regulations governing VA payment for emergency care remain overly complex, inconsistently applied, and often misunderstood by veterans, community providers, and even VA staff; and

WHEREAS, an August 2019 report by the VA Office of Inspector General (VAOIG 18-00469-21) found that a significant number of emergency care claims were wrongly denied due to processing errors, placing undue financial burdens on thousands of veterans; and

WHEREAS, these improper denials have shifted billions of dollars in liability from VA to veterans, leading to serious financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, fear of incurring substantial out-of-pocket costs due to denied VA reimbursement causes some veterans to delay or avoid seeking necessary emergency care; and

WHEREAS, despite multiple legislative efforts to address barriers caused by VA's restrictive interpretation of its emergency care reimbursement authority, significant gaps and inconsistencies remain; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to pass legislation amending Title 38, United States Code, to simplify and clarify eligibility for urgent and emergency care benefits paid by VA; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on VA to adopt a consistent, veteran-centered interpretation of its emergency care reimbursement policies to ensure veterans are not left financially responsible for care they were entitled to receive.

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RESOLUTION NO. 217

SUPPORT ESTABLISHING A PEER INFERTILITY CARE COORDINATOR ROLE AT VA

WHEREAS, the VA Infertility Care Program has been difficult for many eligible veterans to navigate, particularly when seeking assisted reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization (IVF); and

WHEREAS, Public Law 114–223 authorized VA to provide IVF to certain veterans and their spouses, yet significant barriers remain in eligibility determination, access, and care coordination; and

WHEREAS, limited data exists on veterans' experiences accessing IVF through VA community care contracts with fertility providers, particularly among underserved and rural veteran populations; and

WHEREAS, a study published in Medical Care, the journal of the American Public Health Association, identified six key areas needing improvement in VA's infertility services: clearer communication of benefits, expanded IVF eligibility, stronger care coordination, limited provider access in some regions, tailored services for veterans with spinal cord injuries, and inclusive policies that address the needs of single and LGBTQ+ veterans; and

WHEREAS, many veterans with service-connected conditions affecting fertility have utilized the IVF benefit, yet restrictive eligibility criteria and inadequate care coordination have prevented others from accessing these services; and

WHEREAS, despite the availability of IVF benefits, some veterans remain unable to fully utilize them due to a lack of individualized support, especially those managing complex health conditions or residing in rural areas; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the establishment of a peer infertility care coordinator within VA's Infertility Care Program to assist veterans and their spouses throughout the IVF process; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this coordinator position be filled by an individual with lived experience navigating infertility services, to help improve communication, build trust and ensure equitable access to care for all eligible veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 219

SUPPORT STANDARDS AND OVERSIGHT FOR SERVICE AND GUIDE DOG PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, trained guide and service dogs are essential in restoring independence and improving quality of life for veterans with disabilities such as blindness, deafness, mental health conditions, epilepsy, and seizure disorders; and

WHEREAS, the VA may prescribe guide or service dogs to perform specific tasks that restore function or maximize independence and may provide benefits for veterinary care and equipment for dogs obtained through organizations accredited by Assistance Dogs International or the International Guide Dog Federation; and

WHEREAS, the VA's National Center for PTSD and Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention have identified service dogs as a promising complementary intervention for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), particularly for those at increased risk for suicide; and

WHEREAS, the VA has supported clinical research and pilot studies on the efficacy of veteran-led service dog training as a potential therapeutic strategy to reduce PTSD symptoms and improve reintegration outcomes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to continue and expand research into the most effective applications of service dogs for veterans with physical and mental health conditions, including the therapeutic potential of veterans training service dogs for themselves or for other veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to ensure that all prescribed service dogs are provided at no cost to veterans, including reimbursement for required follow-up training and lifetime veterinary benefits; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV encourages the VA to support and expand access to pilot programs and grant opportunities for nonprofit organizations accredited to train service and guide dogs for disabled veterans, in order to promote consistent quality standards, accountability, and equitable access for all eligible veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 220

SUPPORT A CENTRALIZED CLAIMS TRACKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM IN VHA

WHEREAS, veterans submitting claims to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), including disability compensation, pension, education, vocational rehabilitation and life insurance, have access to transparent online tools such as VA.gov that allow them to track claim status, correspondence and decisions; and

WHEREAS, this level of transparency and electronic tracking is not available for claims, service requests or appeals submitted to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), including Community Care referrals, prosthetics, Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grants, eligibility disputes, travel reimbursements, clinical appeals and other VHA benefits; and

WHEREAS, veterans often must contact multiple VHA departments without centralized points or consistent processes to receive updates or challenge decisions, causing delays, frustration, and reduced access to necessary care and services; and

WHEREAS, claims submitted to VHA lack centralized tracking and accountability, with decisions sometimes made without proper development or communication to veterans; and

WHEREAS, VHA claims and benefit requests arrive through various channels—online, in person, or transferred from VBA or other agencies—but no integrated system exists to track their status or lifecycle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VHA to implement a centralized electronic claims and appeals tracking system modeled after the VBA platform, providing veterans real-time online access via VA.gov to status updates for all VHA claims, service requests and clinical appeals, including Community Care, prosthetics, HISA grants, overpayments and eligibility determinations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this system include clear communication protocols, departmental accountability, defined timelines and appeal procedures to ensure veterans are informed, empowered to challenge adverse decisions and able to track progress at every step.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 222

SUPPORT RESEARCH ON POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

WHEREAS, there are millions of women veterans in the United States, many of whom are of childbearing age; and

WHEREAS, DAV's report *Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead* and other studies indicate that women veterans are more likely than civilian women to experience postpartum depression, especially those with a history of military sexual trauma, mental health conditions, or limited access to coordinated perinatal care; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of women veterans report experiencing military sexual trauma, which is linked to increased rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression, thereby raising the risk of postpartum mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, many women veterans with prior diagnoses of PTSD, anxiety or depression often lack consistent screening and access to specialized postpartum care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to prioritize and support research into postpartum depression among women veterans, including the development of targeted screening protocols, clinical interventions, and integrated care approaches for those at highest risk.

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RESOLUTION NO. 223

SUPPORT RESEARCH AND SERVICE CONNECTION FOR HEALTH CONDITIONS LINKED TO COVID-19 VACCINATION

WHEREAS, many service members were required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of continued military service, with refusal often resulting in administrative separation or discharge; and

WHEREAS, the initial administration of the COVID-19 vaccines occurred under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), prior to full licensure and long-term clinical observation; and

WHEREAS, vaccine development and safety monitoring typically require years of longitudinal study, and the accelerated timeline of COVID-19 vaccine development limited the availability of long-term safety data at the time of distribution; and

WHEREAS, published studies, including one in *The Journal of the Japanese Society for Vaccinology* (Vol. 39, Issue 48, November 26, 2021), have examined the short-term effects of COVID-19 vaccination in health care personnel and highlighted the need for ongoing monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the long-term effects of COVID-19 vaccines remain under continued scientific study and have not been fully established, particularly in younger, healthier populations such as active duty service members; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to conduct and support comprehensive studies into the long-term health effects of COVID-19 vaccines administered to service members, particularly those given under Emergency Use Authorization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to establish a presumption of service connection for veterans who develop chronic health conditions that medical evidence links to adverse reactions resulting from mandatory COVID-19 vaccination during military service.

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RESOLUTION NO. 224

ENSURE EQUITABLE QUALITY AND ACCESS IN VA AND COMMUNITY CARE

WHEREAS, the VA's reliance on community care continues to grow, both in terms of budget and the volume of care delivered to enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 115-182, the VA MISSION Act of 2018, requires VA to assess the availability and appropriateness of community care before scheduling appointments, yet VA often lacks sufficient data to make these determinations; and

WHEREAS, Congress intended for VA to consider key factors such as quality and timeliness when making referrals to community care, but this information is not consistently or systematically collected from VA-contracted community providers; and

WHEREAS, VA clinicians receive specialized training and follow clinical guidelines tailored to conditions more prevalent among veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST), toxic exposures and suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, the RAND Corporation's report, *Preventing Veteran Suicide: A Landscape Analysis of Existing Programs, Their Evidence, and What the Next Generation of Programs May Look Like*, found that many community providers report being unprepared to manage health issues related to military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to require third-party administrators (e.g., TriWest, Optum, and Humana) to ensure their networks collect data comparable to VA outpatient care standards, including metrics for quality, access and patient outcomes; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to require all contracted community providers to complete training on core VA benefits and best practices for treating conditions commonly experienced by veterans, including PTSD, suicidal ideation, TBI, MST and toxic exposures.

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RESOLUTION NO. 225

SUPPORT EXPANDING SERVICE CONNECTION TO INCLUDE OBESITY CAUSED BY MEDICATION PRESCRIBED FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, musculoskeletal and mental health conditions are among the most common service-connected disabilities affecting veterans; and

WHEREAS, these conditions and their treatment—particularly medications prescribed by the VA, including antidepressants, antipsychotics and corticosteroids—can cause significant weight gain; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions such as depression and PTSD may also contribute to obesity through behavioral, psychological and physiological changes; and

WHEREAS, although obesity itself is not a service-connectable condition, it may serve as an intermediate step between a service-connected disability (or its treatment) and the development of another chronic, diagnosable condition; and

WHEREAS, obesity-related conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and sleep apnea present serious health risks and impair veterans' quality of life; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to recognize obesity as an intermediate step in establishing secondary service connection when it is caused by service-connected disabilities or the treatment prescribed for them.

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RESOLUTION NO. 231

SUPPORT STRENGTHENING COORDINATION OF CARE BETWEEN VA, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

WHEREAS, the VA provides essential health care for veterans, including specialized medical services, mental health treatment, and access to community providers through its Community Care programs; and

WHEREAS, Medicare and Medicaid offer critical health care coverage to seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income veterans, supporting hospital care, outpatient services, prescription medications, home health care, and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, many veterans qualify for Medicare and Medicaid benefits administered by the Social Security Administration, helping to ensure financial stability and access to necessary medical services; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that a significant portion of veterans with disabilities rely on Medicaid, including a disproportionate share of women veterans who depend on it for comprehensive care; and

WHEREAS, improved coordination among VA, Medicare, and Medicaid through data-sharing, integrated case management, telehealth expansion, and streamlined administrative processes helps reduce burdens, eliminate service gaps, and enhance access to quality care for veterans; and

WHEREAS, pilot programs and research into integrated care models have identified best practices that improve efficiency, optimize resource allocation, and expand equitable access for veterans utilizing multiple health care systems; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to support pilot programs and research initiatives that enhance coordination among VA, Medicare, and Medicaid without overburdening VA resources or staffing, and to fund integrated care models that promote financial sustainability while expanding veterans' access to quality health care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports promoting public-private partnerships to supplement VA services, implementing enhanced case management to assist veterans navigating

multiple systems, strengthening federal data-sharing to improve care coordination and reduce duplication and expanding telehealth services to improve access, particularly for rural and underserved veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports workforce development initiatives to ensure adequate recruitment and retention of health care professionals within the VA, and affirms that veterans should not face adverse consequences for utilizing overlapping earned health care benefits.

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RESOLUTION NO. 236

SUPPORT VA RESEARCH AND EXPANSION OF IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY IN VETERAN HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the VA Office of Research & Development reports that chronic pain affects approximately half of all veterans receiving care within the Veterans Health Administration; and
WHEREAS, chronic pain significantly increases the risk of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicide among veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA has identified more than 40 clinical applications for immersive technologies, including virtual reality (VR), in veterans health care; and

WHEREAS, early VA research and pilot programs using immersive technology have shown promising results in reducing pain and anxiety among veterans, with some studies reporting average pain reductions of approximately 28%; and

WHEREAS, immersive technology has demonstrated effectiveness as a nonpharmacological option for managing postoperative pain and supporting therapies such as cognitive behavioral therapy and prolonged exposure; and

WHEREAS, expanding the use of immersive technologies in clinical settings may improve outcomes for veterans by reducing reliance on opioids and enhancing the efficacy of evidence-based treatments; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports continued VA research into immersive technologies and advocates for sufficient funding to expand access to these tools alongside established therapeutic practices; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to ensure equitable access to immersive technology-based therapies across all VA facilities, particularly for veterans living in rural or underserved areas.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 242

SUPPORT EXPANSION OF VA FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM COVERAGE FOR VETERANS LIVING ABROAD

WHEREAS, veterans enrolled in the VA Foreign Medical Program (FMP) are eligible for medical care abroad only for service-connected disabilities or conditions aggravated by those disabilities, even if they are rated 100% permanently and totally disabled and otherwise entitled to comprehensive VA health and dental care in the United States; and

WHEREAS, veterans may seek care from any licensed health care provider in their foreign country without needing a referral; and

WHEREAS, the VA does not cover travel costs, billing fees, service charges or the mailing of medications from the U.S., and veterans in countries unable to process U.S. Treasury checks face difficulties accessing payments; and

WHEREAS, reports from the Government Accountability Office and other oversight bodies have highlighted ongoing challenges for the VA in providing timely, quality disability medical examinations and access to care for veterans living abroad; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to collect comprehensive data on veterans residing overseas and designate appropriate health care systems or partners to meet their needs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA update its policies to enhance access to care for veterans living abroad; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress enact legislation to collect comprehensive data, expand FMP health and dental coverage for veterans rated 100% permanently and totally disabled, and ensure adequate services for all veterans residing overseas.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 243
SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO VA'S NURSING HOME PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the aging veteran population, including many with complex service-connected conditions, will increasingly require long-term care over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the VA provides or funds nursing home care in VA-owned community living centers, contracted community nursing homes, and state-operated State Veterans Homes, offering comparable services such as skilled nursing, rehabilitative care and daily living support; and

WHEREAS, the VA uses a star rating system based on criteria from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, including health inspections, staffing and quality measures, to assess its 133 nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, reports from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Government Accountability Office have identified quality and oversight concerns across VA-operated and contracted nursing home facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to strengthen its Nursing Home Program across all care settings to ensure consistent delivery of high-quality, veteran-centered care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA prioritize the recruitment, retention, and training of qualified health care professionals and support staff, while enforcing accountability measures to uphold care standards.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 244
SUPPORT MEDICAL EQUITY FOR VETERANS IN STATE VETERANS HOMES

WHEREAS, many states operate long-term care facilities known as State Veterans Homes, which serve eligible veterans and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, veterans residing in these homes often contribute their VA disability compensation toward the cost of their care; and

WHEREAS, while the VA may reimburse states for certain costs, this reimbursement structure changes significantly for veterans rated 70% or more service-connected, shifting the financial burden to the state; and

WHEREAS, the full cost of operating these facilities—including staffing, infrastructure, medications, and other medical expenses—is primarily borne by the states, often supplemented by Medicare, Medicaid, and private funding sources, creating a fragmented and inconsistent approach to care financing and delivery; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to ensure that veterans residing in State Veterans Homes—particularly those rated 70% or higher service-connected—receive VA-provided prescription medications, medical care and assistive devices, in order to improve access to care, ensure continuity and reduce financial strain on both veterans and state-operated systems.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 248
SUPPORT AUTOMATIC TRANSFER OF VETERANS' MEDICAL RECORDS FROM THE DOD TO VA

WHEREAS, VA registers veterans using their Social Security number and DD-214 form as the basis for eligibility and access to care; and

WHEREAS, the VA serves as the official custodian of medical records for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, service members are entitled to choose their preferred VA Medical Center for ongoing care following separation; and

WHEREAS, the DOD and VA now operate interoperable electronic health record systems capable of securely transferring clinical data; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and DOD to implement automatic medical record transfers upon separation from military service, ensuring veterans are immediately connected to VA care without requiring separate registration or in-processing.

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RESOLUTION NO. 249

SUPPORT FAIR AND TRAUMA-INFORMED REVIEW OF OTHER-THAN-HONORABLE DISCHARGES FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-RELATED CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, former service members who receive administrative discharges characterized as other than honorable (OTH) are generally ineligible for VA health care and benefits; and

WHEREAS, veterans from recent conflicts have received “bad paper” discharges at higher rates than previous generations, often stemming from unrecognized or untreated conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) or military sexual trauma (MST); and

WHEREAS, DOD policy calls for discharge review boards to apply “liberal consideration” to petitions for discharge upgrades when the underlying misconduct may be attributable to service-connected mental health conditions, including PTSD, TBI and MST; and

WHEREAS, veterans discharged under these circumstances often face serious challenges, including poor mental health, increased suicide risk, homelessness and barriers to accessing the care and benefits they have earned; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and the DOD to apply fair, consistent, and trauma-informed standards when reviewing discharge characterizations involving misconduct related to service-connected conditions such as PTSD, TBI, MST, or other trauma, to ensure these veterans are not denied access to the health care and benefits they have earned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 297

SUPPORT STREAMLINED VA HIRING AND CREDENTIALING FOR TRANSITIONING MILITARY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS, the VA continues to face persistent staffing shortages throughout its health care system, which adversely affect timely access to care for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, many active-duty health professionals transitioning from military service possess relevant clinical experience, current security clearances, and a demonstrated commitment to public service, making them well-suited for roles within the VA; and

WHEREAS, delays and inefficiencies in VA recruitment, credentialing, and onboarding processes create unnecessary barriers for these professionals, exacerbating workforce gaps and directly impacting the delivery of care to veterans; and

WHEREAS, leveraging existing transition resources, such as the DOD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and SkillBridge, to identify and pre-credential separating service members would significantly reduce onboarding delays and improve VA staffing; and

WHEREAS, proactive data-sharing between DOD and VA, combined with early identification and streamlined onboarding, would enhance staffing efficiency, improve continuity of care, and strengthen the overall quality of VA health services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and administrative action requiring VA to streamline hiring and credentialing processes for health care professionals transitioning from military service, including pre-separation credentialing and expedited background checks; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to partner with military transition programs, including TAP and SkillBridge, to proactively recruit qualified personnel, enable pre-placement into VA medical facilities, and reduce onboarding delays that hinder timely staffing.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 298

SUPPORT PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS IN THE VA CLINICAL APPEALS PROCESS

WHEREAS, most federal and private health systems offer enforceable rights to appeal clinical decisions, including access to independent and timely reviews; and

WHEREAS, effective clinical appeals are critical to health systems operating under capitated care models, such as the VA; and

WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act (Public Law 115–182) significantly expanded access to community care, increasing the need for a reliable and fair appeals process; and

WHEREAS, the current VA clinical appeals process, governed by VHA Directive 1041, lacks basic safeguards such as guaranteed continuity of care, independent review, and clear timelines for resolution; and

WHEREAS, veterans often face inconsistent outcomes and limited recourse due to an overly discretionary clinical appeals system that falls short of standards in other federal programs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to establish a fair and standardized VA clinical appeals process with statutory protections comparable to other federal health programs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports timelines for resolving appeals, inclusion of multidisciplinary clinical input and guaranteed continuity of care during the appeals process; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA to revise its appeals policies with input from veterans and stakeholders, and to ensure proper staff training for consistent implementation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 305

SUPPORT MODERNIZING VA HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, serving millions of veterans annually through numerous sites of care, many of which are decades old and based on outdated hospital models; and

WHEREAS, the VA must modernize its health care infrastructure to meet veterans' evolving health care needs, optimize federal resources, and enhance veterans' access to timely and quality care; and

WHEREAS, the VA's Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) program estimates that tens of billions of dollars are needed over extended periods to maintain existing facilities, expand capacity, and address rising demand for care; and

WHEREAS, funding shortfalls and congressional budgetary rules complicate infrastructure upgrades, including renewing leases for community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) and addressing inefficiencies in VA management and congressional oversight of construction projects; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports full funding of the VA's infrastructure needs as identified in the SCIP program and urges Congress to adopt flexible and sustainable funding models to support long-term VA health care modernization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to actively consult with veterans service organizations to ensure infrastructure improvements strengthen VA's role as the primary health care provider for service-disabled veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the VA streamline oversight and project management of major construction initiatives to deliver timely, high-quality, and veteran-centric health care facilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 307

OPPOSE REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS FROM THIRD PARTIES FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED CARE

WHEREAS, VA's core mission is to provide high-quality health care to veterans for conditions tied to their service; and

WHEREAS, VA is currently authorized to recover costs from private insurers only for care not related to a veteran's service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, allowing or requiring VA to bill third-party insurers for service-connected care shifts responsibility away from the federal government and risks raising veterans' insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the current practice of applying third-party payments toward veterans' VA copayments would unfairly increase out-of-pocket costs for those with service-connected disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any effort to authorize or require VA to bill third-party insurers for treatment of service-connected conditions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 309
SUPPORT ENHANCED ACCESS TO CARE FOR MST SURVIVORS

WHEREAS, military sexual trauma (MST) is a persistent concern affecting both men and women across all branches of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, reductions in reported sexual assault incidents are encouraging, but survivors continue to experience long-term physical, emotional and psychological impacts that require focused, sustained support; and

WHEREAS, MST can result in chronic health conditions, and access to trauma-informed, specialized care remains inconsistent throughout the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, VA MST coordinators assist survivors in obtaining counseling and treatment, yet current VA travel reimbursement policies may limit access to the facilities best equipped to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based treatments for MST exist but are not uniformly available, and gaps in provider training reduce the quality and consistency of care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to:

Expand eligibility for beneficiary travel so MST survivors can access facilities that offer specialized care;

Authorize travel reimbursement for eligible MST-related services provided at Vet Centers;

Standardize and strengthen the delivery of evidence-based MST care across the VA health care system; and

Require all VA and Community Care providers to complete MST-specific training to ensure competent, trauma-informed care for survivors.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 310
SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO VA SUBSTANCE USE CARE

WHEREAS, substance use disorders (SUDs) are a persistent and serious concern among veterans and are often associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and other service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, overdose deaths—particularly from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl—have risen significantly in recent years, impacting veterans and the broader communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, SUDs contribute to increased risk of suicide, homelessness, family instability, involvement with the criminal justice system and poor overall health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that hazardous alcohol use is prevalent among VA outpatients, yet only a small proportion receive appropriate counseling or interventions, highlighting significant gaps in treatment access; and

WHEREAS, the VA offers evidence-based treatment options for SUDs, including medication-assisted therapy, but access to integrated programs that address co-occurring mental health conditions remains inconsistent across the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, availability of detoxification, rehabilitation and long-term recovery support services varies widely by location, and gender-specific treatment options—especially for women veterans—remain limited; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the VA to expand access to evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders, improve integration with mental health services, and ensure the availability of gender-specific programs for all veterans in need.

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RESOLUTION NO. 311
**SUPPORT STRENGTHENING AND EXPANSION OF VA MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, suicide among veterans remains a persistent national concern, with thousands of veterans dying by suicide each year—including disproportionate risk among female veterans—and continued efforts are needed to prevent these tragedies; and

WHEREAS, the VA has made suicide prevention a top clinical priority by expanding outreach to enrolled and non-enrolled veterans, operating a 24/7 Veterans Crisis Line, deploying suicide prevention coordinators, and using data to identify individuals at elevated risk; and

WHEREAS, preventing veteran suicide requires strong, accessible and sustained mental health care services that are evidence-based, culturally competent and tailored to the individual needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, the growing demand for VA mental health and substance use disorder services has outpaced system capacity, with ongoing gaps in specialized treatment such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), detoxification, and residential programs; and

WHEREAS, VA has extended mental health care eligibility to all veterans during their first year after separation and to veterans with other-than-honorable discharges in crisis, yet access remains limited by staffing shortages and geographic disparities; and

WHEREAS, front-line VA personnel often lack standardized crisis response training, which is essential to safely manage mental health emergencies and ensure veterans in crisis receive appropriate, compassionate care; and

WHEREAS, although recent investments have improved aspects of VA mental health services, long-term progress requires sustained funding, staff recruitment and retention, and strategic outreach to underserved and high-risk populations; and

WHEREAS, the DOD and VA share a solemn obligation to provide comprehensive mental health care and rehabilitation for veterans facing post-service adjustment challenges; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the VA to strengthen and expand suicide prevention efforts, enhance the capacity of mental health programs, and increase outreach to high-risk and underserved veteran populations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the implementation of mandatory crisis response training for all VA front-line personnel and security staff to ensure safe and effective intervention for veterans in mental health emergencies.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 313

PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY BY ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, veterans from historically underserved backgrounds—including racial and ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals and veterans living in rural or low-income communities—have long experienced disparities in access to VA benefits and health care services; and

WHEREAS, equity in access to benefits, services and health outcomes is essential to ensuring that all veterans receive the support they have earned through their military service; and

WHEREAS, social determinants of health—including health behaviors, economic conditions, education, social support and physical environment—are recognized as major contributors to overall health outcomes, often outweighing the influence of clinical care alone; and

WHEREAS, social determinants of health are defined as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, shaped by broader economic, social, and political systems; and

WHEREAS, the VA offers comprehensive programs such as disability compensation, housing assistance, caregiver support, education, vocational training and health care services that directly affect many of the social and behavioral determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration has established initiatives such as the Office of Health Equity to identify, monitor, and reduce disparities in health care delivery and outcomes, yet systemic barriers continue to impact underserved veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to strengthen efforts to identify and eliminate barriers to equitable access to benefits and health services for historically underserved veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to promote comprehensive, integrated strategies that address social and economic factors, health behaviors, and environmental conditions alongside personalized clinical care in order to improve health outcomes and eliminate disparities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 315

CREATE A THREE-DIGIT NUMBER TO REPORT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, military service, including deployment, transition stress, traumatic brain injury and mental health conditions, can strain personal relationships; and

WHEREAS, veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, substance use disorders or brain injuries are at higher risk of experiencing or perpetrating aggression in intimate relationships; and

WHEREAS, the existing National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233) provides critical support, but long phone numbers can be difficult to recall during moments of crisis; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by the Department of Health and Human Services and the VA has demonstrated that a simple, easy-to-remember number improves access to care and saves lives; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and the Department of Health and Human Services to create a dedicated three-digit number for veterans to report and seek help for intimate partner violence to ensure fast and confidential support when it is needed most.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 318

URGE COMPREHENSIVE VA RESEARCH ON INTERGENERATIONAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF HERBICIDE EXPOSURE

WHEREAS, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), in its Veterans and Agent Orange series, found a “limited/suggestive” association between herbicide exposure during the Vietnam War and spina bifida in the children of male veterans; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of animal studies suggests that exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange and its dioxin contaminants may induce epigenetic changes, which can be passed from parent to offspring; and

WHEREAS, NASEM found insufficient, inconsistent or statistically weak evidence regarding other birth defects and childhood diseases, including cancers, among the children of exposed veterans; and

WHEREAS, NASEM has repeatedly recommended further laboratory and epidemiological research into the potential for paternal herbicide exposure to cause adverse health outcomes in offspring, including studies focusing on mechanisms of epigenetic inheritance and health conditions that may emerge later in life; and

WHEREAS, many families of Vietnam veterans have reported congenital disabilities, developmental disorders and chronic conditions in their children and grandchildren, raising concern about possible intergenerational effects of toxic exposure; and

WHEREAS, affected families face ongoing challenges in securing recognition, diagnosis, and support for conditions that may be linked to a veteran’s service-related chemical exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to carry out the full scope of research recommended by NASEM, including laboratory and population-based studies, to evaluate the long-term health effects of herbicide exposure on the children and descendants of male Vietnam veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 321

SUPPORT WAIVER OF RETIREMENT PENALTIES TO ENCOURAGE RETURN OF RETIRED VA HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS, VA medical centers nationwide are facing critical shortages of trained nurses, physicians and clinical support personnel; and

WHEREAS, many recently retired VA health professionals are willing to return to service on a part-time or limited basis to help address workforce shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, current federal policies often reduce retirement annuities for retirees who return to federal employment, making reemployment financially disadvantageous; and

WHEREAS, this disincentivizes highly experienced professionals from returning to VA, despite their expertise and willingness to serve; and

WHEREAS, VA’s ongoing staffing shortages are impairing the delivery of timely, quality care and placing additional strain on the remaining workforce; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to allow retired VA medical personnel to return to work without financial penalty; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports appropriate incentives and streamlined rehiring policies to encourage experienced retirees to rejoin the VA workforce and help close critical staffing gaps.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 322 OPPOSE MEANS TESTING FOR VA HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

WHEREAS, Public Law 104–262, requires veterans with a 0% service-connected disability rating to pass a means test before receiving care at VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans have relied on VA health care for years but now risk losing access solely because their income exceeds an arbitrary threshold; and

WHEREAS, this policy imposes unnecessary barriers and financial burdens on veterans whose service-connected conditions entitle them to VA care; and

WHEREAS, the administrative resources spent on means testing could be more effectively used to deliver timely, high-quality health care to veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes means testing for any service-connected disabled veteran, including those rated at 0%; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to place all service-connected disabled veterans in Priority Group 3 and to simplify VA eligibility rules to improve access and reduce administrative burdens.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 323 SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, veterans returning from combat or hardship deployments are at increased risk for mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions can also result from non-combat-related service injuries or illnesses, including chronic pain, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma and life-altering physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental health conditions—regardless of origin—can lead to serious consequences, including relationship breakdowns, financial hardship, homelessness, and involvement with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the VA recognizes the critical role that families play in a veteran’s recovery and provides counseling and support through Vet Centers and other programs; and

WHEREAS, Congress has authorized mental health services for eligible family members—including caregivers, spouses and dependents—to support veterans in their treatment and recovery; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that all enrolled veterans have access to comprehensive mental health care, and that their families, including caregivers, spouses and dependents, are able to receive the counseling and support services authorized under law.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 324 SUPPORT SAFE, VETERAN-CENTERED PAIN MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, pain remains one of the most common reasons veterans seek medical care; and

WHEREAS, many veterans live with chronic pain resulting from traumatic injuries, service-related conditions, or long-term illnesses; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is associated with depression, anxiety, and increased risk of suicide among veterans; and

WHEREAS, concerns about the risks of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose have influenced how the VA approaches pain management; and

WHEREAS, the VA continues to refine its policies to reduce reliance on opioids while promoting safer alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the VA employs a whole-health, interdisciplinary approach to pain management that emphasizes individualized, patient-centered care; and

WHEREAS, some veterans who have relied on opioid medications for long-term pain management may experience reduced access without adequate tapering or viable alternatives, which can lead to unmanaged pain and other serious health consequences; and

WHEREAS, access to treatments for opioid use disorder and overdose reversal medications, such as naloxone, varies across VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based, non-pharmacological therapies—including acupuncture, chiropractic care, yoga and massage—offer effective pain relief but are not consistently available to all veterans; and

WHEREAS, successful transitions away from opioid therapy require comprehensive support, education, and continuity of care to prevent unnecessary suffering; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to establish a consistent, nationwide pain management strategy that emphasizes patient-centered care, integrates safe and compassionate alternatives to opioids, and ensures timely access to prescribed medications; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA to update its clinical guidelines and policies to reflect current federal law and best practices for managing pain and controlled substances in a manner that prioritizes veteran safety, dignity, and quality of life.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 326

SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE VA RESEARCH INTO MEDICAL CANNABIS

WHEREAS, although many states have legalized medical cannabis, federal law continues to classify cannabis as a Schedule I substance—indicating no accepted medical use and prohibiting its possession and use under federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing conflict between state and federal cannabis laws raises public health and legal concerns, particularly for veterans receiving VA care, and is compounded by the lack of comprehensive, evidence-based knowledge regarding the health effects of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report identified some therapeutic benefits of cannabis and cannabinoids—including pain reduction, relief from muscle spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis, and mitigation of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting—while also highlighting potential risks such as impaired driving, mental health conditions and cannabis use disorder; and

WHEREAS, these findings are informative but not conclusive, and underscore the urgent need for further rigorous clinical research to determine the safety, efficacy and appropriate use of cannabis and cannabis-derived products in treating veterans with service-connected conditions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports more comprehensive, scientifically rigorous research by the VA into the therapeutic benefits and potential risks of cannabis and cannabis-derived products for service-connected disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 327

SUPPORT AUTOMATIC VA HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICALLY RETIRED VETERANS, WITH OPT-OUT OPTION

WHEREAS, some service members develop disabilities during active duty that impair their ability to serve, often resulting in medical retirement as determined by the Physical Evaluation Board; and

WHEREAS, the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is intended to educate service members about their post-service benefits, including health care, yet the medical retirement and transition process remains complex and often confusing; and

WHEREAS, VA health care enrollment is currently presented as an opt-in process during TAP, placing the burden on the veteran and sometimes resulting in delays or gaps in care due to incomplete or delayed transfer of medical records from the DOD to the VA; and

WHEREAS, automatically enrolling medically retired veterans in VA health care at the time of separation would reduce administrative barriers, support continuity of care, and ensure timely and complete medical record transfers from DOD to VA; and

WHEREAS, while most medically retired veterans are likely to benefit from immediate enrollment, a voluntary opt-out provision should be available for those who choose not to participate; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports automatically enrolling medically retired veterans in VA health care at the time of separation, with the option to opt out.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 239

SUPPORT ENHANCING CHAMPVA BENEFITS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA) helps cover health care costs for eligible family members of severely disabled or deceased veterans; and

WHEREAS, CHAMPVA beneficiaries include spouses, children, and primary family caregivers of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected conditions, died from service-connected conditions, or died while on active duty and are not otherwise eligible for TRICARE; and

WHEREAS, CHAMPVA beneficiaries often face substantial out-of-pocket costs, including deductibles and copayments, which can total thousands of dollars annually—placing a financial strain on families, particularly those managing chronic illnesses or long-term care needs; and

WHEREAS, CHAMPVA does not routinely cover essential health services such as dental, vision, chiropractic care, or long-term services and supports, limiting access to comprehensive care; and

WHEREAS, while some VA medical centers may provide CHAMPVA care through the CHAMPVA In-House Treatment Initiative (CITI), this care is only available when space permits and at the discretion of individual facilities, creating inconsistency and limited access; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports expanding CHAMPVA coverage to include dental, vision and long-term care services, eliminating copayments, and easing financial burdens on eligible beneficiaries who cannot access care through the CITI program; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to maximize access to the CITI program and prioritize equitable availability of care for CHAMPVA beneficiaries across all eligible VA medical centers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 330

SUPPORT EXPANDED LONG-TERM SERVICES

WHEREAS, the VA has long been a national leader in long-term services and supports (LTSS), pioneering models now widely used in the private sector, founding geriatrics as a medical specialty, and conducting landmark research on aging and chronic illness affecting veterans; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of service-connected disabled veterans rely on VA for post-acute, institutional, and home- and community-based long-term care due to chronic, complex or terminal conditions; and

WHEREAS, the need for LTSS continues to grow as the veteran population ages and as more veterans experience long-term consequences of service-related injuries and illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act (Public Law 106–117), enacted in 1999, requires the VA to provide noninstitutional LTSS to veterans with service-connected disabilities and those rated 50% or higher, but limits access to institutional LTSS to those rated 70% or higher, creating disparities in care access; and

WHEREAS, the delivery of LTSS across VA medical centers is inconsistent, with decentralized planning and limited prioritization resulting in delays, care gaps, and inequities; and

WHEREAS, the VA does not have statutory authority to pay for veterans to reside in community residential care settings such as assisted living facilities or adult foster homes, despite referring many veterans to these non-VA providers; and

WHEREAS, access to home- and community-based LTSS is often dependent on informal caregivers—primarily family or friends—whose capacity may be limited and who often receive insufficient support from VA; and

WHEREAS, home- and community-based LTSS availability varies widely across the country, frequently leading to long waitlists and delayed services for eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA has not fully leveraged partnerships with State Veterans Homes to expand care options and capacity for veterans who require institutional or alternative LTSS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to strengthen, standardize, and expand access to long-term services and supports for all service-connected disabled veterans, regardless of disability rating; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to ensure every VA medical facility and health care network provides timely, comprehensive, and equitable access to both institutional and noninstitutional LTSS for service-connected disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 336

SUPPORT PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION TO INCLUDE VETERANS WITH INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY

WHEREAS, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), administered by the VA, provides critical support to caregivers of eligible veterans with serious service-connected disabilities who require in-person assistance with activities of daily living or supervision for safety; and

WHEREAS, a “serious injury” for PCAFC eligibility is defined as any service-connected disability that (1) is rated at 70% or more by VA, or (2) is combined with other service-connected disabilities resulting in a total combined rating of 70% or more; and

WHEREAS, veterans who have been granted Individual Unemployability (IU)—also known as Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU)—are considered totally disabled due to service-connected conditions that prevent them from securing or maintaining substantially gainful employment, and are compensated at the 100% disability rate; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for IU requires either a single service-connected disability rated at 60% or higher, or multiple service-connected disabilities with a combined rating of 70% or more, with at least one rated at 40%; and

WHEREAS, veterans granted IU based on a single 60% rating do not meet the PCAFC’s definition of “serious injury” under current regulations, despite VA’s determination that they are totally occupationally impaired and in need of compensation at the 100% rate; and

WHEREAS, this policy creates an inequity by excluding IU veterans from PCAFC solely based on their schedular rating, even though their level of disability, economic hardship, and need for caregiver assistance may be equal to or greater than veterans with a 100% schedular rating; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the VA and the United States Congress to expand eligibility for the PCAFC to include veterans who have been granted IU, including those whose eligibility is based on a single service-connected disability rated at 60%, recognizing their total occupational impairment and need for caregiver support.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 337

OPPOSE THE PRACTICE OF TABLET/PILL SPLITTING

WHEREAS, the practice of splitting tablets or pills is often employed to adjust dosages or reduce medication costs; and

WHEREAS, tablet splitting can result in uneven dosages and is especially dangerous for medications not designed to be split—such as extended-release formulations, capsules, and coated tablets—potentially compromising their safety, efficacy, and dosing accuracy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers tablet splitting a “risky practice” and recommends it only be done when explicitly authorized in the medication’s professional prescribing information; and

WHEREAS, splitting tablets exposes the medication to air, moisture, and heat, which may degrade its potency and effectiveness over time; and

WHEREAS, many veterans over the age of sixty face physical challenges such as arthritis, reduced dexterity, or impaired vision, making it difficult or unsafe to split tablets accurately—especially when using outdated or poorly designed pill-splitting tools; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) has adopted a resolution opposing mandated tablet splitting, citing concerns from health care professionals and patients regarding the safety and accuracy of this practice; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to prohibit mandatory tablet splitting and ensure it is only used when clinically necessary, guided by shared decision-making, and accompanied by clear education on risks and alternatives for veterans and caregivers; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VA health care providers and pharmacists should avoid recommending pill splitting unless explicitly supported by the medication's prescribing information and clinically necessary, and should instead prescribe medications in appropriate dosages to ensure safe and accurate administration; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VA patients should be educated about the potential risks of tablet splitting and advised to consult their health care provider before altering any medication regimen; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA, along with other health care organizations and policymakers, should promote the development and availability of medication formulations that meet diverse dosing needs without requiring patients to split tablets—enhancing both safety and adherence to prescribed therapies.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 338

SUPPORT ADVANCING SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH AND CARE

WHEREAS, spinal cord injuries (SCIs) are catastrophic conditions affecting the central nervous system, often resulting in permanent loss of motor, sensory, and autonomic function, with no known cure; and

WHEREAS, the VA estimates that tens of thousands of veterans live with SCIs, including both service-connected and nonservice-connected cases, many of which stem from military service; and

WHEREAS, the VA provides specialized, lifelong care to tens of thousands of veterans with SCIs and related disorders each year, making it the largest single provider of spinal cord care in the United States; and

WHEREAS, SCIs commonly lead to serious secondary complications such as chronic pain, bladder and bowel dysfunction, pressure injuries, respiratory issues, infections, autonomic dysreflexia, spasticity and serious mental health challenges including depression and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, national data consistently show that individuals with SCIs face significantly reduced quality of life, including high rates of unemployment after injury, resulting in long-term impacts on independence, community involvement, and economic stability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and funding to advance spinal cord injury research focused on improving treatment options, restoring function, enhancing quality of life, and honoring the commitment made to veterans living with these life-changing injuries.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 357

SUPPORT EQUAL AND TIMELY VA REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY CARE SERVICES

WHEREAS, VA currently requires emergency transportation claims under the Beneficiary Travel program to be submitted within 30 days of the date of service; and

WHEREAS, this narrow submission window often results in denied claims when submissions are delayed, causing transportation vendors to shift the financial burden onto veterans; and

WHEREAS, veterans who rely on emergency ambulance or other transportation services for urgent, life-saving care should not suffer financial hardship due to inconsistent or overly restrictive VA administrative deadlines; and

WHEREAS, other VA programs, such as the Veterans Community Care Program and Emergency Care Reimbursement Program, allow claims to be submitted within 180 days of the date of service, which highlights a disparity in how emergency services are reimbursed; and

WHEREAS, aligning the submission deadline for emergency transportation invoices under the Beneficiary Travel program with the 180-day standard used for other VA emergency reimbursement programs would ensure consistency and reduce financial burdens on veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to extend the emergency transportation claims deadline under the Beneficiary Travel program from 30 to 180 days; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA and Congress to ensure consistency across all emergency medical reimbursement policies; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports broader reforms to prevent veterans from facing financial hardship due to delayed billing or administrative inconsistencies related to emergency services funded by the VA.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 378

SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VA BENEFICIARY TRAVEL SELF-SERVICE SYSTEM AND REINSTATEMENT OF TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT KIOSKS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration implemented the Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System (BTSSS), a nationwide web-based platform introduced in 2016, to automate travel reimbursement, lower long-term costs and reduce improper payments; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020, the VA replaced travel reimbursement kiosks at VA medical facilities with BTSSS, requiring veterans to use the online system; and

WHEREAS, the BTSSS has not fully met its intended goals, with many veterans experiencing technical difficulties, mapping inaccuracies due to reliance on Bing Maps, and delays in claims processing; and

WHEREAS, the VA Office of Inspector General reported that the system's underperformance was partly due to insufficient input from veterans and veterans service organizations prior to rollout; and

WHEREAS, many veterans lack reliable internet access, necessary devices, or familiarity with web-based systems, creating barriers to timely reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, delays in travel reimbursements place added financial strain on veterans, many of whom already face economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, the current system lacks real-time assistance from VA representatives to promptly resolve claim issues, causing unnecessary frustration; and

WHEREAS, prior travel reimbursement kiosks provided important, accessible alternatives for veterans who could not effectively use the online system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to enhance the BTSSS by providing real-time support to assist veterans in resolving travel claim issues promptly and effectively; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the VA to reinstate travel reimbursement kiosks at all VA medical facilities to ensure equitable, timely and accessible travel reimbursement services for all veterans, regardless of their access to or comfort with digital technology.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 384

ENSURE ALL VETERANS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, service members separating from the military often transition from comprehensive DOD medical coverage to no health care coverage at all; and

WHEREAS, providing immediate access to VA health care services following discharge—even for a limited period—would help facilitate a smoother transition to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, lack of timely access to health care contributes to adverse outcomes, including worsening physical and mental health conditions and increases the risk of veterans falling through gaps in the health care safety net; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports ensuring all honorably discharged military service personnel—including those from the regular active duty, Reserve and National Guard components—be eligible to receive VA health care services immediately upon discharge from military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if a veteran exceeds VA's current means-testing threshold, reasonable copayments may be applied where necessary to ensure access without undue financial burden.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 386

SUPPORT ACCESS TO ROUTINE AND SPECIALIZED OBSTETRIC AND GYNCOLOGICAL CARE FOR MILITARY WOMEN AND WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, women comprise approximately 18 to 20% of the total active-duty military force; and WHEREAS, military women are often stationed in geographically isolated areas within the continental United States (CONUS) and overseas, limiting access to consistent and specialized health care; and

WHEREAS, ensuring timely and comprehensive obstetric and gynecological care—including prenatal, maternity, postpartum, fertility, and preventive gynecological services—is essential for the health, readiness, and retention of military women; and

WHEREAS, barriers to care such as geographic distance, provider shortages, and out-of-pocket costs disproportionately affect access to women's health care services for military women and women veterans; and

WHEREAS, providing routine and complex obstetric and gynecological care at no additional cost through Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and VA-approved community care providers promotes equity, operational readiness and quality of life for military women and women veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the DOD and VA to ensure that military women and women veterans have access to comprehensive obstetric and gynecological care, including pregnancy-related services and gynecological screenings, at no additional cost through MTFs and VA-approved providers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 397

PROTECT VETERANS' VA BENEFITS WHEN PARTICIPATING IN STATE-APPROVED MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the federal classification of marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance conflicts with many states' legalization of medical marijuana, creating a complex legal and regulatory environment that impacts veterans' access to care; and

WHEREAS, research and veteran patient feedback indicate that medical marijuana can be an effective treatment option for certain conditions prevalent among veterans, including chronic pain, PTSD, and other mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, VA policy currently restricts providers from recommending medical marijuana, which limits their ability to offer comprehensive, patient-centered care in states where it is legal; and

WHEREAS, open communication and trust between veterans and their VA providers are essential for effective treatment and improving health outcomes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to ensure its doctors and health care providers can fully support veterans using state-approved medical marijuana, including discussing, documenting, and treating accordingly; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports allowing VA providers to make medical recommendations and treatment adjustments related to marijuana use without risking veterans' eligibility for VA benefits.

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RESOLUTION NO. 413

SUPPORT ACCESSIBLE VA COMMUNICATION FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED VETERANS VIA TELEPHONE

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities are entitled to equal access and non-discrimination under federal laws that govern public services; and

WHEREAS, VA, as a federal agency serving millions of veterans, has a legal and moral obligation to provide accommodations that ensure all veterans, including those with disabilities, can access its programs and services independently; and

WHEREAS, telephone communication remains a critical method for veterans to access benefits, schedule appointments, and obtain important information from the VA; and

WHEREAS, visually impaired veterans often experience significant difficulties when navigating automated telephone systems that rely primarily on keypad inputs, which can lead to frustration, delay, or the need for assistance from others; and

WHEREAS, requiring visually impaired veterans to depend on others to navigate telephone systems compromises their independence, privacy, and dignity; and

WHEREAS, accessible telephone communication options, such as voice recognition systems, direct operator assistance, or other adaptive technologies, can significantly improve access and quality of service for visually impaired veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to establish and enforce a consistent, nationwide policy requiring all VA facilities, offices, and call centers to provide accessible telephone communication options that fully meet the needs of visually impaired veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 414

SUPPORT TIMELY VA PAYMENTS FOR PURCHASED CARE AND PROTECTION FROM FINANCIAL PENALTIES

WHEREAS, VA is authorized to provide a comprehensive range of health care services to enrolled service-connected veterans, including preventive, primary, specialty, mental health, and rehabilitative care; and

WHEREAS, Congress has expanded veterans' access to care through legislation such as the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146) and the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–182), authorizing the VA to purchase care from non-VA community providers; and

WHEREAS, VA spending on purchased care has steadily increased to meet the growing health care needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, delays in VA payments to community providers have resulted in veterans receiving inaccurate or late bills and copayment notices—sometimes long after care such as emergency services or transportation was delivered; and

WHEREAS, such payment delays can cause community providers to pursue collections or report veterans to credit agencies, potentially damaging veterans' credit and placing an unfair financial burden on them; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to strengthen its administrative processes to ensure timely payment to all non-VA community providers; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to pass legislation requiring the VA to reimburse or require providers to forgive any copayments billed more than 180 days after care is delivered, including emergency care and transportation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to protect veterans from credit damage and collections caused by delayed or incomplete VA payments to community providers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 421

SUPPORT VA RESEARCH ON SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR LGBTQ+ VETERANS

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ veterans are more likely to experience suicidal ideation and attempts than their cisgender and heterosexual peers; and

WHEREAS, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ face unique physical and mental health challenges that may contribute to increased suicide risk; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ veterans experience higher rates of military sexual trauma, HIV/AIDS, intimate partner violence, substance use, and tobacco use—each of which are known risk factors for suicide; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the VA in expanding research on suicide prevention among LGBTQ+ veterans and translating that research into culturally competent clinical interventions and support programs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 422
SUPPORT RESEARCH ON EARLY ONSET MENSTRUAL DISORDERS AND
HYSTERECTOMIES

WHEREAS, an increasing number of women veterans report menstrual disorders following their military service, indicating a need to understand underlying causes; and

WHEREAS, such menstrual disorders can result in early hysterectomies, raising concerns about potential links to toxic exposures experienced during military service; and

WHEREAS, research specifically focused on women's health issues—particularly menstrual disorders and early hysterectomy incidence in younger women veterans aged 30 to 45—remains limited and requires significant expansion; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls for increased and targeted research into early onset menstrual disorders and hysterectomy symptoms among women veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 477
SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE VA HEALTH CARE AND FUNDING REFORM

WHEREAS, DAV believes every veteran has earned timely, high-quality health care through the VA in recognition of their service, and when VA care is not readily available, community care must be delivered through coordinated, high-value networks; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the nation's largest federal health care provider, a leader in medical research, and a vital training ground for clinical professionals, yet insufficient and inconsistent funding too often limits access to care and services veterans have been promised; and

WHEREAS, VA must be equipped to meet the diverse needs of all enrolled veterans by ensuring health care quality and safety, expanding telehealth, preserving expertise in specialized care such as traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, blindness, mental health, amputations, and long-term care, while providing culturally competent and gender-specific care for women and minority veterans; and

WHEREAS, quality care depends on modernized human resources policies to recruit and retain qualified professionals, robust veteran-focused research and innovation, and reliable delivery of supplies, prosthetics, and medications for service-connected conditions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation that ensures comprehensive VA health care, full and sustained funding, and the continued ability of VA to deliver world-class care to all veterans who rely on its services.

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RESOLUTION NO. 478
SUPPORT REFORM OF VA COMMUNITY NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY RULES

WHEREAS, current VA policy for community nursing home care restricts eligibility to veterans with a single or combined service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher, or those with a single 60% rating and total disability due to individual unemployability (TDIU), excluding many veterans with multiple severe but lower-rated service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, this framework does not account for the combined impact of multiple disabilities that share a common cause, which together can create the same or greater functional impairment as a single high-rated disability; and

WHEREAS, failing to consider common etiology when determining eligibility results in veterans with serious service-related conditions being denied access to the long-term care they require, despite significant impairments in performing essential activities of daily living (ADLs); and

WHEREAS, these restrictions increase the burden on family caregivers, contribute to caregiver burnout, and lead to higher VA costs over time due to increased emergency care and preventable hospitalizations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to revise its community nursing home eligibility policy to ensure that veterans with multiple service-connected conditions that collectively impair independence or daily functioning are eligible for VA-purchased community nursing home care.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 481
SUPPORT SECTION 1151, NEGLIGENCE AND MALPRACTICE PROTECTIONS FOR
VETERANS RECEIVING VA-PURCHASED CARE

WHEREAS, the VA serves as the primary health care provider for millions of wartime and service-disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, under Title 38, United States Code, Section 1151, veterans may receive compensation for additional disability or death caused by negligence in VA-provided care; and

WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–182) expanded veterans’ access to care through the VA’s community care network of non-VA providers; and

WHEREAS, veterans receiving care paid for by the VA through community providers under VA-purchased care do not currently have the same legal protections or compensation rights under Section 1151 for injuries resulting from negligence or malpractice, unlike those treated directly by VA facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to pass legislation extending Section 1151 protections to veterans receiving care through VA’s community care network, ensuring equal accountability and justice for all veterans regardless of where they are treated.

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RESOLUTION NO. 482
SUPPORT RESEARCH ON HEALTH RISKS FROM PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE
CHEMICAL EXPOSURE IN SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

WHEREAS, according to the October 2021 report by the National Toxicology Program, plastic disposable water bottles can leach bisphenol A and other chemicals into drinking water when exposed to heat over time; and

WHEREAS, Johns Hopkins University researcher Dr. Rolf Halden has explained that phthalates—chemicals commonly found in plastics—are environmental contaminants that can act as endocrine disruptors, exhibiting hormone-like effects in humans and animals; and

WHEREAS, plastic disposable water bottles were widely used by U.S. military personnel in extreme temperature environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, exposure to chemicals leached from heated plastics has been associated in scientific literature with potential long-term health effects, including increased cancer risk; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to authorize additional research by the National Academy of Sciences or other qualified institutions to study the long-term health effects, including cancer risks, associated with exposure to heated plastics and plastic water bottles.

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RESOLUTION NO. 495
SUPPORT RIGHTS AND BENEFITS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE
VETERANS

WHEREAS, Native Americans have served in the armed forces at higher rates than any other racial or ethnic group, and many return to remote tribal communities where poverty, poor transportation, and long distances to VA facilities create significant barriers to accessing earned benefits; and

WHEREAS, the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations has identified challenges for Native American and Alaska Native veterans, including limited transportation, housing, employment, and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, many VA clinical providers lack cultural competency regarding Native American and Alaska Native traditions, creating additional barriers to care; and

WHEREAS, the VA and Indian Health Service (IHS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate care, but full implementation has been delayed, leaving tribal governments and veterans uninformed about their rights and benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and IHS to fully implement the MOU, ensure leadership accountability, and deliver the services Native American and Alaska Native veterans have earned and deserve.

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RESOLUTION NO. 508
SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VA READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND VET CENTERS

WHEREAS, Congress established the Readjustment Counseling Service in 1979 to provide mental health support to combat veterans; and

WHEREAS, the first Vet Center opened in 1980 to serve Vietnam veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other combat-related conditions; and

WHEREAS, today's national network of more than 300 Vet Centers, over 80 mobile units, and 19 outstations offers vital services to veterans and their families, including counseling for PTSD, military sexual trauma, reintegration challenges, suicide prevention, and family and bereavement support; and

WHEREAS, Vet Centers have successfully supported veterans of all major conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Vet Centers lead VA mental health programs in veteran-to-veteran peer counseling by employing trained veterans with lived experience to support those facing post-deployment mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, Vet Centers also coordinate peer retreats, offering both gender-specific and mixed-gender group support to enhance community and recovery; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, commends the Readjustment Counseling Service and its Vet Centers, and urges Congress to provide sufficient and sustained funding to meet rising demand, expand outreach to underserved veterans and support continued innovation in peer-based counseling and mental health services.

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RESOLUTION NO. 509
SUPPORT SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED COMPENSATION & PENSION EXAMINATIONS INTO VA MEDICAL RECORDS

WHEREAS, VA requires Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations as part of the disability claims process for veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA relies on both VA clinicians and private medical contractors to conduct these C&P examinations; and

WHEREAS, C&P examinations include physical assessments and depend significantly on the veteran's own account of symptoms, conditions and military experiences to ensure accurate evaluations that guide benefits decisions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges that all completed C&P examinations—whether conducted by VA or private contractors—be submitted into the veteran's VA medical record to promote transparency and continuity of care.

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RESOLUTION NO. 510
SUPPORT STRENGTHENING SECURITY AT VA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

WHEREAS, VA Office of Inspector General reports have documented high vacancy rates—averaging around one-third—in police service positions across VA medical centers, severely undermining facility security; and

WHEREAS, these reports have also identified significant security deficiencies, including lack of security presence at many publicly accessible entrances and nonfunctional or unmonitored security cameras; and

WHEREAS, veterans receiving care at VA medical centers have experienced fatal incidents related to inadequate security and insufficient crisis response, particularly involving mental health crises; and

WHEREAS, clinicians at VA facilities have raised safety concerns and requested enhanced security measures such as metal detectors and increased staffing to better protect veterans and staff; and

WHEREAS, these ongoing challenges underscore the urgent need to improve physical security, fill staffing shortages, and enhance crisis response capabilities at VA health care facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to:

Fully staff VA police and security officer positions to appropriate levels;

Increase training in de-escalation techniques and mental health crisis intervention;
Support physical security upgrades, including installation of metal detectors and improved access control; and
Fund modernization of surveillance systems and ensure adequate staffing to monitor and respond to security threats in real time.

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RESOLUTION NO. 528

SUPPORT AFFORDABLE, RENT-CONTROLLED ASSISTED LIVING

WHEREAS, veterans with service-connected disabilities or low incomes often face significant challenges accessing long-term housing that meets both their medical and financial needs; and

WHEREAS, while VA administers several housing programs, it currently lacks a dedicated nationwide initiative offering rent-controlled assisted living options tailored to the unique needs of aging or disabled veterans and their spouses; and

WHEREAS, the absence of affordable assisted living alternatives exacerbates housing instability and places added strain on the VA health care system and family caregivers; and

WHEREAS, coordinated federal and state action is critical to addressing systemic barriers to long-term housing stability for vulnerable veteran populations, including those transitioning from homelessness, institutional care, or incarceration; and

WHEREAS, a nationwide rent-controlled assisted living program would prioritize service-connected and low-income veterans and allow greater access to safe, stable housing integrated with VA case management, health care coordination, employment support, and benefits counseling; and

WHEREAS, such a program should cap rental costs at no more than 30% of adjusted gross income, exclude VA disability compensation and pensions from income calculations and follow fair market rent guidelines with appropriate local exemptions; and

WHEREAS, implementation would require the VA to collaborate with State VA agencies to identify suitable properties for conversion, develop long-term project-based rental agreements, and establish oversight mechanisms to ensure equitable resource distribution and compliance with eligibility standards; and

WHEREAS, dedicated federal appropriations and support for public-private partnerships would help reduce development costs and leverage available housing tax credits, ensuring long-term program sustainability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation establishing a national rent-controlled assisted living housing initiative for veterans with service-connected disabilities, low-income veterans, and eligible spouses; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to direct the VA to report annually on program enrollment, geographic reach, and measurable outcomes related to housing stability and veteran health.

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RESOLUTION NO. 585

SUPPORT NAMING THE VA MARE ISLAND CLINIC IN VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA, AS THE DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER VA CLINIC

WHEREAS, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, a lifelong resident of Vallejo, California, is a retired First Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve, a disabled veteran of Operation Desert Storm, and a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal; and

WHEREAS, she is a life member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and DAV (Disabled American Veterans), with a longstanding record of service to veterans, their families, and survivors; and

WHEREAS, Delphine Metcalf-Foster made history as the first African American woman to serve as Commander of the DAV Department of California and later as DAV National Commander, representing the organization nationally from 2017 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, she has served on the VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and the VA Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, contributing to more than 60 policy improvements in women veterans' health care; and

WHEREAS, she has testified before Congress in support of stronger outreach, health care, and services for women veterans and all who have served; and

WHEREAS, her leadership has been formally recognized by the Department Commanders of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and DAV, as well as the California State Commanders Veterans Council, the state's recognized coalition of major veterans service organizations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports naming the Veterans Affairs Mare Island Clinic in Vallejo, California, as the Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic.

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RESOLUTION NO. 586

SUPPORT GREATER VA COLLABORATION WITH FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, Fisher House Foundation provides free lodging for families of veterans and service members receiving care at VA and military medical centers, allowing loved ones to remain close during a veteran's treatment and recovery; and

WHEREAS, family presence and support play a vital role in the healing process and long-term well-being of ill and injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, alternative accommodations such as community hotels are often cost-prohibitive and may pose safety concerns for families during times of medical crisis; and

WHEREAS, Fisher Houses operate at no cost to the VA or to the families they serve, relying entirely on public and private donations for construction and operation; and

WHEREAS, DAV strongly believes that high-quality care for veterans must include family support and education as part of the treatment environment; and

WHEREAS, not all VA medical centers currently have a Fisher House on campus, and some facilities have not yet partnered with the Foundation to establish one; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls on the VA to actively cooperate with the Fisher House Foundation, including in its fundraising and expansion efforts, so that more VA medical centers can provide this critical support to the families of veterans receiving care.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 588

ENSURE FULL ACCESSIBILITY OF VA FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (Public Law 101–336) provides a clear mandate to eliminate discrimination and promote full participation for individuals with disabilities in employment, commerce, and government services, including health care; and

WHEREAS, the ADA requires that new construction adhere to barrier-free design standards and mandates reasonable modifications to existing facilities to ensure access for individuals with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs or service animals; and

WHEREAS, some VA health care facilities, services, and medical equipment remain inaccessible for veterans with mobility disabilities and those accompanied by service dogs, creating unnecessary barriers to timely and appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93–112) requires that individuals with disabilities have equal access to all federal benefits and services, including the availability of printed and electronic materials in accessible formats; and

WHEREAS, recent evaluations have shown that only a small percentage of VA websites fully comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which sets accessibility standards for federal electronic and information technology used by individuals with visual or other impairments; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress and the VA to ensure that all VA facilities, programs, services, digital platforms, and information resources are fully accessible to veterans with disabilities, including those with physical, sensory, cognitive and mental health impairments, in compliance with all federal disability access laws and standards.

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RESOLUTION NO. 589
SUPPORT EXPANSION OF VA GEROFIT (GERIATRICS AND EXTENDED CARE FITNESS) PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the nation's largest integrated health care system, delivering care at 170 medical centers and over 1,190 outpatient clinics across the country; and

WHEREAS, the VHA operates Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECCs) to support the unique health and wellness needs of aging veterans; and

WHEREAS, as part of this mission, the VHA offers the Gerofit program at 33 facilities in 21 states, providing personalized, supervised exercise plans that have been shown to improve physical function, mental health, and overall well-being for senior veterans; and

WHEREAS, despite its documented success, the Gerofit program remains unavailable in 39 states and at more than 130 VHA facilities, leaving millions of older veterans without access to this proven health intervention; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress and the VA to expand the Gerofit program to additional VHA facilities nationwide, ensuring equitable access to this essential program for all eligible senior veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 605
SUPPORT NURSING STUDENTS VOLUNTEERING IN VETERAN NURSING HOMES

WHEREAS, many Veteran Nursing Homes across the United States currently have nursing staff vacancies that result in qualified veterans being placed on waiting lists for long-term care; and

WHEREAS, staffing shortages at these facilities threaten the quality of care, delay timely admissions, and increase the burden on remaining nursing staff, impacting veterans who have earned access to long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently provides extensive nursing training pathways, including paid clinical internships such as VA-STEP (Student Trainee Experience Program) for nursing students and year-long nurse residency programs (e.g., Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner residencies) to train and transition new graduates into VA practice; and

WHEREAS, nursing students nationwide could be encouraged to volunteer to fill these vacant nursing positions at Veteran Nursing Homes with incentives such as academic credit toward their graduation requirements; and valuable volunteer experience working directly with veterans; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation and programs that allow and encourage nursing students across the country to volunteer in vacant nursing positions at Veteran Nursing Homes to reduce waiting lists and provide veterans with the long-term care they need and deserve.

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RESOLUTION NO. 608
SUPPORT TO ALLOW DISABLED VETERANS TO USE TAX-FREE IRA FUNDS FOR CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY ENTRANCE FEES

WHEREAS, service-disabled veterans often face more complex health conditions due to injuries and illnesses incurred during military service, and access to continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) can provide significant health and quality-of-life benefits; and

WHEREAS, CCRCs offer a continuum of care—medical, supportive services, and residential accommodations—that can enhance stability, independence, and long-term wellness for veterans, while also freeing up space in VA medical centers and state veterans homes for those in need of more acute care; and

WHEREAS, veterans residing in CCRCs may receive more consistent preventive care and experience fewer health crises, potentially reducing long-term federal health care expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of CCRC entrance fees—often hundreds of thousands of dollars—poses a financial barrier for many service-disabled veterans, and allowing tax-free withdrawals from traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) could make such care more accessible; and

WHEREAS, a service-disabled veteran in a 20% tax bracket could save approximately \$60,000 in federal income tax on a \$300,000 CCRC entrance fee if such withdrawals were tax-exempt; and

WHEREAS, current federal law allows qualified charitable distributions from IRAs to be made tax-free, and creating a similar exemption for CCRC entrance fees for disabled veterans would align with existing policy principles and likely garner bipartisan support; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly supports legislation to allow service-disabled veterans to withdraw funds from traditional IRAs, without tax penalty, to pay for entrance fees to CCRCs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 634

SUPPORT INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT IN VA TOTAL DISABILITY COMPENSATION ELIGIBILITY

WHEREAS, millions of veterans suffer from chronic mental health disabilities incurred during or as a result of military service; and

WHEREAS, the VA offers inpatient domiciliary care through the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MH RRTP) for these disabilities; and

WHEREAS, VA compensates veterans rated totally disabled when hospitalized for extended periods; and

WHEREAS, veterans receiving treatment in MH RRTP often lose income due to inability to pursue their occupations during inpatient care, which can discourage them from seeking necessary mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, prior to October 2018, the VA compensated qualifying veterans for total disability during MH RRTP treatment but subsequently ceased this practice; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports amending regulations to explicitly include MH RRTP domiciliary care in the definition of VA health care treatment that establishes eligibility for payment of compensation for total disability.

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RESOLUTION NO. 635

PROTECT DUAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR MEDICALLY RETIRED VETERANS

WHEREAS, military medically retired veterans were promised and have earned lifetime health care through the DOD upon completion of their required military service; and

WHEREAS, these veterans are separately entitled to health care through the VA, providing them with dual eligibility to access comprehensive care tailored to their unique needs; and

WHEREAS, dual eligibility allows medically retired veterans to obtain the best possible services from both systems without unnecessary duplication of costs; and

WHEREAS, entitlement to care in one system does not negate or justify restricting entitlement in the other, as each system offers distinct benefits and resources; and

WHEREAS, restricting or limiting access to either DOD or VA health care would compromise the promises made to medically retired veterans, impair their ability to receive high-quality care and undermine recognition of their sacrifices and service; and

WHEREAS, collaboration and coordination between DOD and VA can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of health care delivery for medically retired veterans; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in VA or DOD health care—particularly for service-connected disabled veterans—should never create barriers or restrictions to accessing benefits from either system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any legislative or policy action that restricts or diminishes health care eligibility for medically retired veterans in either the DOD or VA health care systems; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to enact and uphold clear protections guaranteeing medically retired veterans unrestricted access to both DOD and VA health care systems; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV advocates for enhanced cooperation between the VA and DOD to maximize the benefits of both health care systems, ensuring seamless, barrier-free access to care for medically retired veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 636

SUPPORT VA OVERSIGHT AND FACILITY POLICY FOR SERVICE DOG ACCESS

WHEREAS, service dogs are an essential part of the lives of many veterans with physical or mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), mobility impairments and other disabilities; and

WHEREAS, to be recognized as a service dog, the animal must be individually trained to perform specific tasks that directly relate to the veteran's disability; and

WHEREAS, improperly trained or misrepresented animals brought into VA medical centers or community-based outpatient clinics can pose a safety risk to veterans, staff and legitimate service dog teams; and

WHEREAS, veterans and their service dogs should be able to safely access VA facilities without interference or risk from untrained animals or pets misrepresented as service animals; and

WHEREAS, greater oversight, including consistent policy enforcement and staff education on service dog access, would improve the safety and functionality of VA facilities for all veterans; and

WHEREAS, a designated VA Service Dog Champion at each facility could help implement policy, educate staff and veterans and ensure consistent application of service dog access standards; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the VA creating an oversight structure, including designation of a Service Dog Champion, to ensure that only qualified service dog teams are permitted in VA medical facilities and clinics, thereby ensuring the safety and integrity of services for veterans with disabilities who rely on service dogs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 637

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VA MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, robust VA medical and prosthetic research is vital for restoring health, developing new treatments, and improving the understanding of illnesses affecting veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA research addresses critical war-related injuries, diseases that disproportionately affect veterans, and mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, VA researchers have achieved national and global recognition for advancing health care for veterans and the general population; and

WHEREAS, many VA researchers also serve as clinicians and educators, enhancing the quality of care delivered to veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA research is guided by rigorous ethical and scientific standards; and

WHEREAS, the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service pioneers technologies that improve the lives of disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA research budget—though relatively small compared to National Institutes of Health and DOD research funding—faces significant challenges due to funding shortfalls and outdated infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, modern biomedical research requires significant investments in scientific computing, data systems and access to high-quality electronic health record data; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly supports adequately funding the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program to address infrastructure and IT deficits and to continue its vital work in improving the lives of wounded, injured, and ill veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 638

SUPPORT EQUITABLE ACCESS TO VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR VETERANS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS

WHEREAS, veterans from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds make up a significant and growing portion of the overall veteran population; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has not consistently provided disaggregated data to demonstrate equitable access to benefits and services for racial and ethnic minority veterans, despite long-standing recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration has reported higher rates of service connection and greater utilization of mental health and substance use disorder services among minority veterans, but disparities in diagnoses and outcomes between white and minority veterans remain insufficiently understood; and

WHEREAS, disparities in health care access and outcomes persist across the VA system, driven in part by social and behavioral determinants of health—including financial and nonfinancial barriers—that adversely affect racial and ethnic minority veterans; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VBA to routinely collect and publicly report data on applications, utilization, adjudication outcomes and program completion by veterans, disaggregated by racial, ethnic and gender demographics; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to take meaningful action to address social and behavioral determinants of health and remove systemic barriers to equitable care and benefits for racial and ethnic minority veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 639

ENCOURAGE VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM MANAGERS TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR DAV VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, DAV established the Volunteer of the Year award program to recruit, retain, and recognize volunteers serving disabled veterans in VA facilities and local communities; and

WHEREAS, the award honors outstanding DAV and DAV Auxiliary members who dedicate their time and energy to disabled veterans through VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) programs; and

WHEREAS, DAV annually solicits nominations from VA Voluntary Service program managers but continues to receive few responses; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly encourages each VA Voluntary Service program manager to nominate deserving DAV and Auxiliary members for this prestigious award in recognition of their dedication and service to veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 640

SUPPORT VA RESEARCH AND ACCESS TO PSYCHEDELIC THERAPIES FOR PTSD AND TBI

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) affect millions of veterans, often resulting in severe impairments in daily functioning and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, traditional treatments for PTSD and TBI have proven insufficient for many veterans, with only two FDA-approved PTSD medications introduced more than two decades ago, and limited therapeutic innovation since then; and

WHEREAS, psychedelic-assisted therapies—including those using methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) and psilocybin—have demonstrated potential in significantly reducing PTSD symptoms in clinical trials and have been granted breakthrough therapy designation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS, VA has initiated its first clinical trials involving psychedelic compounds in decades, but further research and expanded access are necessary to determine their safety, efficacy, and applicability for veteran-specific conditions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation requiring the VA to accelerate and expand research into psychedelic-assisted therapies and, if proven safe and effective, to provide access to such treatments for veterans suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

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RESOLUTION NO. 641

SUPPORT INTEGRATION OF DOD MEDICAL INNOVATIONS INTO VA HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, active-duty service members sustain numerous injuries, illnesses, and diseases, many of which make them eligible for VA benefits and health care after military service; and

WHEREAS, DOD research and treatment initiatives improve health outcomes for service members and support their transition to VA health care; and

WHEREAS, the DOD is advancing important initiatives to treat conditions such as traumatic brain injury, mental health challenges, toxic exposures, and the development of advanced prosthetics; and

WHEREAS, these DOD innovations play a pivotal role in improving long-term health outcomes for service members as they transition to veteran status; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to advance DOD medical research and innovation that improves outcomes for future service-disabled veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports stronger coordination between the DOD and VA to ensure new treatments and technologies are effectively carried over as service members transition to VA care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to adopt and implement proven DOD-developed medical innovations to improve long-term health outcomes for veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 642

SUPPORT EXPANDING TRAVEL AND LODGING REIMBURSEMENTS IN THE VA FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the VA Foreign Medical Program (FMP) does not currently provide reimbursement for travel or lodging for service-connected veterans who require medical treatment unavailable within a reasonable distance or timeframe from their country of residence, necessitating travel to another foreign country that can deliver the required care; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans enrolled in the FMP often require transportation and lodging for treatment of certain service-connected conditions—such as multiple-dose cancer therapies and outpatient surgical procedures—that require recovery periods exceeding 24 hours before returning home is medically appropriate; and

WHEREAS, some veterans require comprehensive caregiver assistance for activities of daily living while receiving such treatment abroad, and caregiver travel and lodging expenses should also be eligible for reimbursement; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to provide travel and lodging reimbursements to service-connected disabled veterans enrolled in the FMP and, when medically appropriate, to their caregivers, for treatment of service-connected conditions that require extended medical care or delays in travel due to medical necessity, including cancer therapies and surgical procedures with post-treatment recovery exceeding 24 hours.

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RESOLUTION NO. 643

SUPPORT INCLUSION OF QUALIFIED NON-FAMILY CAREGIVERS

WHEREAS, veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and receive compensation often encounter difficulties in maintaining their household due to physical limitations and lack of familial support; and

WHEREAS, many veterans reside in permanent living situations that may be contraindicated for their overall well-being and safety, exacerbating the challenges they face in performing essential household chores; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to expand support services to ensure these veterans receive adequate assistance with daily tasks, thereby enhancing their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the current VA Caregiver Rule does not include provisions for nonfamilial caregivers for disabled veterans receiving compensation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, encourages the VA to enhance the Caregiver Rule to include eligibility for nonfamilial caregivers for veterans who are permanently and totally disabled, receive compensation and reside in permanent living situations that are contraindicated for their well-being and safety; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that eligible veterans under this enhancement shall be provided a nonfamilial caregiver to assist with labor-intensive household chores, including but not limited to laundry, cleaning and yardwork; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA should establish clear guidelines and procedures for determining eligibility, assessing the need for caregiver assistance and assigning appropriate nonfamilial caregivers; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA should ensure nonfamilial caregivers receive adequate training, support and compensation for their services, commensurate with the level of care required; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA should prioritize prompt implementation of this enhancement to ensure timely assistance for eligible veterans in need; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA should regularly review and assess the effectiveness of this enhancement in meeting the needs of disabled veterans and their nonfamilial caregivers and make adjustments as necessary.

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RESOLUTION NO. 645

SUPPORT STRENGTHENING THE VHA WORKFORCE TO MEET VETERANS' HEALTH NEEDS

WHEREAS, staffing shortages across critical clinical and support positions in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)—combined with ongoing attrition and rising demand for veterans' health care—impede the delivery of timely, high-quality, veteran-centric medical services, necessitating proactive and sustained strategies to recruit and retain health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, nursing professionals—including licensed practical nurses (LPNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs), and registered nurses—provide the majority of hands-on, day-to-day care and are essential to delivering high-quality, veteran-centric services across all VHA settings; and

WHEREAS, mental health professionals—such as psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers and other behavioral health specialists—are vital to addressing the mental health needs of veterans, including those with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, primary care providers, including family medicine and internal medicine physicians, along with specialty medical staff such as surgeons, anesthesiologists, cardiologists, oncologists and neurologists, play a pivotal role in managing veterans' overall health, chronic conditions and complex medical needs; and

WHEREAS, rehabilitation therapists—including physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists—collaborate with diagnostic and support staff, such as medical technologists, radiologic technologists and laboratory technicians, to aid in recovery, enhance functionality and ensure timely and accurate diagnoses; and

WHEREAS, emergency care staff—including emergency medicine physicians, trauma nurses and paramedics—along with clinical pharmacists and other allied health professionals, are essential to providing lifesaving care, urgent medical treatment and safe and effective medication management, particularly for veterans with complex and acute health care needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the continuation and expansion of aggressive recruiting strategies to fill all clinical care and support vacancies across the VHA health care system; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to fully utilize all levels of its clinical workforce—including licensed, certified and auxiliary health care professionals—as a standard practice to optimize veteran-centered medical services and address staffing challenges effectively whenever they arise.

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RESOLUTION NO. 646

SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAMS ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH

WHEREAS, a significant portion of veterans from all combat eras experience the chronic effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, without effective treatment, PTSD is associated with significant adverse consequences such as substance use disorders, family dissolution, unemployment, homelessness, involvement in the justice system, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, the VA has developed effective programs for addressing the chronic needs of most veterans struggling with PTSD through trauma exposure-based therapies and pharmaceutical interventions; and

WHEREAS, the VA is an acknowledged world leader in the development of effective PTSD treatments and continues to explore promising interventions; and

WHEREAS, despite the VA's use of evidence-based treatment protocols, many veterans discontinue traumatic exposure therapies prematurely, and a significant number continue to struggle with symptoms; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic growth (PTG) emphasizes building resilience by encouraging veterans to adopt new belief systems that help them cope, problem-solve and find meaning in life after trauma; and

WHEREAS, certain PTG-based programs—such as the U.S. Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness initiative, including Master Resilience Training, and the Boulder Crest Warrior PATHH program—have been associated with improved psychological health and sustained well-being; and

WHEREAS, these programs are often delivered by trained peer counselors, many of whom are veterans in recovery from PTSD themselves; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to develop a pilot program to assess the effectiveness of standardized PTG programs in achieving long-term health outcomes for veterans with treatment-resistant or complex PTSD.

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RESOLUTION NO. 647

SUPPORT EQUITABLE AND CONSISTENT ACCESS TO VA TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, many disabled veterans face mobility challenges due to service-connected disabilities, which limit their access to VA health care and services; and

WHEREAS, the VA operates transportation programs such as the Veterans Transportation Service and the Beneficiary Travel Program, but these programs often fail to fully meet the transportation needs of service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent eligibility criteria and unclear policies regarding special mode transportation—such as wheelchair-accessible vans—create barriers to accessing timely VA care; and

WHEREAS, programs like the Highly Rural Transportation Grant serve only select geographic areas, leaving significant gaps in transportation access for veterans outside those designated regions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to implement a comprehensive, consistent transportation policy that simplifies and expands access for all service-connected veterans, ensuring timely and equitable access to VA health care services.

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RESOLUTION NO. 648

SUPPORT INCREASING VETERANS' ACCESS AT VA FACILITIES BY EXTENDING COVERAGE ON WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is committed to providing quality care for eligible veterans when they want and need care, and has made progress in improving access to health care services as the needs and preferences of the veteran patient population evolve; and

WHEREAS, VHA Directive 1231(4) requires VA medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics treating more than 10,000 unique veterans per fiscal year to provide access to a minimum of four extended clinic hours per week in both primary care and mental health clinics, and at least one extended clinic hour per month for women's health services, thereby increasing access to care beyond regular business hours; and

WHEREAS, regular business hours for VHA services are generally 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, but offering extended operating hours—including urgent care services available through VA medical centers and in-network community providers during evenings and weekends—could ease the burden on service-connected disabled veterans who must balance family, employment, community obligations, and other commitments, while ensuring timely treatment for non-life-threatening conditions outside of standard business hours; and

WHEREAS, local data, including direct feedback from service-connected veterans, should be used to determine which extended hours would best meet the needs of each facility's enrolled veteran population; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to implement extended operating hours at VHA health care facilities, based on local access data and veteran feedback, for services such as primary care, specialty care, mental health care and urgent care, to ensure veterans have increased access to comprehensive services beyond regular business hours; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to ensure adequate staffing, resources and support services—such as laboratory, radiology, pharmacy and urgent care—are available during extended hours to support the full continuum of care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV encourages VA to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of extended operating hours using veteran feedback and utilization data, making adjustments as necessary to optimize access, efficiency and patient satisfaction; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports the implementation of outreach programs to inform veterans about the availability of extended hours and services, increasing awareness and utilization of these resources.

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RESOLUTION NO. 649

PROVIDE BENEFICIARY TRAVEL BENEFITS FOR UNSCHEDULED VISITS TO RECEIVE CARE FROM THE VA

WHEREAS, timely access to clinical care is essential for patient-centered care, especially for veterans with acute medical, psychiatric, or minor injuries requiring urgent, unscheduled treatment; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities have implemented local policies to provide care to veterans on a “drop-in” basis without scheduled appointments, but often fail to properly document these encounters, which can result in the denial of travel benefits for eligible service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–182) provides eligible veterans with access to urgent care through contracted community providers, but travel reimbursement for such visits under the Beneficiary Travel program is typically limited to one-way travel, as urgent care visits are classified as unscheduled; and

WHEREAS, VA travel benefits under Section 111 of Title 38, United States Code, are intended to reimburse eligible veterans for the cost of transportation to and from VA or VA-authorized health care, yet current VA policy restricts round-trip reimbursement in cases of unscheduled visits, including urgent care; and

WHEREAS, partial reimbursement contradicts the intended purpose of the benefit by imposing an unfair financial burden on veterans who seek medically necessary unscheduled care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress and the VA to revise beneficiary travel regulations to provide full round-trip travel reimbursement for veterans receiving unscheduled care at VA or VA-authorized facilities.

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RESOLUTION NO. 650

ENSURE QUALITY AND TIMELY ACCESS IN THE VHA AND VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Congress established the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP) under Public Law 115–182, the VA MISSION Act of 2018, to ensure that veterans have timely access to quality care when they are unable to receive care directly through the VA; and

WHEREAS, VCCP providers are considered part of VA's integrated, high-performing network and are expected to meet standards equivalent to those of VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA uses industry-standard performance metrics, such as the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set and measures from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to assess health care quality and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, VA medical centers have maintained accreditation through nationally recognized programs such as the Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems for over 35 years; and

WHEREAS, the VA and the DOD jointly develop and regularly update clinical practice guidelines for medical conditions prevalent among veterans and service members, including post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders, traumatic brain injury and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the VA collects and publicly reports wait time data for primary care, mental health care, and specialty care, while many private-sector providers lack equivalent systems for tracking or disclosing quality and timeliness data; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of private-sector health care providers participating in the VCCP do not engage in national quality reporting programs or provide transparent data on outcomes or access to care; and

WHEREAS, comparison data used by the VA to evaluate private-sector performance is often limited to regional benchmarks derived from CMS data, which may not be specific to veterans or VCCP provider performance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to improve real-time access to quality and timeliness measures to support continuous improvement and accountability across its health care delivery system; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must require the VA to include enforceable quality and access benchmarks in all VCCP contracts, ensuring that private providers are held to the same standards as VA facilities and are verified through state and national licensure and accreditation databases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VCCP providers be required to participate annually in VA-led training on available veteran-specific resources and clinical guidelines related to conditions associated with military service.

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RESOLUTION NO. 652

SUPPORT VA DENTAL COVERAGE FOR ORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS CAUSED BY SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, oral health is vital to the overall well-being of veterans and is a key component of comprehensive health care; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently provides outpatient dental services primarily to veterans who are 100% service-connected disabled, have a service-connected dental condition, are former prisoners of war, or meet specific eligibility criteria under 38 U.S.C. § 1712 and 38 C.F.R. § 17.161; and

WHEREAS, veterans with service-connected disabilities or their treatments—such as prescribed medications, radiation therapy, or mental health conditions like PTSD—may develop secondary dental conditions including tooth decay, periodontal disease, bruxism or temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders; and

WHEREAS, current VA dental policy does not cover treatment for these nonservice-connected conditions, even when they are clearly linked to service-connected disabilities or their medically necessary treatments; and

WHEREAS, lack of access to timely dental care may lead to irreversible damage such as tooth loss, bone loss and systemic health complications, especially among veterans who are otherwise enrolled in VA health care but ineligible for dental benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to expand VA dental care eligibility to include treatment for nonservice-connected dental conditions that are caused or aggravated by service-connected disabilities or their treatments; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to expand research into the links between oral and systemic health, including interdisciplinary studies on the impact of service-related health conditions and their treatments on oral health.

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RESOLUTION NO. 653

STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the VA health care system is a critical safety net and trusted source of care for millions of enrolled veterans, including those with service-connected injuries and illnesses who rely on VA for comprehensive and coordinated treatment; and

WHEREAS, VA provides specialized services—including polytrauma care, prosthetics, spinal cord injury treatment, post-traumatic stress disorder and mental health services, toxic exposure care under the PACT Act and care for conditions related to military sexual trauma—that are unmatched in scope and quality by most private-sector providers; and

WHEREAS, independent studies have consistently shown that VA health care is of equal or better quality and lower cost than care delivered in the private sector, with veterans reporting high satisfaction with the quality, experience and outcomes of VA care; and

WHEREAS, the VA MISSION Act (Public Law 115–182) reinforced VA's role as the primary provider and coordinator of veterans' care while permitting the use of community care networks when medically necessary, especially in underserved or rural areas; and

WHEREAS, rising demand for services—including through expanded eligibility under the PACT Act—requires Congress to provide timely and sufficient funding to sustain and expand VA's workforce, facilities, infrastructure, and clinical capabilities, especially in regions experiencing shortages; and

WHEREAS, proposals to outsource or privatize core elements of VA health care threaten to fragment care, reduce veteran-specific expertise, and diminish VA's role in advancing medical research, clinician training, and veteran-centered innovations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, calls upon Congress and the Administration to ensure that the VA health care system remains the primary provider and coordinator of care for enrolled veterans, while leveraging community care to close gaps in access when necessary; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges robust and timely federal investment in VA health care infrastructure, workforce expansion, and modernization efforts to meet current and future demand—particularly in rural, remote and underserved areas; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV opposes any effort, proposal, or recommendation—whether legislative, regulatory or administrative—that would erode, weaken or dismantle the VA health care system, including its medical education, clinical research or specialized care programs vital to veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 654

SUPPORT TOPPRIORITY ACCESS FOR SERVICEDISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the VA Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has issued national directives and policies—such as VHA Directive 1039 (Priority for Outpatient Medical Services) and VHA Directive 1005 (Enrollment and Eligibility)—affirming its commitment to provide *priority access* to hospital care and medical services for veterans with any service-connected disabilities, regardless of their assigned disability rating, unless compelling medical circumstances warrant otherwise; and

WHEREAS, many VA facilities are currently challenged in fulfilling this mandate due to resource constraints, workforce shortages, and rising demand, which has in some regions outpaced capacity due to increasing patient workload and the complexity of care required; and

WHEREAS, DAV continues to receive complaints from service-connected veterans reporting delays, denial of priority, or confusion about access policies, despite existing national directives intended to ensure timely and prioritized care; and

WHEREAS, in some instances, inadequate local or network resources have led VA medical centers to establish wait lists, delay care, or use community care referrals, which can result in rationed or inconsistent access for service-connected veterans—absent compelling medical reasons to prioritize other clinical cases; and

WHEREAS, VA is actively pursuing modernization efforts aimed at realigning, expanding, and integrating care delivery—through initiatives such as the VA Health Care System Realignment (AIR Commission process, later paused), the MISSION Act and proposed reforms to consolidate and standardize community care access—intended to improve transparency, efficiency, accountability and responsiveness to veterans' evolving needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly supports strict enforcement by VHA leadership, including Veterans Integrated Service Network directors and local medical center directors, of all governing policies that guarantee service-connected veterans priority access to VA care, unless compelling medical reasons justify alternate prioritization.

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RESOLUTION NO. 660
EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE VA SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
FOR SUPPORT OF THE 2025 DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, including the North Las Vegas VA Medical Center, has consistently demonstrated outstanding professionalism and cooperation in support of the National Convention of DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and its Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, due to the high number of service-disabled veterans among the delegates, many attendees required timely medical assistance, including urgent care and prosthetic services, to fully participate in Convention activities; and

WHEREAS, VA medical personnel responded to these needs with compassion, skill, and efficiency, ensuring that veterans received prompt care and support throughout the event; and

WHEREAS, the dedication of VA staff contributed directly to the health, safety, and well-being of DAV members and guests, reflecting the highest standards of service to America's veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, extends its sincere appreciation to the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, North Las Vegas VA Medical Center, for its professional, compassionate care and for its vital role in the success of this year's National Convention.

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(Whereupon, the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MS. DONNA PORTER: Mic 2.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 2.

MS. PORTER: Donna Porter, State of Idaho, home of the Boise State Broncos. We second the nomination.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: In accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions that need to be read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services chair withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would like to call upon Chairperson Shannon Sander for the report of the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership chair advanced to the lectern.)

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SHANNON SANDER: Good morning. Comrade Commander and delegates. The National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order on Aug. 9th, 2025, by the Committee advisors Naomi Mathis and Joseph Lemay.

The first order of business was the election of Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Shannon Sander was elected as chairman and Thomas Wood was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this national convention. For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions.

8, support expanding space-A travel to families and caregivers of 100 percent disabled veterans.

9, support reduced costs or free passports for service-disabled veterans.

19, support renewed Prisoner of War/Missing in Action, POW/MIA, discussions.

20, support accounting and repatriation of U.S. war casualties.

69, support voting access for disabled veterans.

70, condemn the public desecration of the flag of the United States. (Applause)

72, support dedicated courthouse for Veterans Appeals Court.

73, oppose unauthorized human experimentation on service members.

111, support space-A travel benefits for veterans rated 30 percent disabled or greater.

112, support modernizing VA IT infrastructure to improve veteran care and access.

136, support veterans court for justice-involved veterans.

142, support free firearm permits for service-disabled veterans.

143, support free national fishing licenses for military and disabled veterans.

144, support legislation for no-cost national hunting license for service-disabled veterans. (Applause)

229, support adequate funding for the National Cemetery Administration's, NCA, state cemetery grant program.

232, support protecting due process for service-disabled veterans' rights regarding National Instant Criminal Background Checks System, NICS, reporting.

238, support protection from deportation for service-disabled non-citizen veterans pursuing citizenship. (Applause)

351, support weekend burials at national cemeteries.

360, support reasonable accommodations at national and Army cemeteries.

403, support adequate air travel accommodations for disabled veterans.

417, support guaranteed naturalization for service-disabled non-citizen veterans.

418, support reasonable use of AI in VA claims processing.

425, support accessible travel for veterans with implants or prosthetics.

519, support full implementation of VA language access for non-English speaking veterans.

531, support enforcement of fair rental practice in HUD-VASH housing.

602, support policies enhancing DAV's capacity to serve disabled veterans and survivors.

604, support accessible VA forms that comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

630, support former prisoner of war slave labor claims against Japanese firms.

631, support protecting, improving and reforming the National Cemetery Administration, NCA.

632, support scam and fraud protection for veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

633, support meaningful accountability measures with due process for VA employees.

661, appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the 2025 DAV national convention.

662, express appreciation to the Paris Hotel Las Vegas for supporting the success of the 2025 national convention.

663, expressing appreciation to National Commander Daniel Contreras:

"Whereas, Daniel Contreras of Sherman Oaks, California, served honorably in the United States Army from 1982 to 1996; and

"Whereas, he comes from a proud, patriotic family dedicated to service with all three of his brothers having served in the Armed Forces; and

"Whereas, he found his ultimate calling in caring for others; Commander Contreras began his military service as a combat medic, emergency medical technician, and Army nurse; and

"Whereas, throughout his Army career he served with distinction in assignments including the 9th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 67th Air Defense Artillery, U.S. Army Community Hospital, 1st Armored Division, 123rd Brigade Support Battalion, and the Academy of Health Sciences; and

"Whereas, his military service was cut short after 16 years due to medical retirement; and

"Whereas, following his separation from service in 1996 he worked with geriatric patients, though he deeply missed the camaraderie of military life and the opportunity to serve fellow veterans; and

"Whereas, through his connection with fellow soldier and DAV advocate Jay Main he was able to secure and earn benefits and was introduced to new opportunities to continue serving veterans; and

"Whereas, inspired by DAV's mission, Contreras became a life member and began his new career with the organization as a national service officer in 2000; and

"Whereas, he was promoted to National Area Supervisor in 2006 and went on to serve in several key leadership roles at both the department and national levels, including department commander, adjutant, treasurer for the DAV Department of California; and

"Whereas, he has also contributed his expertise as an advisor on the DAV Charitable Service Trust, National Board of Directors, and as director and chief financial officer of the DAV Department of California Rehabilitation Foundation since 2008; and

"Whereas, in recognition of his decades of commitment and leadership the membership of DAV unanimously elected him to serve as national commander during the 2024 DAV and Auxiliary national convention held in Phoenix, Arizona; and

"Whereas, during his tenure as national commander, Commander Contreras has demonstrated exceptional leadership, advocating for DAV's legislative priorities before Congress, participating in national veteran events, engaging the media and strengthening DAV's outreach across the country; and

"Whereas, as a caregiver to his wife, Teresa, Commander Contreras prioritized the needs of caregivers and ensured their voices were heard both within the organization and on Capitol Hill; and

"Whereas, he has championed the expansion of caregiver access to VA healthcare benefits and DAV Caregiver Support Program, helping connect caregivers with vital resources and assistance;

"Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that DAV in its national convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9 to 12, 2025, extends its deepest appreciation and sincere gratitude to Commander

Daniel Contreras for his service, leadership and unwavering dedication to wounded, ill and injured veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors throughout his term as national commander; and

"Be It Further Resolved, that DAV also express heartfelt thanks to Commander Contreras' family, especially his wife Teresa and son Robert, for their steadfast support and sacrifice during his time as DAV national commander."

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee—(Standing Ovation)—Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on General Resolutions. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the national convention. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

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RESOLUTION NO. 8

SUPPORT EXPANDING SPACE-A TRAVEL TO FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS OF 100% SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (P.L. 115-232) authorized 100% service-connected disabled veterans to travel on a space-available basis aboard military aircraft; and

WHEREAS, current policy limits travel for these veterans and their eligible dependents to flights within the continental United States (CONUS), or directly between CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. territories, and certain routes operated by Air Mobility Command; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to space-available travel to include routes between CONUS and overseas locations would provide needed flexibility and support for disabled veterans and their families, without creating undue burden on the DOD; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to expand eligibility for space-available military air travel to include routes between CONUS and overseas locations for veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability rating, along with their eligible dependents and caregivers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 9

SUPPORT REDUCED-COST OR FREE PASSPORTS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, veterans and active-duty service members have already undergone comprehensive background checks and vetting by the U.S. government; and

WHEREAS, offering free or discounted passports aligns with existing veteran benefits like health care, education and national park access; and

WHEREAS, waiving or reducing passport fees would serve as a meaningful gesture of gratitude for the service and sacrifices of service-disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports federal policies and legislation that would provide free or reduced-cost passports to service-disabled veterans in recognition of their service.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 19

SUPPORT RENEWED PRISONER-OF-WAR/MISSING-IN-ACTION DISCUSSIONS

WHEREAS, DAV remains committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting of U.S. personnel listed as prisoners, missing or unaccounted for from all past wars; and

WHEREAS, bilateral humanitarian discussions, distinct from strategic negotiations and aligned with broader policy and national security goals, are essential to advancing POW/MIA cooperation; and

WHEREAS, renewed bilateral agreements require lead time to restore and expand unilateral, bilateral and multilateral field recovery operations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports renewing and expanding direct bilateral humanitarian efforts to strengthen U.S. agreements and recovery processes with partner nations in pursuit of full accounting for unreturned American military personnel.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 20
SUPPORT ACCOUNTING AND REPATRIATION OF U.S. WAR CASUALTIES

WHEREAS, the United States government has engaged in diplomatic and investigative efforts, including congressional visits to Southeast Asia, to help determine the fate of those listed as missing in action (MIA) from the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, families of the missing continue to endure uncertainty and emotional hardship in the absence of answers about their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Americans remain unaccounted for from past wars, including World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and more recent conflicts, underscoring the critical work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which is responsible for locating, identifying and returning the remains of missing U.S. personnel and providing answers to their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the United States government to continue making the full accounting and repatriation of American prisoners of war and missing in action a national priority, by increasing efforts to recover and return the remains of those who served and are still unaccounted.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 69
SUPPORT VOTING ACCESS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, disabled veterans often face greater challenges in registering to vote and casting a ballot due to physical, cognitive, technological and procedural barriers; and

WHEREAS, civic participation by disabled veterans and their families helps ensure that their voices are heard in shaping public policies that affect the veteran community; and

WHEREAS, many election systems across the United States lack full compliance with accessibility standards, leaving some disabled veterans unable to vote independently or privately without assistance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, encourages all members to register and vote, supports targeted voter registration drives for veterans and their families, and promotes accessible voting systems to reduce barriers that prevent disabled veterans from participating in elections; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges state and local election officials to ensure full compliance with federal accessibility standards, and to increase outreach and accommodations that enable all disabled veterans to vote privately, independently and without unnecessary hardship.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 70
CONDEMN PUBLIC DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that public desecration of the American Flag, as a form of free speech and expression, is legal and permissible; and

WHEREAS, the American Flag “Old Glory” is our National Ensign, the proud and beautiful symbol of our country’s precious, free heritage; and

WHEREAS, this symbol, in the form of our irreplaceable “Stars and Stripes,” has been carried and defended in battle, revered and cherished by its citizens, and viewed as a beacon of hope and fulfillment by all the world since it was first unfurled at the birth of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, and was not intended by our Founding Fathers to enable individuals, who enjoy unfettered freedom to express their views, no matter how abhorrent, in both oral and written form, to publicly and contemptuously desecrate our beloved flag; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, condemns any individual or group who at any time publicly and willfully desecrates the flag of the United States.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 72
SUPPORT DEDICATED COURTHOUSE FOR VETERANS APPEALS COURT

WHEREAS, since its establishment on November 18, 1988 (P.L. 100–687), the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has significantly advanced the rights of veterans and claimants through its jurisprudence; and

WHEREAS, the courtroom, chambers and other space are inadequate to meet the current and future needs of service-disabled veterans, their families and caregivers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports authorizing and funding the construction of a suitable and appropriate courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 73
OPPOSE UNAUTHORIZED HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION ON SERVICE MEMBERS

WHEREAS, while military service members may temporarily surrender certain liberties, they retain the fundamental ethical right to make informed decisions about their own bodies and using them in human experimentation without their voluntary, informed consent violates this principle of self-determination; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has at times failed to obtain informed consent from service members, as seen in Project 112/SHAD, secret World War II mustard gas tests, nuclear weapons testing on “Atomic Veterans” and the CIA’s MK-Ultra program involving non-consensual drug experiments (DOD, 2003; National Academies, 1993; NPR, 2015; VA, 2023; Church Committee, 1975); and

WHEREAS, these unethical actions resulted in lasting physical and psychological harm to veterans, many of whom live with service-connected disabilities, and contributed to mistrust in military and government institutions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, opposes any law, regulation or policy that would authorize the use of service members in human experimentation without their full, informed and voluntary consent; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the DOD and Congress to uphold and strengthen ethical standards that protect the bodily autonomy, informed consent rights and personal dignity of all individuals who serve in uniform.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 111
SUPPORT SPACE-A TRAVEL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS RATED 30% OR GREATER

WHEREAS, Congress signed the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-232), which allowed 100% service connected disabled veterans to be eligible for space-available travel; and

WHEREAS, many veterans who are service connected but not rated 100% permanent service-connected disabled have been deprived of the of the ability to utilize space-available air travel; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports extending space-available air travel aboard military aircraft, for service-connected veterans rated by the VA as 30% or greater.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 112
SUPPORT MODERNIZING VA IT INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the VA provides a full continuum of health care and benefits to wounded, ill and injured veterans, and relies on secure, modern IT systems across both the Veterans Health and Benefits Administrations to deliver these services effectively; and

WHEREAS, seamless interoperability with the DOD, community providers and other networks is essential for coordinated care, timely benefits adjudication and accurate exchange of military and exposure-related data; and

WHEREAS, service-disabled veterans and caregivers require accessible, user-friendly digital platforms to participate in treatment planning, manage claims and receive specialized services; and

WHEREAS, modernization of VA's electronic health record system must include integrated military exposure histories, support lifelong, service-disabled veteran-centered care and incorporate strong cybersecurity protections to safeguard sensitive personal and health data; and

WHEREAS, outdated benefits systems, underfunded VSO-facing tools and competition for limited IT resources hinder timely claims processing, advocacy and modernization efforts, driving up costs and delaying critical upgrades; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA and Congress to fully fund and modernize VA's IT infrastructure across all administrations, eliminate internal competition for technology resources, and prioritize upgrades that improve access, care delivery and benefits processing; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports secure, interoperable systems that integrate service records and exposure data, enable coordination with DOD and community partners and empower veterans and caregivers through accessible, veteran-focused digital tools; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls for sustained investment, enhanced accountability and robust cybersecurity protections in all VA modernization efforts, including tools that support veterans service organization advocacy on behalf of the veteran community.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 136 SUPPORT VETERANS COURTS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS

WHEREAS, many veterans experience service-connected physical and mental health challenges, including PTSD, TBI and substance use disorders, which may lead to justice system involvement; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Treatment Courts provide specialized support by leveraging military culture, peer mentorship and structured programs to aid reintegration, reducing recidivism; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office (GAO-16-393) identified the need for additional staff and resources in the Veterans Justice Outreach Program to enhance its effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, justice-involved veterans often qualify for VA benefits, health care and support programs that can significantly aid in their recovery and reintegration, by bringing veterans together on specialized dockets that have consistently shown better outcomes than traditional court processes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025, supports the expansion of Veterans Treatment Courts nationwide and urges increased VA resources and clearly defined program goals to ensure effectiveness; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV departments and chapters advocate for these courts, collaborate with local VA officials and law enforcement, and support necessary state legislation to authorize their establishment.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 142 SUPPORT FREE FIREARM PERMITS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, our nation's military personnel have served our country in many different ways but all have one thing in common, that they have chosen to put everything on the line, up to and including their lives, to protect our nation; and

WHEREAS, although there may be many ways of saying thank you, approving a waiver of all fees to obtain a license to carry a firearm will have little effect other than to show the veteran that he or she is valued and appreciated; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation allowing that the cost for a firearms identification card and all other associated licenses be waived for all honorably discharged service-disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 143 SUPPORT FREE NATIONAL FISHING LICENSES FOR MILITARY AND DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it has been shown that fishing is a relaxing activity that is enjoyed by a large percentage of the veteran population; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is also used to help veterans and military personnel with mental health issues such as, but not limited to, post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, military life is, by its very nature, nomadic, which leads to veterans and military personnel having roots in multiple states; and

WHEREAS, many veterans and military personnel have "Battle Buddies" with whom they keep in close touch, and on whom they rely to assist with their mental health; and

WHEREAS, fighting veteran military suicide is such a high priority for America; and

WHEREAS, providing a no-cost veterans fishing license would be a relatively easy way to help veterans and military personnel find a little peace of mind, no matter where they travel or live; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports a no-cost national veterans fishing license to ease the cost to service-disabled veterans and help the mental health of both veterans and military personnel.

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RESOLUTION NO. 144

SUPPORT A NO-COST NATIONAL HUNTING LICENSE FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, hunting and outdoor recreation have been shown to promote relaxation and improve mental health among veterans, including those coping with post-traumatic stress and related conditions; and

WHEREAS, many service-disabled veterans maintain strong bonds with those they served with, often relying on these connections as part of their support networks; and

WHEREAS, the transient nature of military service often leads to service-disabled veterans to continue ties with their network across multiple states, complicating access to affordable recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, reducing barriers to outdoor access, including the cost of hunting licenses, may contribute to improved mental wellness and help combat the national crisis of veteran suicide; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports the creation of a no-cost National Hunting License for eligible service-disabled veterans to promote mental health, community connection and access to therapeutic outdoor activities.

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RESOLUTION NO. 229

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION'S STATE CEMETERY GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, partnerships between the NCA and state, local and tribal cemeteries are critical in ensuring that veterans have a burial option; and

WHEREAS, local cemeteries can expand veteran burial options by raising half of the funds required to establish or expand a veterans cemetery, working with local government agencies and zoning commissions and completing the grassroots steps needed for the expansion, and the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program provides the remaining funding; and

WHEREAS, before the NCA can provide a grant, the cemetery must secure legislative authority and matching appropriations from its state, territorial or tribal government; and

WHEREAS, the VA annual budget has historically underfunded this program, especially relative to the growing need for burial services for veterans in areas not served by national cemeteries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025, supports funding all NCA Veterans Cemetery Grants Programs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 232

SUPPORT PROTECTING DUE PROCESS RIGHTS REGARDING NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM REPORTING

WHEREAS, the VA must safeguard service-disabled veterans' due process rights, particularly in relation to reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS); and

WHEREAS, many service-disabled veterans remain unaware of their rights and recent changes to NICS-related policies, underscoring the need for targeted outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, stigma and misinformation surrounding mental health and firearm restrictions may discourage service-disabled veterans from seeking timely care, potentially increasing the risk of isolation or crisis; and

WHEREAS, not all service-disabled veterans who require assistance managing their financial affairs through a fiduciary appointment pose a danger to themselves or others, and financial incapacity alone should not be used to automatically restrict constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, the secure handling of service-disabled veterans' personal and medical data demands robust cybersecurity protections and transparency in how such information is shared or reported; and

WHEREAS, community care providers and VA compensation and pension (C&P) examiners may lack sufficient training on service-disabled veterans' rights, due process protections, and the implications of NICS reporting; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no formal or consistent VA-administered appeals process for service-disabled veterans who believe they were wrongfully reported to NICS, leaving affected individuals without clear recourse; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges VA to launch a comprehensive and accessible outreach campaign to educate service-disabled veterans about their rights related to mental health care and NICS reporting, strengthen cybersecurity protocols and data-sharing transparency to protect service-disabled veterans' sensitive information and ensure consistent, mandatory training for VA staff, community providers, and C&P examiners on due process standards and NICS-related policy impacts; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to establish a clear and accessible appeals process for service-disabled veterans who believe they were inappropriately reported to the NICS database, ensuring the protection of constitutional rights and restoration of benefits where warranted.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 238

SUPPORT PROTECTIONS FROM DEPORTATION FOR SERVICE-DISABLED NONCITIZEN VETERANS PURSUING CITIZENSHIP

WHEREAS, documented noncitizens may serve honorably in the U.S. military and earn eligibility for expedited naturalization; and

WHEREAS, many noncitizen veterans receive incomplete or inaccurate guidance on the citizenship process and leave service without naturalizing; and

WHEREAS, non-citizen service-disabled veterans who are deported lose access to VA health care and benefits, despite having earned them through military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to protect honorably discharged, wartime, service-disabled noncitizen veterans from deportation while applying for U.S. citizenship, and to ensure they retain access to VA programs, including Veteran Treatment Courts, that are critical to their recovery and reintegration.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 351

SUPPORT WEEKEND BURIALS AT NATIONAL CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, the National Cemetery Administration's (NCA) current policy does not allow weekend burials, except under limited circumstances such as active-duty deaths or religious accommodations requiring special approval; and

WHEREAS, allowing weekend burials would ease scheduling for families and long-distance travelers, while also enabling greater participation by veterans service organization volunteers in providing military funeral honors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges Congress to authorize the VA to offer weekend burials for service-disabled veterans at all cemeteries operated by NCA, and to ensure sufficient staffing and resources are in place to provide timely, dignified services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 360
SUPPORT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION AT NATIONAL AND ARMY
CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, access to cemeteries operated by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and by the Department of the Army (including Arlington National Cemetery) is often impeded by physical barriers such as curbs, grassy terrain, and hillsides, which can prevent individuals using mobility devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters or those with other physical challenges from reaching the gravesites; and

WHEREAS, while wheelchair-accessible sidewalks can be installed from roadways to Columbarium plazas, such pathways are generally impractical or visually inappropriate for most gravesites; however, golf-cart-type vehicles that can accommodate wheelchairs or are adapted for transporting individuals with mobility impairments are commercially available and present a viable solution; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, strongly supports legislation requiring reasonable accommodations to ensure that all individuals with mobility challenges are able to access any gravesite within cemeteries operated by the NCA or the Department of the Army.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 403
SUPPORT ADEQUATE AIR TRAVEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SERVICE-
DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, disabled veterans face unique and often burdensome challenges when traveling by air, including mobility limitations, the need for assistance devices, and additional coordination for medical or service-related needs; and

WHEREAS, air travel can be significantly more expensive for disabled veterans due to the need for accessible seating, space for service animals and potential caregiver accompaniment; and

WHEREAS, airlines are often not held fully financially responsible for damage to essential mobility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, or prosthetic equipment due to inadequate protections under the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-435), which limit liability and enforcement, resulting in significant financial and physical hardship for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans who travel with service dogs frequently require additional legroom and seating accommodations to ensure the safety and comfort of both the veteran and the animal; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to ensure accessible air travel for disabled veterans, including no-cost seating, reimbursement for damaged equipment, streamlined booking with support needs, and the right to self-identify without penalty.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 417
SUPPORT GUARANTEED NATURALIZATION FOR SERVICE-DISABLED NONCITIZEN
VETERANS

WHEREAS, current law allows noncitizen veterans to apply for expedited citizenship if they meet age and length of service requirements and demonstrate English proficiency and knowledge of the history and government of the United States (U.S. Code Title 8, §§ 1439–1440); however, meeting these criteria does not guarantee citizenship will be awarded; and

WHEREAS, honorably discharged veterans with disabilities due to military service, service-related disabilities, pending awards of service connection or disabilities incurred during or as a result of military service but not awarded service connection should be guaranteed citizenship for their honorable service; and

WHEREAS, these veterans should have the opportunity to live without fear of deportation from the country they fought for; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to guarantee U.S. citizenship to honorably discharged veterans with disabilities resulting from their military service, regardless of service connection status.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 418
SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI IN VA CLAIMS PROCESSING

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13960 established principles to guide federal agencies in the use of artificial intelligence, promoting trust, transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the VA is expanding its use of AI in claims processing, which may introduce bias or delays if not properly governed; and

WHEREAS, VA has adopted frameworks such as its AI Use Case Inventory and Trustworthy AI Framework to guide ethical implementation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV assembled in National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation to prevent AI-related delays in claims processing, ensure VA transparency and require regular updates on AI performance and workforce impact.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 425
SUPPORT ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS WITH IMPLANTS OR PROSTHETICS

WHEREAS, service-disabled veterans who rely on medical implants or prosthetic devices often face invasive, inconsistent or physically burdensome airport security screenings; and

WHEREAS, such treatment can result in missed flights, emotional distress and physical harm, undermining the dignity of those who have already sacrificed for their country; and

WHEREAS, service-disabled veterans with visible disabilities should not be required to remove prosthetics, walk unassisted through scanners or be penalized for traveling with necessary medical equipment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to implement screening procedures for service-disabled veterans with medical implants or prosthetics, and calls on the VA to issue a standardized medical verification card integrated with TSA Pre-Check.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 519
SUPPORT FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF VA LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING VETERANS

WHEREAS, language barriers continue to prevent many non-English-speaking veterans and their families from understanding and accessing VA benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans and Family Information Act (P.L. 117–66) requires the VA to translate benefits fact sheets into Spanish, Tagalog and the 10 most commonly spoken non-English languages and make them publicly available; and

WHEREAS, full implementation of this law requires translation of forms, instructions and outreach materials that are critical to equitable access; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to fully implement and expand language access by translating all materials into threshold languages.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 531
SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OF FAIR RENTAL PRACTICES IN HUD-VASH HOUSING

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program provides rental assistance and VA case management to help homeless veterans secure stable housing; and

WHEREAS, landlords participating in HUD-VASH must adhere to rent limits set by the Housing Choice Voucher agreement and cannot charge veterans beyond what is authorized; and

WHEREAS, imposing additional fees or full rent outside the voucher agreement undermines the program's intent and places undue financial strain on veterans working toward independence; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports policies that prohibit landlords from charging HUD-VASH veterans more than the authorized rent amount and calls for enforcement mechanisms to penalize violations that compromise veterans' housing stability.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 602

SUPPORT POLICIES ENHANCING DAV'S CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION

WHEREAS, DAV was founded by Judge Robert Marx and several hundred other fellow veterans on September 25, 1920, in Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to rally their collective voice in the halls of Congress and help their fellow disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, DAV was chartered by Congress on June 17, 1932, as a nonprofit war veterans organization to advance the interests, and work for the betterment, of all wounded, injured and disabled American veterans; and

WHEREAS, DAV is recognized by the VA as a congressionally chartered veterans service organization for the purpose of preparation, presentation and prosecution of claims for VA benefits; and

WHEREAS, DAV is a tax-exempt veterans organization under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable war veterans organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions; and

WHEREAS, DAV has a national headquarters in Kentucky; a Washington headquarters in Washington, D.C.; and hundreds of service officers working inside VA offices and on military bases across the country to support veterans and their families seeking benefits and services earned through their service; and

WHEREAS, DAV has 52 departments, over 1,200 chapters and approximately 1 million members who provide their time, talents and resources to help fulfill DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, DAV provides meaningful support free of charge to more than 1 million veterans and family members every year through its service, volunteer, transportation, employment, legislative, communications and charitable programs; and

WHEREAS, changes to federal laws, regulations, programs and policies can enhance or diminish DAV's ability to fulfill its mission as a federally chartered, nonprofit charitable veterans service organization and its members' ability to support that mission; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports federal laws, regulations, programs and policies that enhance, and will oppose those that diminish, DAV's ability as a nonprofit veterans organization to assist ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 604

SUPPORT ACCESSIBLE VA FORMS THAT COMPLY WITH SECTION 508 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

WHEREAS, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d; P.L. 105–220), requires that federal electronic and information technology be accessible to individuals with disabilities, and ensuring that all VA forms meet these standards; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent and incorrect formatting in commonly used VA forms such as Forms 21-526EZ, 20-0995, 20-0996, and 10182 creates accessibility barriers and may lead to delays or errors in claims processing; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges the VA to ensure all VA online fillable forms are fully accessible and compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, including correct formatting on commonly used PDF forms.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 630

SUPPORT FORMER PRISONER-OF-WAR SLAVE LABOR CLAIMS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009, the government of Japan, through then-Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki, issued an official apology to American prisoners of war (POWs) for the abuse and suffering they endured at the hands of Imperial Japan during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in September 2010, the government of Japan reaffirmed its apology by establishing a visitation program that allows former POWs to return to Japan, visit former sites of imprisonment and to receive formal apologies directly from senior Japanese government officials; and

WHEREAS, American POWs, many of whom served in early battles in the Philippines, Wake Island, Guam, Java and the Sunda Strait, demonstrated extraordinary courage and resilience in the face of extreme hardship; and

WHEREAS, these POWs were subjected to forced labor under brutal and inhumane conditions throughout the Japanese Empire during their captivity; and

WHEREAS, many Japanese companies directly benefited from this forced labor and have yet to acknowledge their role or extend an apology; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, commends the pursuit of justice by American POWs who call on Japan and companies benefiting from World War II POW labor to support acknowledgment, remembrance, and reconciliation efforts; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on the government of Japan to provide and make publicly accessible an official transcript of its 2009 apology in both English and Japanese; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress and the Administration to ensure the continuation of the POW visitation program to Japan, to expand the program to include family members and descendants, and to provide funding for a dedicated initiative focused on research, documentation, exchange, and education.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 631 SUPPORT PROTECTING, IMPROVING AND REFORMING THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the VA, through the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), operates 156 national cemeteries and 35 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 42 states and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, with the aging of the veteran population, the need for burial space and related services continues to grow, requiring sufficient resources for cemetery expansion, modernization and upkeep; and

WHEREAS, veterans and their families should have clear access to burial benefits including eligibility for internment and the timely provision of headstones, markers and medallions; and

WHEREAS, the NCA frequently receives funding below recommended levels, limiting its ability to maintain existing cemeteries, plan for future needs and introduce enhancements to better serve veterans and their survivors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025, supports legislation to adequately fund the National Cemetery Administration, expand cemetery capacity and reform burial benefit eligibility and entitlements for headstones, markers and medallions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 632 SUPPORT SCAM AND FRAUD PROTECTION

WHEREAS, veterans and their earned benefits are frequent targets of fraud schemes, including mail, telephone and online scams, as well as identity theft; and

WHEREAS, veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors need clear and consistent information on how to identify, avoid and report fraud and scam attempts; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently lacks a centralized office specifically tasked with identifying, monitoring and responding to fraud and scams directed at the veteran community; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, supports legislation requiring the VA to establish a centralized office dedicated to protecting veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors from fraud and scams.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 633 SUPPORT MEANINGFUL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES, WITH DUE PROCESS, FOR VA EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, providing timely, high-quality benefits and services to veterans depends on VA employees, managers and leaders fulfilling their duties with competence and integrity; and

WHEREAS, VA employees must be held accountable for poor performance or misconduct through appropriate disciplinary actions, including training, reassignment, demotion, suspension or removal when warranted; and

WHEREAS, accountability must be balanced with due process protections to ensure the VA remains an attractive and fair employer for skilled professionals; and

WHEREAS, due process protections help guard against cronyism, political interference, and unjust termination, preserving the integrity of the VA workforce; and

WHEREAS, clearly defined performance standards and enforcement authority are essential for effective leadership and organizational accountability; and

WHEREAS, legislative proposals aimed at increasing accountability within the VA must preserve fair treatment and due process for employees while addressing legitimate concerns about performance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, urges that any legislative or regulatory changes to VA personnel policies strike a responsible balance between accountability and fairness, in order to sustain a workforce capable of delivering high-quality care and services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 661 APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 2025 DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the success of the 2025 DAV National Convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from Aug. 9–12, 2025, was made possible through the cooperation, dedication, and support of state, county, and local officials; and

WHEREAS, this successful event also reflects the commitment and hard work of the DAV and DAVA Departments, local Chapters and Units, and in particular, the leadership of Convention Chairman Mr. Jerome Washington; and

WHEREAS, the news media played an important role in raising awareness and providing valuable coverage of our Convention activities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, expresses its sincere appreciation to all individuals, organizations, and agencies whose efforts helped make this Convention a success; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the citizens of Las Vegas for their warm welcome and support of DAV's mission; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we thank the distinguished guests who joined us and reaffirmed their commitment to the principles we uphold; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we offer our special thanks to Convention Chairman Mr. Jerome Washington and his committee for their outstanding leadership and personal support to our members and guests throughout the Convention.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 662 EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE PARIS HOTEL LAS VEGAS FOR SUPPORTING THE SUCCESS OF THE 2025 DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the outstanding service and welcoming environment provided by the Paris Hotel Las Vegas played a significant role in the success of the 2025 National Convention of DAV (Disabled American Veterans), held in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the professionalism and courtesy of the hotel and convention staff contributed to the comfort and satisfaction of DAV officers, delegates, and guests throughout the event; and

WHEREAS, the hotel's amenities, convenient accommodations, and supportive staff helped create a positive and memorable experience for all who attended; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, extends its sincere appreciation to the Paris Hotel Las Vegas and its staff for their exceptional hospitality and dedicated service in support of the 2025 National Convention.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 663

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL CONTRERAS

WHEREAS, DAV National Commander Daniel Contreras, of Sherman Oaks, California, served honorably in the United States Army from 1980 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, he comes from a patriotic family dedicated to service, with all three of his brothers having served in the military; and

WHEREAS, he found his ultimate calling in caring for others, Commander Contreras enlisted in the Army and chose to become a combat medic, emergency medical technician and Army nurse; and

WHEREAS, he served with the 9th Infantry Division; 1st Battalion, 67th Air Defense Artillery; Hawley U.S. Army Community Hospital; 1st Armor Division; 123rd Brigade Support Battalion; and Academy of Health Sciences; and

WHEREAS, after 16 years in the Army, his career was cut short and he was medically retired; and

WHEREAS, he immediately found a job helping geriatric patients after separating from the military in 1996 but missed his connection with the military and service members; and

WHEREAS, he reached out to fellow soldier, Jay Main, who had become a benefits advocate at DAV (Disabled American Veterans); and

WHEREAS, fellow service member Main not only helped him to access his earned benefits, but also connected him with a new job opportunity with DAV; and

WHEREAS, Contreras set out and embraced a new career path joining DAV as a life member and benefits advocate; and

WHEREAS, he began his professional journey as a national service officer in 2000 and was promoted to national area supervisor in 2006; and

WHEREAS, he has held several leadership positions at the department and national levels including state commander, adjutant and treasurer for the DAV Department of California; and

WHEREAS, he held an esteemed position in the national organization as advisor on DAV's Charitable Service Trust national board of directors and served as director and chief financial officer for DAV Department of California Rehabilitation Foundation since 2008; and

WHEREAS, the membership of DAV unanimously elected Contreras to lead the nearly 1 million-member organization as its national commander during the 2024 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Commander Contreras has shown tremendous leadership during his year as national commander, advancing DAV's mission and promoting DAV's key legislative priorities before Congress, at veterans' events and public gatherings and through national media; and

WHEREAS, serving as a caregiver for his wife, Teresa, Commander Contreras made it a key priority to ensure that the unique needs of caregivers and veterans serving as caregivers were represented across the organization and on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, Commander Contreras has advocated on behalf of caregivers to ensure they not only have access to VA's high-quality health care and benefits they deserve, but also that they are connected to DAV Caregivers Support for additional resources and assistance from a care specialist; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV, in its National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 9–12, 2025, expresses its members' genuine appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Contreras for his sacrifices, selfless service, professionalism and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans, their families, caregivers, survivors, and DAV during his year as DAV national commander; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV also salutes and extends heartfelt appreciation to Commander Contreras' family, including his wife, Teresa, and his son, Robert, for their constant support during his term as DAV national commander.

* * *

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. B.J. McGUIRE: Mic 1.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

MR. McGUIRE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 1.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

MR. McGUIRE: Mic 1, B.J. McGuire, commander, Chapter 123, wonderful State of Florida, deputy chief-of-staff for Commander Contreras, propose a second to the motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership chair withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: As David Letterman would say, "My next guest needs no introduction." Our next speaker is a long-time champion of DAV and the majority of us here have had the pleasure of working alongside him. Last year, he took on an important new role as president of the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

Marc Burgess, a Gulf War veteran of the United States Navy was appointed national adjutant of DAV in 2013 and held that post through June 2024. From serving as a crew member and plank owner aboard the U.S.S. Normandy through his storied career that began as a service officer apprentice, he's a proven leader who has dedicated his life to ensuring promises are kept to America's veterans.

Please welcome him to the stage, Charitable Service Trust President, Marc Burgess. (Applause) (Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Mr. Burgess advanced to the lectern.)

MR. LEWIS: Past National Adjutant Marc Burgess began his DAV service in 1995. After proving himself in numerous capacities and rising to the top of DAV's appointed ranks, his tenure as national adjutant proved to be transformative to the organization.

As the president of the Trust, he oversees the effort to ensure support is available to deserving programs that meet the unmet needs of our nation's veterans, their heroes, and survivors.

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander, for that very kind introduction. And thank you to my fellow veterans for this opportunity to speak with you about our Charitable Service Trust.

As president let me introduce the Trust's governing board. They are Vice-President Barry Jesinoski, Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Nixon, and our Directors: National Commander Dan Contreras, Denice Williams, Danny Oliver, and Kim Hubers.

There is no one organization that can do all things for all veterans. The needs of our ill and injured brothers- and sisters-in-arms are far-reaching. And it's our obligation to find ways to support and care for each and every one of them.

That's why I'm so grateful for the work the DAV Charitable Service Trust does, the care in which they do it, and for the donors who support it.

The gaps in care and support of our nation's veterans continue to close and it's thanks, in part, to all who support the Trust and for organizations committed to their noble causes.

This past year, our total grant distribution was nearly \$11 million. Thank you to each and every person who gave. (Applause)

You'll hear in just a few moments some of the impact those funds have had on veterans and their families in need. It's the work these organizations do that fuels our commitment to them.

We're able to continue our support thanks to the administrator and the board of the Trust. They are good stewards of its financial resources, maximizing the impact each dollar given can have.

More than 95 cents out of every donated dollar directly supports programs that contribute to the victories the Trust makes possible. (Applause)

Since first being evaluated in 2002, we've earned the coveted four-star charity rating from Charity Navigator nearly 20 times. It's the nation's largest independent charity evaluator. And we're also listed as one of its "Most Followed Charities."

The Trust also received Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency for 2024.

These recognitions, and the overall success of the program, wouldn't be possible without the diligent effort of Bridgette Sorrell and her team that administers the Trust. Thank you, Bridgette, for all your hard work. (Applause)

Corporate matching gift programs, bequests and other forms of contributions from corporations, foundations, and individual donors enable the Trust to fulfill its mission.

In 2024, these gifts, along with income derived from investments, totaled over \$20 million. This means the Trust remains in a healthy position to continue to provide grants devoted to veterans' critical health care, education, employment, transition assistance, creative healing, legal services, and therapeutic activities addressing both physical and psychological barriers.

We are proud to support the work so many organizations do for veterans and their families. They each reflect our mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

One of those organizations is The Veterans Consortium in Washington, D.C. They provide free legal assistance to veterans who can't afford to hire an attorney to represent them before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and operate the Discharge Upgrade Program. Their work has affected the lives of thousands of veterans. And we're proud to be a part of supporting it. Now, let's take a look.

(Whereupon, a video on The Veterans Consortium was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL ADJUTANT BURGESS: To share more about their program and mission, please join me in welcoming The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program Executive Director Steve Jordon. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Jordon joined Charitable Service Trust President and Past National Adjutant Burgess at the lectern.)

MR. STEVEN JORDON: Thank you, Marc. Good morning, DAV.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. JORDON: I'm Steve Jordon, Navy veteran and DAV life member. (Applause) Go Navy. I flew helicopters in the Navy. And if you are an aviator or you know an aviator, you can confirm that we have a special love of talking—usually about ourselves and especially with an audience and microphone.

But fear not, I only have one key task to accomplish with my remarks and that's to express my deep appreciation to the DAV and the DAV Charitable Service Trust for your longstanding support of The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program and, specifically, your support of our groundbreaking Discharge Upgrade Program which stood up in 2019.

The Veterans Consortium was created in 1992, with DAV as one of the four founding members, with the mission to give self-represented veterans the opportunity to have free legal representation for their VA disability appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

More recently, we have expanded our services to include: assisting women veterans handling their military sexual trauma cases; helping non-citizen veterans attain long-sought after U.S. citizenship; (Applause) and, as you saw in the video, helping veterans with service-connected mental health challenges regain their sense of self and service with upgrading their status and removing the stigma of an "Other than Honorable" discharge. (Applause)

We have trained over 8,000 attorney volunteers from top firms and companies from across the nation to put veterans on equal footing with the VA. Over our 33 years, we have assisted with more than 100,000 legal requests from veterans and their loved ones.

None of these victories would be possible without supporters like the DAV.

I would like to thank out and call—sorry, I'd like to thank and call out:

The long-serving DAV representative to the TVC Executive Board, Roy Spicer, for his invaluable 17 years of service to TVC and his personal guidance and oversight of the TVC Discharge Upgrade Program; (Applause)

DAV Executive Director Randy Reese for his partnership in creating the annual TVC-DAV Discharge Upgrade Volunteer Attorney of the Year Award; and, lastly,

DAV Charitable Service Trust President Marc Burgess and former president Dick Marbes for their championing of the DAV Discharge Upgrade Program for the past six years. (Applause)

As many here in the audience know, in the Navy we use the term Bravo Zulu, which are two signal flags raised over a Navy flagship, to signify a job well done to the other ships in the battle group.

Commander Contreras, Adjutant Jesinoski, I offer my personal Bravo Zulu to the DAV and the DAV Charitable Service Trust for the lasting positive impact that you have on our veterans every day. (Applause)

You fought for us, now we fight for you. Thank you. (Applause) (Whereupon, Mr. Jordon withdrew from the stage and Charitable Service Trust President and Past National Adjutant Burgess returned to the lectern.)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL ADJUTANT BURGESS:

Thank you, Steven. We are grateful for the work The Veterans Consortium does to ensure veterans achieve justice for their sacrifices. Let's give him another round of applause. (Applause)

Helping veterans get justice and connected with the benefits they have earned is just one way the Trust partners with organizations.

We award the very best organizations that are helping our veterans and their families in a variety of ways. Their passion and commitment to missions that align with ours is why we want to see them thrive. Because when they do, so do our veterans.

We see this at organizations like Home 4 Families, that is working to change the narrative around veterans experiencing homelessness. With their Veteran Enriched Neighborhoods model, Homes 4 Families provides affordable home ownership for veterans to create financial stability and upward mobility. Their Veteran Enrichment Center, which the Trust supports, offers programs and training to help veterans gain the skills they need to become successful homeowners.

Through Project MEND, we see veterans in Texas gain independence through the organization's Medical Equipment Reuse and Assistive Technology programs. By providing no-cost, refurbished medical equipment and assistive technology to veterans—often the very same day they request it—Project MEND is helping veterans live the fullest lives possible.

And at the Robert Irvine Foundation where veterans who have served together are able to reconnect and reestablish a sense of community through their Re-uniting the Brave program. These weekend-long reunion events happen across the country and are making a difference. As one veteran put it, "I felt a sense of unity and camaraderie that I have been missing and looking for since I left the service. It was very good for my soul."

Each of these veterans served by these and the many other organizations supported by the Trust represent lives changed, saved, and enhanced because of the generosity of loyal supporters, corporations, and foundations.

Thank you for your continued support of the Trust and our mission. You can learn more about DAV's Charitable Service Trust and keep up-to-date on our initiatives at cst-dot-dav-dot-org or by liking us on Facebook.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation. And thank you for allowing me to share some of the incredible work the Trust's grant recipients do.

Thank you, Commander. This concludes my report. (Applause)

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2024, and
Independent Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as of December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Trust and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery,

intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Deloitte + Touche LLP

April 8, 2025

DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024**

ASSETS

CASH	\$ 5,404,656
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	133,326
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	164,897
CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE—Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$174,966	89,284
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER	22,491
INVESTMENTS—Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balance of \$9,970,314	71,429,397
SOFTWARE—Net	<u>12,438</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 77,256,489</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable—Disabled American Veterans	\$ 101,003
Accounts payable—other	52,835
Annuity payment liability	<u>5,163,600</u>
Total liabilities	<u>5,317,438</u>
NET ASSETS WITH AND WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:	
Without donor restrictions	71,626,380
With donor restrictions	<u>312,671</u>
Total net assets	<u>71,939,051</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 77,256,489</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:			
Contributions—net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of \$193,502	\$ 7,897,774	\$ 1,345,511	\$ 9,243,285
Contributions of charitable gift annuities	963,244	-	963,244
Bequests	6,876,141	10,000	6,886,141
Net investment return	7,895,355	-	7,895,355
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>1,062,340</u>	<u>(1,062,340)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>24,694,854</u>	<u>293,171</u>	<u>24,988,025</u>
EXPENSES:			
Program services	11,024,245	-	11,024,245
Management and general	168,662	-	168,662
Fundraising	<u>92,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,068</u>
Total expenses	<u>11,284,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,284,975</u>
CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY VALUATION ADJUSTMENT			
	<u>(96,374)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(96,374)</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	13,313,505	293,171	13,606,676
NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	<u>58,312,875</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>58,332,375</u>
NET ASSETS—End of year	<u>\$ 71,626,380</u>	<u>\$ 312,671</u>	<u>\$ 71,939,051</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:				
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 10,917,539	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,917,539
Administrative charges	-	39,499	69,282	108,781
Professional fees	18,200	47,823	-	66,023
Grant proposal processing	59,249	-	-	59,249
Banking fees	-	24,506	-	24,506
Advertising	13,734	916	3,662	18,312
Maintenance	-	19,929	-	19,929
Printing, postage, and supplies	4,674	14,343	376	19,393
Travel	172	15,924	-	16,096
Legal fees	-	-	6,840	6,840
Depreciation	8,555	-	-	8,555
Insurance	2,122	2,122	-	4,244
Other expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>11,908</u>	<u>15,508</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 11,024,245</u>	<u>\$ 168,662</u>	<u>\$ 92,068</u>	<u>\$ 11,284,975</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in net assets	\$ 13,606,676
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Noncash investment contributions	(120,503)
Net change in appreciation of investments	(4,818,995)
Net loss on sale of investments	(912,900)
Depreciation	8,555
Charitable gift annuity valuation adjustment	96,374
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Interest and dividends receivable	(7,307)
Accounts receivable	82,450
Campaigns' pledges receivable	6,383
Prepaid expenses and other	(5,607)
Accounts payable—DAV and other	35,964
Annuity payment liability	(963,244)

Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>7,007,846</u>
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CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Purchases of investments	(32,345,313)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>21,988,594</u>

Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(10,356,719)</u>
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CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Proceeds from gift annuity agreement contributions	3,134,504
Payments to annuitants	<u>(539,195)</u>

Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>2,595,309</u>
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NET DECREASE IN CASH	(753,564)
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CASH—Beginning of year	<u>6,158,220</u>
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CASH—End of year	<u>\$ 5,404,656</u>
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See notes to financial statements.

DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. ORGANIZATION

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust (the “Trust”) is a not-for-profit service organization formed under the laws of the District of Columbia for the single purpose of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. To carry out this responsibility, the Trust supports physical and psychological rehabilitation programs; enhances research and mobility for veterans with amputations and spinal cord injuries; benefits aging veterans; aids and shelters homeless veterans; and evaluates and addresses the needs of veterans wounded in recent wars and conflicts and their caregivers.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Cash—The Trust considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents and are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Trust’s checking accounts was \$274,915 in 2024, which is included in support and revenue on the statement of activities within net investment returns. The Trust maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Trust has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Contributions—The Trust recognizes contribution revenue as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions when notification of the campaign designations is received and also recognizes an allowance for uncollectible pledges. Pledge receivables that are outstanding for more than one year are written off in their entirety. The Trust also evaluates pledges receivable for any amounts to be specifically reserved. Pledges receivable of \$89,284 are expected to be received in 2025. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

Investments—Investments include investment of contributions and charitable gift annuity agreements (see Note 7). Investments are recorded at fair value, and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected within the net investment return, in the statement of activities. The fair value of the Trust’s investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations, in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected in net investment return. The Trust’s policy is to report its cash and cash equivalents held in its investment trust accounts, which include money market funds, within investments on the statement of financial positions.

Contributions and Bequests—The Trust recognizes contributions when cash, securities or other assets; an unconditional promise to give; or a notification of a beneficial interest is received. Conditional

promises to give—that is, those with a measurable performance or other barrier and a right of return—are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been met.

Contributions and bequests received are recorded as support with and without donor restrictions depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. The Trust received stock contributions at a fair market value of \$120,503, included in contributions within the statement of activities, in 2024.

Contributed Nonfinancial Assets—For the year ended December 31, 2024, no contributed nonfinancial assets were received. Should nonfinancial assets be received, they would be separately recognized within the statement of activities and disclosed within the notes to the financial statements.

Allocation of Expenses—The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to one or more program or supporting services of the Trust. Those expenses include grant proposal processing, administrative charges, professional fees, travel, printing, postage and supplies, insurance, advertising and other expenses. All expenses are allocated based on estimates of time and effort toward each program or supporting service. Allocation estimates are reviewed annually based on the specific expense and adjusted accordingly.

Income Taxes—As a not-for-profit service organization, the Trust has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c) (3) organization. Contributions made to the Trust are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTION

Net assets are released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by donors. The net assets released from restrictions in 2024 are as follows:

Purpose restrictions accomplished:	
To Disabled American Veterans	\$ 984,960
To DAV Departments and Chapters	42,620
Program services	<u>34,760</u>
 Net assets released from donor restrictions	 <u>\$ 1,062,340</u>

4. LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Trust’s working capital and cash flows are attributable to the contributions, net of assessment fees and uncollectible pledges, received throughout the year. As of December 31, 2024, the Trust’s financial assets (total assets, less prepaid expenses and software) totaled \$77,221,560. All financial assets with the exception of the Charitable Gift Annuity Reserve investment of \$9,970,314 as of December 31, 2024, are available to fund expenditures within one year following the Statement of Financial Position date.

The Trust has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its fundraising costs and general and administrative expenses come due. In addition, the Trust awards grants to board-approved applicants. As part of its liquidity management, the Trust invests cash in excess of daily requirements in

various short-term investments. The short-term investments are invested for capital preservation and liquidity for cash flow requirements, such as money market funds, certificates of deposit, and commercial paper.

The Trust's long-term investment portfolio is for the deposit of proceeds and payment of obligations from charitable gift annuities. The portfolio is invested in marketable fixed-income and equity securities, index and actively managed mutual funds, and exchange traded funds. A portion of the balance is invested as required in accordance with governing regulatory agencies to pay the long-term charitable gift annuity beneficiary obligations. See Note 7 for further information. The remaining is invested with the intent of providing capital appreciation and total return to cover future expenditures and grants awarded.

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Accounting Standards Codification 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. This framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market, but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Trust did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2024.

Asset Valuation Techniques—Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market funds represent the Trust's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Common stocks and exchange-traded funds (ETFs), categorized as Level 1, are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Certificates of deposit categorized as Level 2 are valued at fair value, which approximates amortized cost.

US government securities (US Treasury notes), US government agency notes and municipal and corporate bonds, categorized as Level 2, are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker-dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds), categorized as Level 1, are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of the Trust's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Asset Category	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash equivalents	\$ 4,043,859	\$ -	\$ 4,043,859
US government securities	-	5,885,668	5,885,668
Common stocks	2,099,213	-	2,099,213
Certificates of deposit	-	319,151	319,151
US government agency notes	-	790,863	790,863
Municipal bonds	-	341,243	341,243
Corporate bonds	-	5,514,156	5,514,156
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	41,359,551	-	41,359,551
International fixed income funds	2,504,074	-	2,504,074
International equity funds	<u>8,571,619</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,571,619</u>
Total mutual funds/ETFs	<u>52,435,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,435,244</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 58,578,316</u>	<u>\$ 12,851,081</u>	<u>\$ 71,429,397</u>

Fair value of the annuity payment liability of \$5,163,600, classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy, as of December 31, 2024, was calculated as the net present value of expected annuity payments based on the following significant assumptions:

- (1) The discount rate expected to reflect yields available on high-quality investments; and
- (2) The mortality assumption based on expected annuitant longevity.

6. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2024, DAV personnel assisted the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, the Trust reimbursed DAV \$168,030 in 2024. As of December 31, 2024, the Trust owed DAV \$101,003. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment, and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2024, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

DAV Employment Initiative	\$ 1,771,716
DAV Disaster Relief	890,000
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	786,501
DAV "Just B Kids" Scholarship	510,000
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	292,500
National Transportation Network	205,000
Veterans retreats	150,000
Patriot Bootcamp	85,000
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	25,000
DAV 5K Program	10,000
DAV Night Out Program	1,250

In performing the duties of their positions, DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Board of Directors of the Trust. In performing the duties of their positions as a Trust Director, some members also serve on the DAV National Service Foundation Board of Directors and the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation's Board of Directors.

In 2024, the Trust made contributions of \$572,403, to the DAV National Service Foundation's Columbia Trust for the DAV Transportation Network Vehicle Grant Program.

7. ANNUITY PAYMENT LIABILITY

The Trust enters into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. In the statement of activities, contributions of charitable gift annuities of \$963,244 for the year ended December 31, 2024, are the result of the portion of gift annuity contributions that exceed the annuity payment liability estimated at the date of the contribution.

The Trust recognizes an annuity payment liability as the present value of the future cash flows expected to be paid to the donors and their beneficiaries using a discount rate of 5% as of December 31, 2024.

In 2024, the Trust used the mortality table IAR-2012 in determining the liability to reflect the most up-to-date expectations with regard to longevity for individual annuitant lives.

In 2024, the Charitable Gift Annuity Valuation Adjustment of \$(96,374), which resulted in a decrease of new assets, consists of:

- Gain from deceased annuitants of \$271,520, and
- Other actuarial adjustments of \$(367,893), which are primarily related to discounting of the liability during the year ended December 31, 2024.

There are various state statutes and regulations that govern not-for-profit entities that enter into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. As required by various state statutes and regulations, the Trust segregates the deposit of charitable gift annuity proceeds and reserves a portion for fulfillment of future annuity obligations. The required minimum balance of the reserve account is maintained and invested in accordance with applicable state statutes, the fair market value of which is \$8,602,606 as of December 31, 2024.

In addition to this reserve account, the Trust is required by California statutes to maintain segregated reserves for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in California. The fair market value for the California reserve account is \$1,367,708 as of December 31, 2024. The minimum required balance of the segregated accounts for California donors is calculated and invested in accordance with applicable California statutes and regulations.

The Trust also maintains the minimum amount of net assets without donor restrictions as required by any state for the acceptance of charitable gift annuities, which is \$1,000,000. The total net assets without donor restrictions that are subject to state statutes or regulations (calculated as the reserve funds (investments), less the annuity payment liability) amounted to \$4,806,714 as of December 31, 2024.

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No other events have occurred after December 31, 2024, but before April 8, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

(Whereupon, Charitable Service Trust President and Past National Adjutant Burgess withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Marc. May I have a motion to accept that impressive report?

MR. DONALD MOORE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 1.

MR. MOORE: Don Moore from the great State of Florida, Chapter 84, make a motion, second the motion for acceptance.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: We have a motion. May I have a second?

MR. PAUL SHOOK: Mic 3.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 3.

MR. SHOOK: Paul Shook, Waco, Texas, Chapter 3, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Whereupon Charitable Service Trust President and Past National Adjutant Burgess withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: In 2014 a long-overdue memorial was opened in Washington, D.C. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial pays tribute to some of our most courageous heroes—our disabled veterans.

While DAV played a pivotal role in the creation of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, which was dedicated October 5th, 2014, we have continued to serve as stewards of this important monument ever since.

I'm honored to welcome onto the stage a respected DAV leader who was there in 2014 when the monument was dedicated. He has been a tireless advocate for its use, preservation, and promotion ever since.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation President Dennis Joyner. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and DVLMF President and Past National Commander Joyner advanced to the lectern.)

MR. LEWIS: DAV Past National Commander Dennis Joyner was appointed board president for the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation in 2015.

A combat-disabled amputee of the Vietnam War, he was named the Handicapped American of the Year in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan.

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS JOYNER: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: Everybody ready to go home with lots of money? (Applause) Adjutant Jesinoski, national officers, delegates and guests.

It's my honor to provide this update. It's been an exciting year for the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation and for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

But, before I share the highlights, let me introduce our board of directors: Vice-President Barry Jesinoski; Secretary-Treasurer Dave Gorman; and our directors: National Commander Dan Contreras, Dave Riley, Don Samuels, Nachee Miller; and Ex-Officio Member Art Wilson.

This board continues to do a wonderful job of maintaining the Memorial and promoting its message. Thank you to each of our board members. (Applause)

It's been a wonderful year for the Memorial. As we've celebrated a decade of its presence in our nation's capital, representing the past, present and future veterans who have sacrificed for our country.

And behind each veteran it represents is a story, important stories that should be preserved and shared. They're an important part of the fabric of our nation. We've preserved some of these stories into the Memorial's etched glass panels, revealing personal journeys of service and sacrifice.

Stories like Marine First Lieutenant Baine P. Kerr's. An image of him being carried on a stretcher by his fellow World War II Marines is prominently displayed at the Memorial.

He was the acting company commander for his unit during the Battle of Guadalcanal in January 1943 when his patrol was ambushed by enemy machine gun fire. He was shot in the right thigh during that attack.

The two Marines who tried to come to his rescue were also shot. But they all managed to crawl to safety. A corpsman treated him with the usual practice at the time—a bandage, a shot of morphine, and a bit of brandy. (Laughter) "I was feeling fine at that point," he recalled.

Still, his platoon sergeant and three other Marines put Baine on a stretcher and started carrying him to a jeep to be taken to nearby Henderson Field for evacuation. That's when Marine Lieutenant Karl Thayer Soule popped out from behind a palm tree to take the photo.

Baine recalled that moment later. "They had me lying there with my head on my helmet," he said. "I'm trying to see what's going on. There was this flash from the camera." It's an iconic photo that has been republished numerous times and shows the rawness of battle.

We don't know all the identities of the stretcher carriers except two. Glenn White who, along with another Marine in this picture, was killed at Tarawa and Joseph Cado who survived the war and settled in Louisiana until his death in 1996.

As for Baine, he recovered in New Zealand before returning to his unit to continue to fight in other battles of the Pacific Campaign, including Saipan, Tarawa, and Tinian. After his time in the Marine Corps he returned home to Houston to practice law.

It's an honor to be part of preserving stories like Baine Kerr's. It's an honor to provide a place that belongs to every ill and injured veteran who has been or will be forever changed by their service. It's an honor to represent each of them.

As I mentioned, this past October we celebrated the ten-year anniversary of our Memorial. If you haven't seen the ceremony, I encourage you to visit our website A-V-D-L-M-dot-org to watch it. It was a special event that included a live dramatic reading and discussion of Sophocles' play "Philoctetes"—and I apologize. I've struggled with them words every time I have to pronounce them. (Laughter) But it was, that play was facilitated by the Theater of War Productions.

During that ceremony I spoke about what this Memorial has come to mean to me, personally. Yes, it's a place to reflect on the human cost of war, but it's also a testament to our resilience and resolve for justice for our brothers and sisters, for our families, for our survivors.

It's an important place for all of us. And I encourage you to visit the next time you're in Washington, D.C. We've included a brochure in the materials that were in your convention bags. Please, take a moment to review the materials and share it with others back home.

To every member of the board of directors, past and present, and to the entirety of the DAV and the Auxiliary, thank you for your unwavering support. We will continue to work alongside the National Park Service staff, volunteers and supporters to preserve and maintain this special place and ensure everyone can access its meaningful message.

Thank you, Commander. This concludes my report. (Applause)

(Whereupon, DVLMF President and Past National Commander Joyner withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Denny. May I have a motion to accept the report?

MR. THOMAS AYALA: Mic 4.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MR. AYALA: Thomas Ayala, Chapter 1, Jacksonville, Florida, makes that motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I have a motion. I need a second?

MS. WANDA JANAS: Mic 2.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 2.

MS. JANAS: Wanda Janas, Portland Chapter 1, Department of Oregon, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Applause)

(Whereupon, DVLMF President and Past National Commander Joyner withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Now, will you please welcome Paul Hermann, president of the Commanders and Adjutants Association.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Mr. Hermann advanced to the lectern.)

MR. PAUL HERMANN: I've got to put my eyes on. (Laughter) National Commander Contreras, National Adjutant Jesinoski, national officers, delegates and guests, good morning, brothers and sisters of the DAV.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. HERMANN: I am proud to have been elected as the president of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association for the year 25-26.

We pledge to continue our support of the national organization through our sponsorships of the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, the Mid-Winter Conference, the Golf Clinic, and the Winter Sports Clinic. We look forward to another very productive year in the DAV.

At this time I would like to read into the record our officers and committees for the coming year: Secretary-treasurer Rita Alberegg from Virginia. Judge Advocate, Floyd Watson, Wyoming. Chaplain, Julie Taylor from Connecticut. Assistant Chaplain, Denise Williams, Virginia. (Applause)

Sergeant-at-Arms, Sadie Hill, Georgia. (Applause) Second Sergeant-at-Arms, Kenny Belew, Tennessee.

Audit, Burl Jimmerson, Thomas Ayala, Matt Kempanien, Nancy Espinosa.

Constitution and Bylaws, J. Hafford Pandose from Oklahoma, Jamie Jakub from Nebraska, Carl Fortner from Arizona.

Chapter resource guides: Adam Greathouse from West Virginia, Rob Hilliard from Wisconsin, Jerome Washington from Nevada.

At this time I would ask that the National Commander Contreras and National Adjutant Jesinoski please join me to receive a presentation.

(Whereupon, the commander and adjutant joined Mr. Hermann at the lectern.)

MR. HERMANN: On behalf of the C&A I would like to present you with this check for \$3,000 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you.

MR. HERMANN: And a hundred dollar check in honor of Past President Kirk Johnson. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the president presented the commander and adjutant with the checks, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Paul.

(Whereupon, the president withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern and the adjutant returned to his seat.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Since its incorporation in 1986, the DAV National Service Foundation has helped safeguard and sustain the long-term financial stability needed to support DAV services at every level.

Using resources from the Foundation, DAV was able to provide free, professional assistance with disability claims and benefits; no-cost transportation to and from medical appointments; and other vital services imperative to the quality of life of veterans and their families.

To share more about its incredible impact, I'm honored to invite to the stage the president of the DAV National Service Foundation, Andy Marshall.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and National Service Foundation President and Past National Commander Andrew "Andy" Marshall advanced to the lectern.)

MR. LEWIS: Past National Commander Andy Marshall served in DAV's highest elected position from 2021 to 2022. Marshall, who retired from DAV as a national area supervisor, served several leadership positions throughout the organization with more than four decades of service.

The combat-disabled Vietnam veteran currently serves as the adjutant of the Department of Florida.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ANDREW "ANDY" MARSHALL: Thank you, Commander, for that kind introduction. Adjutant Jesinoski, national officers, delegates and guests.

I would like to begin this morning's report by introducing the DAV National Service Foundation's Board of Directors: Vice-President Barry Jesinoski; Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Johnston; and our Directors: National Commander Daniel Contreras; Butch Whitehead, Michael Elmore, Delphine Metcalf-Foster; and Ex-Officio Member Nancy Espinosa. (Applause)

It is my honor and privilege to present this annual convention report to you.

The National Service Foundation plays a vital role in supporting the daily work of our national and transition service officers. Through free, professional assistance, these benefits advocates work hard to meet the significant and immediate needs of veterans.

In my own career as a DAV benefits advocate, countless times I've seen how meaningful this work is to the people we serve. Whether it's helping them to file a claim with the VA; connecting them with reliable, no-cost transportation to a medical appointment; or helping them connect with DAV resources or earned benefits, the National Service Foundation helps us to do this important work.

No veteran should have to struggle after their time in uniform. We know the challenges that they face. We've been there, too. That's why we're committed to guiding veterans to successful transition and long-term success.

When I look back at this past year I'm proud of how well we have kept that promise.

In 2024, DAV service officers submitted more than 561,000 claims for over 1.5 million specific injuries and illnesses on behalf of veterans, their families and their survivors. (Applause) Our service program took over 3.1 million actions to advocate for benefits for veterans and their families. (Applause)

Our benefits advocates, all who are disabled veterans, are professionals in the truest sense and remain the benchmark of service officers.

The Foundation contributions to our service department so that it has the most up-to-date tools, resources, and training for our benefits advocates.

Of note, total client contributions to the Foundation, which are a generous expression of appreciation for all the work of our national service officers and transition service officers, exceeded \$550,000 in 2024. (Applause)

The Foundation's Columbia Trust allows us to distribute resources to DAV departments and chapters in need across the country.

In 2024, the Columbia Trust awarded grants of approximately \$1.2 million to help chapters and departments provide medical transportation, coordinate volunteerism in hospitals, enable department and chapter service programs, and support and assist other initiatives like those that combat veterans' homelessness. (Applause)

The Trust also helped chapters and departments purchase 70 new vehicles which were donated to the VA as part of the DAV Transportation Network Program. (Applause) These vehicles contributed to DAV volunteers providing more than 235,000 no-cost rides to veterans through the DAV Transportation Network. Those volunteers logged more than 586,000 hours and drove over 9.3 million miles. (Applause)

The Transportation Network would not be able to function without the effort of the DAV hospital service coordinators. Around the country 133 hospital service coordinators match volunteer drivers with transportation requests from veterans, as needed.

The Foundation is grateful to support many of the 230 state-level department service officers and nearly 2,700 chapter service officers who assist with DAV's primary mission of benefits advocacy in their local communities. (Applause) These volunteers are often the first interaction veterans and families have with DAV and they represent the very best of who we are as an organization.

In total, we disbursed more than \$6 million to support DAV's mission in 2024. (Applause) The majority of those funds went to the national service program, which delivers no-cost professional claims services to veterans throughout the nation. We remain a steadfast ally of DAV to ensure continued advocacy and service for our country's veterans.

Because of careful management, the Foundation's net assets totaled \$189 million last year. This means that for many years to come we can continue supporting the important promise we made to those who've served.

I'd like to now ask National Service Director Jim Marszalek to join me on stage as we present the Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards.

(Whereupon, Mr. Marszalek joined National Service Foundation President and Past National Commander Marshall on the stage.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARSHALL: These are given to the national service offices leading their respective divisions in the largest combined total of contributions made in its name at the conclusion of the membership year.

MR. LEWIS: Division 1, the DAV National Office in White River Junction, Vermont, with a total of \$5,650. And accepting the award on their behalf is National Appeals Office Supervisor Richard Vaccari. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which the recipient withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Division 2, the National Service Office in Reno, Nevada with a total of \$7,729. And accepting the award on their behalf is National Area Supervisor Maria Ruvalcaba. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which the recipient withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Division 3, the National Service Office in Chicago, Illinois, with a total of \$38,695. And accepting the award on their behalf is NSO Supervisor Robert Nolibertowicz. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which the NSO withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Division 4, the National Service Office in Indianapolis, Indiana with a total of \$41,263. And accepting the award on their behalf is NSO Supervisor Penny Johnson. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which the NSO withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Division 5, the National Service Office in Houston, Texas, with a total of \$30,458. And accepting the award on their behalf is NSO Assistant Supervisor Javier DeLaTorre. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which the NSO withdrew from the stage.)

MR. LEWIS: Division 6, the National Service Office in St. Petersburg, Florida, with a total of \$26,152. And accepting the award on their behalf is the NSO Supervisor Gerry Propst. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 6 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented, at which time an official photograph was taken, after which the NSO withdrew from the stage.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Please join me again in thanking our incredible national service officers for all they do. (Applause)

Before we open up our time of giving, I'd like to recognize our partners at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett, and Dunner. For many years the Finnegan firm has participated in DAV's pro bono program for veterans who need legal representation at the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Not only that, they have also been a long-time supporter of the National Service Foundation.

It's my pleasure to announce that, just this past year, their legendary giving has surpassed a new milestone with lifetime contributions now exceeding not one, two, but three million dollars. (Applauses)

They are the first donor to ever achieve this level and we're proud to bestow it upon such an incredible group of people who do so much for veterans.

In recognition of this generosity, we'd like to present Finnegan with the Foundation's third Gold Level award.

Representing our friends at Finnegan is James R. Barney, managing partner. James is one of us, a Naval Academy graduate. He served as a submariner before attending Yale to become an attorney.

(Whereupon, Mr. Barney advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Congratulations and thank you for the unwavering support of veterans and the work we do.

THE HONORABLE JAMES R. BARNEY: Thank you. I'm honored to be here on behalf of the attorneys and the staff of Finnegan, Henderson, Farrabow, Garrett and Dunner. We're proud to continue our support for the DAV National Service Foundation. And I'm also proud to present this check for \$30,000. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the check was presented to Adjutant Jesinoski, after which Mr. Barney withdrew from and National Service Foundation President and Past National Commander Marshall returned to the lectern.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: How about that, another donation from them. Congratulations and thank you for your unwavering support of veterans and the work, the mission of DAV and those who carry it out. Can we take a moment and thank the Finnegan firm again? (Applause)

Now that our time of giving is officially open, I want to remind you that the National Service Foundation recognizes donors at many levels with awards that correspond with lifetime giving amounts.

Every cent you donate to the Foundation both supports all the service initiatives we back and ensures DAV is in the best position possible to fulfill its mission.

In addition to in-person donations, remember that you can also donate online or by mail at the address noted on the screen.

Whichever method you choose to give, know that it's a way to honor and commemorate our brothers- and sisters-in-arms and to show our commitment to America's finest.

In addition to Finnegan, Henderson, Farrabow and Gunner's donation, I'm pleased to announce contributions from the Moral Rearmament League of \$2,300.

And of note, because of your generosity, convention donations for all DAV entities have exceeded one million dollars for two consecutive years. (Applause)

So now it's your turn to speak and to show the nation what you and your chapter or department are willing to do to support the cause that brought us here today.

MS. KIMBERLY TATHAM: Kim Tatham from the Show-Me State, \$2,000 to the Charitable Service Trust and \$2,000 for the National Service Foundation out of my own wallet. I didn't give it all in the casino. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, State of Missouri, in honor of our St. Louis National Service Office we donate \$25,000 to the National Service Foundation and \$25,000 to the National Disabled Golf Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you, sir,

MR. RICKY BROOKS: Rick Brooks, Department of Missouri, in honor St. Louis' National Service Officers, we have \$25,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

MR. LARRY TROWBRIDGE: Larry Towbridge, senior vice commander of Chapter 2 in Kansas City, I'm honored to present this check for \$20,000 for the Winter Sports Clinic in honor of the National Service Office in St. Louis, Missouri. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you, sir.

MR. ANDREW EDWARDS: Andrew Edwards, Chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri, commander, we're donating \$10,000 to the National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic and \$50,000 to the National Service Foundation in honor of the National Service Office in St. Louis. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. PHILIP (INAUDIBLE) FIUMARA: Philip (Inaudible) Fiumara, Jr., Chapter 76, Department of Pennsylvania, I want to donate \$1,000 to the National Foundation in honor of my wife, Susan, who was a registered nurse for 41 years in the top 100 nursing hospitals in the country. And she's here with me and she belongs to the Auxiliary, as well. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. BRENDA REED: Brenda Reed, judge advocate, Chapter 4, New Port Richie, Florida, we donate \$1,000 to the National Service Fund. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JOHN CORNISH: John Cornish, commander, Department of Florida. The Department of Florida donates DAV National Service Foundation \$5,000 and \$5,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. KARL KURTZ: Karl Kurtz, Department of Idaho, commander, on behalf of Idaho we want to—excuse me—we want to donate \$250 to the National Service Foundation and \$250 to the Columbia Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. GEORGE (INAUDIBLE): George (Inaudible), commander, Chapter 18, Bradenton, Florida. The members are generously donating \$25,000 to the Golf Clinic and \$25,000 to the Caregivers program. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. SCOTT FELDT: Scott Feldt, from the great State of Colorado, chapter commander, Chapter 7, we would like to donate \$2,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic, \$2,000 to the Columbia Trust, and \$2,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you, sir.

MR. DONALD WISE: I'm Don Wise and on behalf of Chapter 16, Orlando, Florida, we're donating \$2,500 to the Disaster Relief. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JON WAY: Jon Way, commander, Department of Nevada, we'd like to donate \$1,000 to the Columbia Trust and \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. SHAWN BREWER: Shawn Brewer, treasurer, Department of Nevada, we're going to donate \$500 to the Charitable Service Trust Homeless program and \$500 to Just B Kids. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JEROME WASHINGTON: Jerome Washington, State of Nevada, we are donating \$500 to the Disabled Veterans Memorial Foundation, \$500 to the DAV Youth Scholarship Program, as well as \$500 for the Commanders and Adjutants Association. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. PHELLEP SNOW: Phellep Snow, Chapter 12, Black Mountain, Henderson, Nevada, we're donating or pledging \$2,000 in honor of our chapter members who have passed away in the last year. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. JUDITH RUSSELL: Judith Russell, Department of New York commander. Department of New York, in addition to its sponsoring Just B Kids, Camp Corral that we donated \$187,000, we are also donating \$10,000 for the National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic, \$25,000 for the Winter Sports Clinic, \$25,000 for Disaster Relief, \$25,000 for the National Service Foundation, and \$50,000 for the Charitable Service Trust, a total of \$322,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I come from the great State of Wisconsin. (Applause) And I stand before you on behalf of my fellow comrades of Milwaukee Chapter 19, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We are donating \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation to strengthen their mission. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. RICHAD LEHMANN: Rich Lehmann from the Department of Virginia, past department commander, \$20,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. MARCIA STEWART: Marcia Stewart from the Department of Virginia, senior vice-commander, we are donating \$40,000 to the 2025 National Disabled Veterans Golf. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: From the great State of Virginia, we are donating \$40,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. DON BROWN: Aloha, kakahiaka. That means "good morning to all. And my name is Don Brown. I am the commander for the great, the beautiful state of Hawaii. And the Department of Hawaii would like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation.

And on behalf of the Department of Hawaii's NSOs, Miss Sherry Green, Ernesto Gilling-Strickland, and Mr. Charles Hall they would also like to contribute or donate \$1,000. Thank you. Mahalo. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. WILL MENTON: Will Menton from the State of Tennessee, past commander, we donate \$1,000 to the Mid-Winter and \$1,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT: Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Department of Massachusetts commander, nation's first. We proudly donate \$1,000 each to the National Service Foundation, the DAV Charitable Service Trust and the Caregiver Support program in memory of Alan Bowers, past national commander. Honoring our commitment to veterans and their families. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. JOAN SABREE: Good morning. Joan Sabree, department commander from the magnificent State of Maryland. (Cheers) We are donating \$5,000 to the National Emergency Relief Fund and \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL KOENIG: Good morning. I'm Michael Koenig. I am the adjutant of Chapter 1 of the DAV in Phoenix, Arizona, the heart of Arizona. We have donated \$50,000 to the Charitable Service Trust on behalf of the men and women of DAV Chapter 1 and DAVA Unit 1. Thank you very much. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JAMES GEARY: Good morning. My name is Jim Geary. I'm the commander of Chapter 20, Glendale, Arizona. And we are donating \$5,000 to the Texas Flood Victims Relief, \$5,000 to the DAV Services Foundation and \$5,000 to the DAV Golf Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. MILLIE MOSELEY: Millie Moseley, Auxiliary commander for the great State of Oklahoma. We give \$6,000 to the National Golf Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. MERLINE LEDAY-MAUNEY: Good morning, Department of Oklahoma State Commander Merline Leday-Mauney, we have a \$1,000 donation from our national service officer, Fred White, the national service officer organization. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. BENNIE WILSON: Good morning. Bennie Wilson, commander for the Department of Georgia. We give \$2,000 for the National Service Foundation and \$2,000 for the Columbia Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. DONNIE HOUGHLAND: Good morning from the State of Illinois. Don Houghland, department commander. First of all I want to apologize to those who all seen me dance last night. Somebody slipped alcohol in my beer. (Laughter) But we'd like to donate \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation and another \$5,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JOSHUA SANDERS: Josh Sanders from adjutant/treasurer for Chapter 17 Decatur Macon County from the State of Illinois, is donating \$10,000 to the Disaster Relief and \$10,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning. Go Gators. From the great State of Florida I would like to donate to the National Service Office \$25,000. I would like to donate to the Winter Sports Clinic \$20,000. I would like to donate to the Golf Clinic \$15,000, and for our kids another \$10,000. Go Gators. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. TIMOTHY WALSH: Good morning, Tim Walsh, commander, Department of South Dakota. In honor of our national service officer supervisor Owen Richards we were donating \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. DAN FRANCIS: Good morning. Dan Francis from South Dakota, Arthur Muchow Chapter 1 donate \$400 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

DR. CARL FORKNER: Carl Forkner, adjutant of the Grand Canyon State of Arizona. We're donating \$500 to the Commanders and Adjutants Association and \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. In Arizona we have amazing NSOs. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER

MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. LEON BOOKER: Good morning. From the great State of Georgia, the Peach State, I am Commander Leon Booker. On behalf of William E. Tate Chapter Number 1 we'd like to donate \$2,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JOHN MASSELLI: Good morning. My name is John Masselli. I'm the commander Chapter 144 upstate New York, the party capital of the world. I'd like to make a \$2,000 donation to Just B Kids, Camp Corral. Thank you all. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. RICHARD J. PALAZZO: Rich Palazzo, adjutant and VSO, Chapter 144, New York, I'd like to make a thousand dollar donation to the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Fund. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. AARON CUNNINGHAM: Good morning. Aaron Cunningham, commander, Department of Ohio, also commander of the mother chapter, Cincinnati 1. We would like to donate \$10,000 to Charities Trust, \$20,000 to the Service Foundation, \$25,000 for Transportation, \$25,000 for the Disaster Relief, and \$25,000 for Jesse Brown Scholarship. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. ERIC CASS: Good morning. I am Eric Cass, Chapter 73, commander of Erie and Crawford County of Pennsylvania. We are donating \$1,000 to Just B Kids in honor of our hometown heroes program. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. KEVIN GRANTIER: I'm Kevin Grantier, department commander of Montana since 2017. Ten years ago we started a little golf tournament in Montana. We ended the 10th year anniversary two weeks ago and that tournament two weeks ago brought in \$264,000. (Applause) Ten year total is \$1,004,187. We'd like to pay it forward. My adjutant and I would like to present some donations.

MR. CHASE NATALIE: Adjutant Chase Natalie, we are donating \$10,000 to Camp Corral, \$10,000 to Patriot Boot Camp, and \$10,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. GRANTIER: We're not done. We'd also like to give \$10,000 to the Disaster Relief, \$10,000 to the Miracle on the Mountain Winter Sports Clinic and \$50,000 to the Golf Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. ASHLEY HESSE: Ashley Hesse, Chapter 39 out of Anoka, Minnesota. We would like to donate \$5,000 to the Disaster Relief. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JOHN WALKER: John Walker from the Department of Minnesota. I am the department commander. The Department of Minnesota and the Department of Minnesota Foundation would like to make these donations: to Columbia Trust, \$10,000; Caregivers program, \$20,000; National Service Foundation, \$15,000; Disaster Relief, \$25,000; \$40,000 to the Golf Clinic; and \$40,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic, for the total of \$150,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. LORETTA LASSITER-BELTON: Good morning. Commander Lassiter-Belton here on behalf of the Department of South Carolina. We'd like to donate \$5,000 for Columbia Trust and \$3,000 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. ROBERT CUDWORTH: My name is Robert Cudworth. I am a proud member of the William C. Melia Chapter 1, Department of Pennsylvania, the nation's second-oldest chapter. Chapter makes a \$1,000 donation in memory of chapter member Robert Cudworth Junior's caregiver and wife, Deborah Cudworth.

I also make a personal contribution of \$1,500 in memory of my brother—my Alzheimer's gets talking to me too often—in memory of my brother, Elmer, a World War II B-26 bomber pilot who was killed in action in 1943; my brother Kenneth, a U.S. Navy corpsman who passed away in 1997; and my wife, Edna, a U.S. Army nurse and Army wife who passed away on 9 January 2023. Thank you. (Applause)
All to the National Service Foundation.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. KATHRYN GERARD: Past Department Commander Kathryn Gerard from the great State of Nevada, I personally donate \$100 to the Disaster Relief program. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MS. JANE (INAUDIBLE) OVERY: Jane (Inaudible) Overy past department commander of the great State of Nevada and also the Chapter 12 Henderson, Nevada, wish to donate \$1,000 to the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation in honor of my husband of 65 years who passed last year with asbestos. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. ADAM GREATHOUSE: Adam Greathouse, Department of West Virginia adjutant, Chapter 2 commander, Huntington, West Virginia, \$1,500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you.

MR. JIM GRIFFITH: Hello, everybody, how are you doing?
(Response of "Good.")

MR. GRIFFITH: I'm Jim Griffith from the great State of Minnesota, and I'm donating \$100 of my own money because there is a lot of chapters in our state that have been in DAV for over 100 years. We're celebrating that this year. So I'm donating it to Disaster Relief. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARSHALL: Thank you. You are all wonderfully generous. Thank you. (Applause)

So thanks to you out here, your chapters, departments, individuals, proud to announce that for the third year in a row you have exceeded one million dollars in contributions to our organization. (Applause) It is actually \$1,269,716. (Applause)

Your gifts to the DAV National Service Foundation are truly empowering veterans to build successful, fulfilled lives. And your support goes a long way in ensuring DAV's critical services and programs continue. I look forward to another successful year working on behalf of those we serve.

Commander, that concludes my report. (Applause)

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2024, and
Independent Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
DAV (Disabled American Veterans) National Service Foundation:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of DAV (Disabled American Veterans) National Service Foundation (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as of December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Foundation and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always

detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Deloitte + Touche LLP

April 8, 2025

**DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS)
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024**

ASSETS

CASH	\$ 7,095,591
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	17,529
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	80,913
INVENTORIES	98
PREPAID EXPENSES	17,316
INVESTMENTS	181,636,597
OTHER ASSETS	<u>3,145</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 188,851,189</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:

Due to Disabled American Veterans	\$ 189,236
Other liabilities	<u>49,358</u>
Total liabilities	<u>238,594</u>

NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions:	
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	98,846,277
The Columbia Trust	<u>1,582,577</u>
Total net assets without donor restrictions	<u>100,428,854</u>
With donor restrictions:	
Purpose restricted for mission	87,952,048
Purpose restricted for DAV Legislative Fund	<u>231,693</u>
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u>88,183,741</u>
Total net assets	<u>188,612,595</u>

TOTAL	<u>\$ 188,851,189</u>
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See notes to financial statements.

DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS) NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

		With Donor Restrictions				
	Without Donor Restrictions	Purpose Restricted	Purpose Restricted Columbia Trust	Purpose Restricted DAV Legislative	Total	
SUPPORT AND REVENUES:						
Contributions and bequests	\$ 3,906,747	\$ -	\$ 1,026,478	\$ -	\$ 4,933,225	
Net investment return	9,642,738	9,038,844	31,641	-	18,713,223	
Net assets released from restrictions	3,489,319	(2,431,200)	(1,058,119)	-	-	
Total support and revenues	17,038,804	6,607,644	-	-	23,646,448	
EXPENSES:						
Program expenses:						
Grants and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust	1,158,587	-	-	-	1,158,587	
Appropriations to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	5,031,958	-	-	-	5,031,958	
Total program expenses	6,190,545	-	-	-	6,190,545	
Management and general expenses	139,945	-	-	-	139,945	
Fundraising expenses	189,893	-	-	-	189,893	
Total expenses	6,520,383	-	-	-	6,520,383	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	10,518,421	6,607,644	-	-	17,126,065	
NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	89,910,433	81,344,404	-	231,693	171,486,530	
NET ASSETS—End of year	\$100,428,854	\$87,952,048	\$ -	\$231,693	\$188,612,595	

See notes to financial statements.

**DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS)
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Program	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:				
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 6,132,388	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,132,388
Administrative charges	-	53,846	9,162	63,008
Grant proposal processing	53,847	-	-	53,847
Printing, stationery, and supplies	628	5,714	90,807	97,149
Postage and shipping	-	3,918	76,388	80,306
Professional fees	-	22,177	-	22,177
Banking and credit card fees	3,682	18,302	-	21,984
Registration fees	-	3,825	6,697	10,522
Legal fees	-	-	6,840	6,840
Awards	-	9,805	-	9,805
Travel	-	10,247	-	10,247
Insurance	-	4,346	-	4,346
Maintenance	-	4,720	-	4,720
Depreciation	-	2,139	-	2,139
Miscellaneous	-	905	-	905
TOTAL	<u>\$ 6,190,545</u>	<u>\$ 139,944</u>	<u>\$ 189,894</u>	<u>\$ 6,520,383</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS) NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in net assets	\$ 17,126,065
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Net change in appreciation of investments	(10,946,557)
Net gain on sale of investments	(2,901,378)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Interest and dividends receivable	16,825
Accounts receivable	(36,611)
Inventories	21
Prepaid expenses	(1,952)
Due to Disabled American Veterans	47,421
Other liabilities	1,636

Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>3,305,470</u>
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CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Purchases of investment securities	(24,818,001)
Proceeds from sale of investment securities	25,032,468
Other	<u>2,139</u>

Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>216,606</u>
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NET INCREASE IN CASH	3,522,076
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CASH—Beginning of year	<u>3,573,515</u>
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CASH—End of year	<u>\$ 7,095,591</u>
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See notes to financial statements.

**DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS)
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

1. ORGANIZATION

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) National Service Foundation (the “Foundation”) is a financial auxiliary of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The purpose of the Foundation, as set forth in Article 3 of the Articles of Incorporation, is as follows:

“To receive and maintain a fund or funds of personal or real property, or both; to solicit and obtain contributions from the public; and, subject to the restrictions set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, to use and apply the whole or any part of the income and principal of said fund exclusively for the promotion of social welfare (including incidental nonpartisan legislative activity in furtherance of such purpose) within the meaning of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, primarily for the assistance, aid, maintenance, care, support, and rehabilitation of disabled veterans and their dependents, either directly or by contributions to the DAV, a Congressionally chartered organization, or any chapter or department thereof.”

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Cash—The Foundation considers all liquid instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents that are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Foundation’s checking accounts were \$127,988 in 2024, which is included within Net Investment Return within the Statement of Activities. The Foundation maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Foundation has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Inventories—Inventory consists of solicitation materials and other items.

Investments—Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the Foundation’s investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments of the Foundation. The Foundation’s policy is to report its cash and cash equivalents within its investment trust accounts, which include money market funds, within investments on the statement of financial positions.

Contributions—The Foundation recognizes contributions when cash, securities or other assets; an unconditional promise to give; or a notification of a beneficial interest is received. Conditional promises to give—that is, those with a measurable performance or other barrier and a right of return—are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been met.

Contributions, including bequests, received are recorded as support with or without donor restrictions, depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation.

Contributed Nonfinancial Assets—For the year ended December 31, 2024, there were no contributed nonfinancial assets received. Should nonfinancial assets be received, they would be separately recognized within the statement of activities and disclosed within the notes to the financial statements.

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions—All contributions and bequests without donor restrictions to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) for investment in a Board-designated endowment fund, known as the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, as a reserve for future needs.

Investment income derived from these invested amounts is included in net assets without donor restrictions and used for current operations of the Foundation or appropriated by the Foundation for use by DAV.

Appropriations to the Columbia Trust are excluded from the statement of activities due to the transactions being an internal appropriation. There was \$454,075 appropriated to The Columbia Trust in 2024.

For 2024, the Board has designated \$1,582,577 as total unrestricted net assets for The Columbia Trust and are not included in the Board-designated endowment fund. The Columbia Trust recorded an increase in unrestricted net assets of \$46,621 in 2024. Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments is designated to The Columbia Trust’s net assets from the unrestricted general fund.

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions—Funds considered with donor restriction for mission are restricted by their purpose to being invested prudently and used in fulfilling the Foundation’s mission. As of December 31, 2024, the net assets with donor restrictions of \$87,952,048 are included within the investments balance in the statement of financial position.

In 2024, The Columbia Trust received \$572,403, from the DAV Charitable Service Trust to be used for the DAV Transportation Network Vehicle Grant Program.

Contributions for the DAV Legislative Program are considered contributions with donor restriction. Investment income of \$8,758 in 2024 from the DAV Legislative Fund was transferred to DAV for use by DAV’s Legislative Program. The net assets with donor restrictions of \$231,693 as of December 31, 2024, are included within the investments balance in the statement of financial position.

Allocation of Expenses—The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to one or more program or supporting services of the organization. Those expenses include grant proposal processing, administrative charges, postage and shipping, printing, stationery and supplies, legal fees and registration fees. All expenses are allocated based on estimates of time and effort toward each program or supporting service. Allocation estimates are reviewed annually based on the specific expense and adjusted accordingly.

Income Taxes—As a not-for-profit service organization, the Foundation has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income taxes as a Section 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to the Foundation are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Foundation has one Board-designated endowment fund, the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund. The following table represents the composition of the Foundation’s endowment net assets by type of fund for the year ended December 31, 2024:

	Without Donor Restrictions
Board designated Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	<u>\$ 98,846,278</u>
The Foundation’s Board-designated endowment fund included in net assets without donor restrictions, also known as the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, for the year ended December 31, 2024, had the following activity:	
Net assets—beginning of year	<u>\$ 88,735,312</u>
Public support—contributions and bequests	3,906,747
Revenues—net investment return	<u>9,642,737</u>
Total public support and revenue	<u>13,549,484</u>
Expenses:	
Program:	
Appropriations to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	2,600,758
Internal appropriation to the Columbia Trust	454,075
Grant proposal processing	<u>53,847</u>
Total program expenses	3,108,680
Management and general	139,946
Fundraising	<u>189,893</u>
Total expenses	<u>3,438,519</u>
Total change in Board-designated endowment fund	<u>10,110,966</u>
Net assets—end of year	<u>\$ 98,846,278</u>

4. LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Foundation's working capital and cash flows are attributable to the contributions received throughout the year. As of December 31, 2024, the Foundation's financial assets (total assets, less inventory, prepaid expenses and other assets) totaled \$188,830,630. The financial assets, with the exception of the donor-restricted by purpose for DAV Legislative Fund investment of \$231,693 as of December 31, 2024, are available to fund general expenditures within one year following the statement of financial position date. Donor restricted funds of \$87,952,048 for 2024 have been included because they are restricted for programs considered general expenditures by the organization. The Foundation has an investment spending policy that would allow for withdrawals from the long-term investment portfolio, from both general assets without donor restrictions and with donor restriction purpose restricted for its mission.

The Foundation has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its program, fundraising, management, and general expenses become due. In addition, as part of its liquidity management, the Foundation invests cash in excess of daily requirements in various short-term and long-term investments. The short-term investments are invested for capital preservation and liquidity for cash flow requirements in money market funds. The Foundation's long-term investments, such as marketable fixed-income and equity securities, index and actively managed mutual funds, and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), are invested with the intent of providing a safe return on investments for future use.

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC Topic 820 provides a framework for measuring fair value. The framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market, but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Foundation did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant (Level 3) to the overall fair value measurement during 2024.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2024.

Asset Valuation Techniques—Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market funds represent the Foundation's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Common stock securities and ETFs held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Corporate bonds are categorized as Level 2, and are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker-dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

	Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Asset category:			
Cash equivalents	<u>\$ 1,106,773</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,106,773</u>
Common stocks	<u>27,759,524</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,759,524</u>
Corporate bonds	<u>-</u>	<u>28,447,895</u>	<u>28,447,895</u>
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed income funds	28,840,501	-	28,840,501
Domestic equity funds	65,516,151	-	65,516,151
International equity funds	25,816,983	-	25,816,983
Real estate equity funds	<u>4,148,770</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,148,770</u>
Total mutual funds/ETFs	<u>124,322,405</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,322,405</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 153,188,702</u>	<u>\$ 28,447,895</u>	<u>\$ 181,636,597</u>

The Foundation has adopted an investment policy for the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund and investments with donor restrictions. The primary goals of the investment portfolio are safeguarding of the assets; maximizing return on the interest, dividends, and appreciation of capital; and avoiding undue interest rate risk in the fixed-income portion of the portfolio. The portfolio performance objective is to exceed a custom benchmark of 60% Russell 3000/40% Barclays Intermediate Government Credit over a five-year period and a full market cycle.

The Foundation relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation and current yield (interest and dividends). The Foundation targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investment to achieve its long-term return objective within prudent risk constraints.

6. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets are released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by donors. The net assets released from restrictions are as follows:

Purpose restrictions accomplished:	
Purpose restriction—mission	\$ 2,431,200
The Columbia Trust	<u>1,058,119</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>\$ 3,489,319</u>

7. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2024, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, the Foundation reimbursed DAV \$116,856. At December 31, 2024, the Foundation owed DAV \$189,236. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2024, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made contributions of \$572,403, to The Columbia Trust for the DAV Transportation Network Vehicle Grant Program.

In 2024, the Foundation appropriated \$5,023,200 in support of DAV programs and services.

In performing the duties of their positions, DAV’s National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Foundation’s Board. In performing the duties of their positions as a Foundation Director, some members also serve on the DAV Charitable Service Trust’s Board and the Disabled Veterans’ Life Memorial Foundation’s Board.

8. GRANTS AND EXPENSES OF THE COLUMBIA TRUST

At December 31, 2024, grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust are as follows:

Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with	
The Columbia Trust:	
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 391,300
Transportation Network Vehicle Grant Program	590,530
Other grants to service programs	118,600
Grant proposal processing	53,847
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>4,310</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,158,587</u>

In 2024, temporarily restricted net assets of \$1,058,119 and net assets without donor restrictions of \$100,468 were used.

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No other events have occurred after December 31, 2024, but before April 8, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

(Whereupon, National Service Foundation President and Past National Commander Marshall withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you for that outstanding report, Andy. May I have a motion to accept the report for the National Service Foundation.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 1.

MR. THOMAS AYALA: Mic 1 is not working. Oh, there it is. I'm a little too short. (Laughter) Thomas Ayala, Chapter 1, Jacksonville, Florida, makes that motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: We have a motion. May I have a second.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 1. Mic 1.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MR. JEFF NELSON: Jeff Nelson, 169, great State of Texas, I second.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Whereupon, National Service Foundation President and Past National Commander Marshall withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would like to call upon Chairman Rob Reynolds for the final report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair advanced to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT REYNOLDS: Comrade Commander and delegates, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REYNOLDS: I will now proceed with the second reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws which are recommended for adoption. In the interest of time, again, I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 611, amend Article V, Section 5.1 of the Bylaws to remove the Department of Alaska from District 19 as the Department surrendered their charter last year.

Resolution Number 612, amend Article VIII, Section 8.4 of the Bylaws to add Paragraph 3 to require departments to report all bequests and other testamentary gifts to the Bequest Reporting Program to comply with the NEC Regulation 13.

Resolution Number 613, amend Article IX, Section 9.3 of the Bylaws to add Paragraph 3 to require chapters to report all bequests and other testamentary gifts to the Bequest Reporting Program to comply with NEC Regulation 13.

Resolution Number 614, add the following as Article X, Section 10.1, Paragraph 4 of the National Bylaws: "To require Auxiliary entities to report all bequests and other testamentary gifts to the Bequest Reporting Program to comply with NEC Regulation 13" and renumber the current Paragraph 4 to Paragraph 5.

Resolution Number 615, amend Article VIII, Section 8.3, Paragraph 3 of the Bylaws to replace "State Department Officer Report" with "Officer Election Report" in the three separate instances where it is referenced as the title of the form has changed.

Resolution Number 616, amend Article VIII, Section 8.4, Paragraph 1 of the Bylaws to replace "on forms provided by National Headquarters" with "using the reporting methods provided by National Headquarters."

Resolution Number 617, amend Article IX, Section 9.3, Paragraph 3 of the Bylaws to replace "Chapter Officer Report" with "Officer Election Report" in the three separate instances where it is referenced as the title of the form has changed.

Resolution Number 618, amend Article IX, Section 9.3, Paragraph 1 of the Bylaws to replace "on forms provided by National Headquarters" with "using the reporting methods provided by National Headquarters."

Comrade Commander, on behalf of the Committee I move that the Committee recommendations be accepted, that the resolutions be adopted, and the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. MICHAEL ELMORE: Mic 1.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 1.

MR ELMORE: Michael Elmore, Chapter 48, Department of Missouri, make that motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: We have a motion and a second. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws chair withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Adjutant Jesinoski, do you have any announcements?

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: For those whose plans have changed and do not intend to attend—thanks, guys. (Laughter) If you do not intend to attend this evening's introduction of officers, please inform our team members in registration immediately following this session so we can free your seat to someone else who is on the wait list.

Immediately following this morning's business session, the final meeting of the Nominating Committee will be held in Provence 2.

This afternoon's final business session will promptly begin at 1:30. We will start off with the important business of nominations and election of officers please be on time.

We have had a scooter swap—we'll just call it a scooter swap. If you may have accidentally taken Melanie Rust's scooter please meet David Rust near the stage. The scooter in question has a number of personal items including Ms. Rust's Auxiliary delegate credentials.

And we are giving away three \$50 gift certificates once again that can be redeemed at our DAV store online or here during the convention. As always, you must be present to win. If I call your name and you are here, please see Assistant National Membership Director Doug Wells up here near stage as we adjourn.

The three lucky today are Joey Jones, David Epps, and James Fisher. Thank you, Commander.

(Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Jesinoski withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Barry. Chaplain VARNER-DANCER, will you please lead us in prayer.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. Almighty Creator, we once thank you again as we leave this part of this session of this convention help us to be mindful of your tender love and the love and concern that we have now for one another.

Father, we ask as we leave that you continue to endow us with your wisdom and understanding of knowing how great it is to continue to build great relationships, great friendships, among our fellow comrades, families, visitors and friends. As we go forth and completing this great convention, help us be mindful that your presence is always with us.

These and all things we ask and receive knowing that you hear us. And the people of God said –

(Response of "Amen;" whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The Convention stands in recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:51 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025.)

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

Aug. 12, 2025

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 103rd National Convention convened in the convened in the Rivoli A-B, Vendome A-B Ballrooms of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 12, 2025, and was called to order at 1:29 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Daniel Contreras.

COMMANDER DANIEL CONTRERAS: Thank you. Will everyone come in and please have a seat. The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder, I would like to ask everyone to please silence your cell phones and portable devices. (Three raps of the gavel)

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain VARNER-DANCER.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN DEBRA VARNER-DANCER: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. O Heavenly Creator, once and again we are yet so thankful for your presence has led us thus far. We ask that your presence continue to be with us as your wisdom, your knowledge and understanding is now manifested among us.

Give us the grace to continue, all of us who are yet standing before you, to walk in integrity and love and represent this great organization with pride and excellency.

These and all things we ask in your name. And the people of God said –

(Response of "Amen;" whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: If I may, I'm just going to take a moment to say something about our chaplain. It's been a remarkable time spending with her. I've been to her memorial services. They inspire me and her just her strength to be with me at certain moments has been, you know, something I can't even put words to. We are spiritually in great hands with her. Thank you, Debra. (Applause) (One rap of the gavel.)

As a reminder, in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must be recognized by the chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. And upon being so recognized, the delegates must state their name, chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to remind everyone that the registration of delegates is now closed. I will now call upon Chairperson Cali Mullens for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Credentials Committee chair advanced to the lectern.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR CALI MULLENS: Apparently, I'm the perfect height for that fan. Thank you, Commander. National Commander Contreras, National Adjutant Jesinoski, delegates, members, and guests. This is the final report of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and reflects the total registration as of 10:00 a.m. on Aug. 12th, 2025.

There are 1,181 delegates and 46 alternates registered, representing 36 departments and 381 chapters that are registered. There are 5 national line officers, 16 National Executive Committee members, and 10 past national commanders for a total of 31 national officers. The total vote count is 9,248.

At this time I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee members and our advisors.

Commander, this completes the final report of the Credentials Committee. And on behalf of the committee, I move for its adoption.

(Whereupon, the Credentials Committee chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All right. Thank you so much. We have a motion. May I have a second?

MR. MICHAEL DUNN: Mic 4.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MR. DUNN: Michael Dunn, Chapter 109, Titusville, Florida, second the motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Credentials Committee chair withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Now, I will call on Butch Whitehead of the Nominating Committee for his report. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Nominating Committee chair advanced to the lectern.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEPHEN "BUTCH" WHITEHEAD: Comrade Commander, National Adjutant Burgess, the National Convention Committee on Nominations of National Officers was called to order for its first business session on Aug. 9th, 2025, by the Committee advisors Joseph Johnston and Al Church.

The first order of business was the election of the convention committee chairperson and a secretary. Butch Whitehead was elected as chairperson and Joseph Kaufman was elected as secretary.

The Committee on Nominations of National Officers met on Saturday, Aug. 9th at 4:15, Sunday, August 10th, at 1:00 p.m. The Committee met again today at 11:00 a.m. The Nominating Committee recommends and nominates the following individuals for national office:

For the office of National Commander, Coleman Nee from Massachusetts; (Applause) for the office of National Senior Vice-Commander John Donovan from Arkansas; (Applause) for the office of National First Junior Vice-Commander, James Procnier from North Carolina; (Applause)

for the office of National Second Junior Vice-Commander, Glenn Hohman of Arizona; (Applause) for the office of National Third Junior Vice-Commander, Brenda Reed from Florida; (Applause) and for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander, Cynthia Madison from Virginia; (Applause)

for the office of National Chaplain, Debra VARNER-DANCER from Alabama; (Applause) and for the office of National Judge Advocate, Michael Dobmeier from North Dakota. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes this report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of this report.

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Butch. May I have a motion to accept Chairman Whitehead's report?

MR. HENRY SPADEY: Mic 1.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 1.

MR. SPADEY: Henry Spadey, Naomi Chapter 15, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I second that motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee chair withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: You have heard the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers and they have nominated Coleman Nee of Massachusetts for National Commander. Here to second the nomination is DAV Department of Massachusetts commander and Retired Brigadier General Andrea Gayle-Bennett. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Ms. Gayle-Bennett advanced to the lectern.)

RETIRED BRIGADIERE GENERAL ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT: Thank you, Commander. I am honored to second the nomination of South Boston native Coleman Nee for DAV National Commander.

Coleman is a DAV life member of Chapter 3 in Boston, Massachusetts, and lives on Cape Cod with his family. He is a Marine veteran (Hoo-ah) of the Persian Gulf War and a graduate of the American University in Washington, D.C.

The son of a World War II veteran, Coleman walked into a recruiter's office at 18 years old and joined the Marine Corps Reserve. It was an opportunity to serve something bigger than himself while pursuing higher education.

But instead of attending his college graduation, Coleman was called to active duty and boarded a plane to Saudi Arabia in response to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. There, as a tractor trailer operator, he supported infantry units with supply runs for a grueling six months.

Like so many of us, Coleman's service did not end when he took off the uniform. From 2011 to 2015 he served as the secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services. Under his leadership the department created a number of new initiatives to increase access to services for veterans, including the more than 47,000 returning Massachusetts veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As secretary, Colman also oversaw the creation of a first-in-the-nation initiative to support veterans and their families coping with the stresses of returning from war and oversaw the management of

the Massachusetts Women Veteran Network, one of the most successful women veterans' advocacy organizations in the nation.

Coleman went on to spend nearly nine years as CEO for a company dedicated to empowering people with disabilities to succeed in employment and leadership positions. He retired last year, in part, to dedicate more of his time advocating for veterans.

It was Coleman who introduced me to DAV, setting me on my path with this organization. He didn't just talk to me about DAV; he brought me into the fold. He invited me to events, introduced me to members, and encouraged me to see DAV not as a club but as a mission and an organization with purpose. Coleman didn't simply tell me I had a place here, he showed me. And I know I'm not alone.

Before being elected as DAV's national senior vice-commander, Coleman served on DAV's Board of Directors, the National Interim Legislative Committee, and the National Executive Committee.

And if that wasn't enough, he climbed 19,000 feet above sea level to reach the top of Mount Kilimanjaro (Applause) where he proudly waved a DAV flag alongside veterans he helped welcome into the organization.

Through his time in the Marine Corps and his decades of mission-driven work, Coleman has shown who he is. He is someone who appreciates and honors service. He is compassionate and considerate. He is inclusive and intentional. He is a mentor, a connector, and a constant champion of veterans. He is a leader who works in service to and with others.

And so it is with great enthusiasm and pride that I nominate my friend and advocate-in-arms, Coleman Nee as DAV National Commander for 2025 to 2026. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Ms. Gayle-Bennett withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The chair will now call for any further nominations for the office of national commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Coleman Nee selected as your national commander and instruct the national adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his election. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I, Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant of DAV, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Commander-Elect Coleman Nee, for the office of National Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The Nominating Committee has nominated John Donovan for the office of national senior vice-commander. Are there further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare John Donovan elected as national senior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated James Procnier for the office of national first junior vice-commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

MS. CATHY WILLIAMS: Mic 4.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, this is Cathy Williams. I nominate Cynthia Madison for first junior vice-commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Cynthia Madison has been nominated for the office of first junior vice-commander. Is there a second? Hearing none the nominations are closed –

MR. SEBASTIAN TAPHANEL: Standby. Standby. Sorry. I'm sorry, Commander.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MR. TAPHANEL: Thank you. Sebastian Taphanel, Chapter 33, Charlottesville, Virginia, enthusiastically provides a second to this motion. (Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Delegates, we will now take a 15-minute recess so that you may caucus and so our IT department can prepare for our roll call. When we reconvene, each national officer, each member of the NEC, and each past national commander will cast their individual votes first, if they have registered in such capacity.

Furthermore, in accordance with Convention Rule 14, with this being an odd-numbered year, the roll call will be conducted in alphabetic order. We will begin voting with the Department of Alabama, then each chapter with the department. Only one delegate from each entity will announce the vote for the entity based on the desires of each delegate of the entity.

I ask that you begin lining up at the center microphone in order, in that order I just announced following your caucus and prior to reconvening. I declare this convention in recess.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed for caucus at 1:48 o'clock, p.m. and reconvened at 2:13 o'clock, p.m. on Aug. 12, 2025.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: May I have your attention, please. A little housekeeping here so that we can expedite as much as possible. As was mentioned, all of our chapters and the departments that have registered, as well, will be voting one person casting the vote per chapter.

One person, the only delegate that there is from a department, for those departments that are registered, at Mic 1, lining up with Alabama and then the, for instance, Alabama Tuscaloosa Number 1 is going to be the first to cast a vote after whomever is the delegate for the department.

We also, before getting to those votes being cast, at Mic 3 we need our national officers who have elected or who have registered to vote as national officers to go to Mic 3, starting with John Donovan. Dan Contreras will be the first but he can vote from up here. So please follow along.

At Mic 3 we're going to start with John Donovan, Jim Procunier, Mike Dobmeier and Debra VARNER-DANCER.

After that we're going to go to the NECs who have registered to vote as NECs. That doesn't mean all NECs, only those who registered as NECs. That is District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 6, District 7, District 8, District 9, District 10, District 12, District 13, District 14, District 16, District 17, District 18, and District 21. All of those that I just mentioned, please line up in that order at Mic 3 and we will start the roll call shortly.

Oh, I'm sorry, I missed a—thank you, Ed. After the districts, those registered to vote for their district, we need to go to the PNCs who have registered as PNCs.

That is Armando Albarán—this is also Mic 3, please. So after the district delegates, then the PNCs starting with Armando then Nancy Espinosa, Joe Johnston, Moses McIntosh, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Dennis Nixon, Joe Parsetich, Dave Riley, Don Samuels, and Butch Whitehead.

Once we get all of those folks at Mic 3 voting, then we will go to Mic 1 by state and chapter-by-chapter.

(Whereupon, the caucuses continued until 2:19 o'clock, p.m. on Aug. 12, 2025.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The convention will come to order. You have heard the nominations of James Procunier and Cynthia Madison for the office of first national junior vice-commander. I will ask National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski to the podium to facilitate the roll call.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dan Contreras, how do you vote?

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I, Daniel Contreras, National Commander, cast one vote for James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John Donovan, one vote, how do you vote?

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER JOHN DONOVAN: James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: James Procunier, one vote, how do you vote?

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER JAMES A. PROCUNIER: James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mike Dobmeier, one vote, how do you vote?

JUDGE ADVOCATE MICHAEL DOBMEIER: James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Debra VARNER-DANCER, one vote, how do you vote?

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 1, one vote how do you vote?

NEC DISTRICT 1 ALTERNATE DEB OLSON: Alternate Deb Olson casting one vote for Jim Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: All the NECs have one vote so I'll skip saying "one vote," for now. NEC District 2, how do you vote?

NEC DISTRICT 2 MICHAEL MARTIN: District 2, James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 3, how do you vote?

NEC DISTRICT 3 LISA SLOAN: District 3, James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 4, how do you vote?

NEC DISTRICT 4 MARK DONBERGER: District 4, James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 6, how do you vote?

NEC DISTRICT 6 NACHEE MILLER: District 6, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 7, how do you vote? We'll come back to District 7, if need be. You must vote at the mic, only. District 7, how do you vote? And when you come to the mic state your name, please.

NEC DISTRICT 7 MARY ANN KECKLER: District 7, James Procnier. Mary Ann Keckler.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I know that voice. (Laughter) District 8, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 8 MICHAEL HARMON: Michael Harmon, District 8, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 9, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 9, LEON BOOKER: Leon Booker, District 9, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 10, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 10 RICK BARENBRUGGE: Rick Barenbrugge, District 10, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 12, how do you vote?
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Eleven.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Eleven is not registered to vote as an NEC. District 12, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 12 AL REYNOLDS: District 12, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 13, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 13 ERIC MCGINNIS: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 14, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 14 SCOTT BERNDT: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 16, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 16 ALTERNATE ENRIQUE RAMOS: District 16, Enrique Ramos, Alternate, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 17, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 17 JOHN CARMONA: John Carmona, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 18, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 18 DONALD BROWN: Aloha, District 18 votes James Procnier, Jr.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 21, how do you vote?
 NEC DISTRICT 21 ALTERNATE ANNA SCHERMER: Alternate Anna Schermer, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I'm getting tired of saying, "How do you vote." I'm going to stop doing that, too. (Laughter) At least for now. Armando Albaran.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here. Not present.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Nancy Espinosa.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER NANCY G. ESPINOSA: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joe Johnston.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Moses McIntosh.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MOSES A. MCINTOSH, JR.: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Delphine Metcalf-Foster.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DELPHINE M. METCALF-FOSTER: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dennis Nixon.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS R. NIXON: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joe Parsetich.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH P. PARSETICH: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dave Riley.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DAVID W. RILEY: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Don Samuels.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONALD L. SAMUELS: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Butch Whitehead.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEPHEN E. "BUTCH" WHITEHEAD: James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Well, you guys are doing fantastic. Thank you. Department of Alabama,
 Mic 1, two votes allowed to Department of Alabama. How do you vote?
 MR. GERRY MERRIHEW: Gerry Merrihew, Department Commander votes Cynthia Madison, two votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Tuscaloosa Number 1, 22 votes, how do you vote?
 MS. TAWANNA JONES: Twanna Jones for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: All votes? All 22?
 MS. JONES: All votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: When you vote, please state the number of votes, even if you think it might be obvious that I think you're casting all the votes. Birmingham Number 4, 32 votes.
 MR. ISAAC CRAWFORD: Isaac Crawford, Chapter 4, all 32 votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Shehan Pake Number 7, 28 votes.
 MS. DEBORAH WALKER: Deborah Walker, Shehan Pake, all votes, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Enterprise-Coffee County Number 9, 41 votes.
 MR. MIKE SUTTERFIELD: Mike Sutterfield, Chapter commander, all votes to Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: J. Paul Pitts Number 12, 41 votes.
 REVEREND DR. L. WHITE: Reverend Doctor L. White, all 41 votes Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bill Nichols Number 13, 6 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Bill Nichols Chapter 13, 6 votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Blount County Number 28, 9 votes.
 MR. DANIEL TURNER: Daniel Turner, Chapter commander, Chapter 28, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: R. Geo Isaacs Jr. Number 66, 10 votes.
 MR. CHARLES WAUGH: Charles Waugh, Chapter 66, all 10 votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ozark 94, 15 votes.
 MR. THOMAS WOOD: Thomas Wood, senior vice-commander, Chapter 94, all votes, Cindy Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Staff Sergeant Travis L. Nelson Number 101, 6 votes.
 Alaska Metro Number 7, 52 votes.
 We'll move on to Arizona. Phoenix Number 1, 80 votes.
 MR. MICHAEL KOENIG: Michael Koenig, Chapter 1, all votes for Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: East Valley Number 8, 80 votes.
 DR. CARL FORKNER: Carl Forkner, past commander, Chapter 8, all votes for Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fry Number 14, 24 votes.
 MS. REXANNA TORRES: Rexanna Torres, Chapter 14, all votes, Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Rincon Renegades Number 18, 37 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for Jim.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Glendale Number 20, 66 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELGATE: All for Jim.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Star Number 24, 33 votes.
 MR. RODNEY HAGE: Rod Hage senior vice Chapter 24, all votes Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: San Pedro Valley Number 26, 7 votes.
 MS. LORRIE BILLY: Lorrie Billy, Chapter 26, all votes for Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Number 38, 5 votes.
 MR. BRUCE NOGAR: Chapter 38, Bruce Nogar, all votes, Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Arkansas, 2 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: (Inaudible), Department of Arkansas, all votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: James L. Whitby Number 5, 14 votes.
 Greater Little Rock Number 7, 60 votes.
 MR. DON JACKSON: Don Jackson, commander, Chapter 7, all votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Excuse me. I didn't hear that, sir.
 MR. JACKSON: Don Jackson, commander for Chapter 7, Greater Little Rock, Arkansas, all votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you. G. P. Houston Memorial Number 57, 6 votes.
 Homer Blevins Number 1—moving on to California—45 votes.
 MR. VINCENT MARQUEZ: Vince Marquez, commander, Chapter 1, all our votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: San Diego Number 2, Dick Cosgriff, 216 votes.
 MR. LEROY ACOSTA: Leroy Acosta casts all the votes for Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: LA Number 5, 67 votes. No one?
 Sacramento Number 6, 62 votes. No one?
 Marysville Number 9, 18 votes. Okay.
 San Bernardino Number 12, 30 votes.
 MR. JOSE MENDOZA: Jose Mendoza, Chapter 12, all votes for Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Van Nuys 13, 22 votes. If we can get the, if it's possible, the technicians in the back to lower the teleprompters, that would be great. Oh, now I can see you over there. Edmund Parrott Number 16, 17 votes.
 MS. HELEN WONG: Helen Wong, Chapter 16, 17 votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bakersfield Number 20, 26 votes.
 MR. ERIC KURTZ: Eric Kurtz, Chapter 20, 26 votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jack Fisher Number 23, 60 votes.

MR. ROBERT SANCHEZ: Robert Sanchez, senior vice-commander, for 60 votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ventura Number 24, 27 votes.

MR. VAHID JAFROODI: Vahid Jafroodi, alternate for Chapter 24, all 27 votes go to James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Charlotte W. Fay Number 28, 51 votes.

MR. JAMES NICHOLS: James Nichols, I place all votes on behalf of Chapter 28, Riverside, California, for the Nominating Committee's recommendation, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Atwater-Merced Number 31, 13 votes.

MS. MARIA LOPEZ: Maria Lopez, Chapter 31, James Procnier, all votes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ray Clark Number 35, 18 votes.

Memorial Number 45, 11 votes.

MR. STEVE SALES: Steve Sales, Chapter 45, all votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Whittier Number 46, 48 votes.

Sonoma Number 48, 25 votes.

MR. GILBERT FLORES: Gilbert Flores, Chapter 48, 25 votes, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: George E. Morey Number 59, 19 votes.

MS. MELISSA SOUSA: Melissa Sousa for Chapter 59, all votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Morongo Basin Number 60, 16 votes. Thomas F. –

MR. RICKEY BELL: Rickey Bell, Chapter 60, all votes, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: That was Chapter 60? Was that Morongo Valley? Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, that was Chapter 60. Yes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you. Thomas F. Durbin Number 70, 43 votes.

MR. CARLOS GALLARDO: Carlos Gallardo, Chapter 70, all votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Turlock Number 74, 5 votes.

MS. CYNTHIA HIBBS: Cynthia Hibbs, Chapter 74 commander, all votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fremont Newark Number 77, 15 votes.

MR. PATRICK EUSTIS: Patrick Eustis, Chapter 77, all votes, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lake County Number 83, 5 votes.

MS. MICHELLE MOIST: Michelle Moist, the commander, Chapter 83, all votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: General Stillwell Number 85, 26 votes.

MR. KIRK JOHNSON: Kirk Johnson, Chapter 85, all votes, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Tri-Cities 95, 42 votes.

MR. AARON RAMIREZ: Aaron Ramirez, Chapter 95, all votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lillian Bushnell Number 123, 14 votes.

MR. RICHARD COOKS: Commander Richard Cooks, Chapter 1-2-3, Culver City, I put my votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mount Diablo Number 154, 20 votes.

MR. J. R. WILSON: J. R. Wilson, all votes, Jim Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Colorado, two votes.

MR. SCOTT FELDT: Scott Feldt, Department of Colorado commander, 2 votes, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Murphy-Boreli-Klumker Number 7, 89 votes.

MR. TERRY SQUIRES: Terry Squires, all votes, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Seiler-Berget Number 21, 50 votes.

MR. ANDREW GRIEB: Andrew Grieb, the Chapter adjutant, casts all of our votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Leon Daily Number 25, 19 votes.

Knob Hill Number 26, 107 votes.

MR. GRANT HARRIS: Grant Harris, treasurer, all votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: DAV Gene Doty Number 41, 6 votes.

Jessie Martinez Number 50, 30 votes.

MR. PAUL KENNEDY: Paul Kennedy, 30 votes, James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Connecticut, 2 votes.

MR. TERRY PACITTO: Terry Pacitto, Department of Connecticut, 2 votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: New Haven Number 2, 17 votes.

MR. RONNIE MAEBRY: Ronnie Maeby casting all 17 votes for James Procnier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: James McNamee Number 5, 14 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Fourteen votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Shea C. Clark Number 7, 9 votes.
 John R. Morse Number 10, 14 votes.
 Stamford Number 13, 5 votes.
 MS. JULIET TAYLOR: Juliet Taylor, Stamford Number 13, all five for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Milford Number 15, 17 votes.
 MR. KEVIN SANDERS: Kevin Sanders, Milford, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Chapter Number 47, 6 votes.
 MR. RON WERLICH: Ron Werlich Chapter 47, all for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of the District of Columbia, 2 votes.
 Federal Number 1, 14 votes.
 Dorie Miller Number 14, 12 votes.
 Department of Delaware, 2 votes.
 MR. PHILIP COHEN: Philip Cohen, Department Commander, Delaware, casts 2 votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: First State Number 1, 17 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: First State Chapter 1, 17 votes, Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Milford Number 6, 6 votes.
 MS. AUDREY COHEN: Audrey Cohen, chapter adjutant, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Florida, 2 votes.
 Jacksonville Number 1, 49 votes.
 MR. THOMAS AYALA: Thomas Ayala, adjutant, all votes for Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John McCarthy Number 4, 85 votes.
 PNC ANDREW MARSHALL: Andy Marshall, delegate, John C. McCarthy Chapter 4, all 84 votes, Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I assume you meant 85 votes? All 85 votes, correct?
 PNC MARSHALL: Yes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bay Pine Holiday Island Number 13, 49.
 MR. KENNETH GORE: Yes, sir, Ken Gore, Chapter 13, all 49 votes for Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Central Number 16, 63 votes.
 MR. LAYMOND ROSE: Laymond Rose, commander, Chapter 16, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Manatee County Number 18, 46 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Manatee County, all votes, Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sergeant Bradley S. Crose Number 38, 36 votes.
 MR. JOHN CORNISH: John Cornish, Chapter 38, Florida, all 36 votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Riviera Beach Number 42, 47 votes.
 MR. LESTER OAKES: Lester Oakes, Chapter 42, all 47 votes for Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Crestview Number 57, 15 votes.
 Hernando County Number 67, 28 votes.
 MS. FRED A GARDNER: Freda Gardner, adjutant, Chapter 67, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: R. L. Cochran Junior Number 82, 31 votes.
 MR. DAVID GRANT: David Grant, Chapter 82, all 31, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Titusville Number 109, 17 votes.
 MR. ROBERT WALTER: Bob Walter, Chapter 109, Titusville, Florida, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sun City Center Number 110, 16 votes.
 MR. MIKE DUNN: Mike Dunn, Chapter 110, all 16 votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Port St. Lucie Number 113, 25 votes.
 MR. LARRY LICHTFELD: Larry Lichtefeld, commander 113, all votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Space Coast Number 123, 23 votes.
 MR. WILLIAM MYERS: William Myers, adjutant, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Georgia, 2 votes.
 MR. BENNIE WILSON: Bennie Wilson, Department of Georgia, all two votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: William E. Tate Number 1, 70 votes.
 MR. ROBERT SOLOMON: Robert Solomon, Chapter 1, all 70 votes for Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: J. B. Conally, Number 2, 10 votes.
 Pendleton King Number 10, 29 votes.
 The Pinkerton-Williams Number 18, 15 votes.

Dick M. Lynch Number 27, 20 votes.
 MR. SAMUEL STOKES: Samuel Stokes, commander, Chapter 27, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Gus Valeri Memorial Number 31, 11 votes.
 Donald Moody Number 33, 23 votes.
 MS. CAROLYN SMALL: Carolyn Small, adjutant, Chapter 33, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Raymond Williams Number 50, 16 votes.
 MS. CATHY WILLIAMS: Chapter 50, Cathy Williams, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Newton-Rockdale Number 55, 14 votes.
 Fountain City Number 56, 16 votes.
 MS. ROZELENE WILSON: Rozelene Wilson, Chapter 56 commander, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Gwinnett County Number 90, 20 votes.
 DR. EARLE GRAHAM: Earle Graham, Chapter 90, senior vice, all votes, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Decatur Number 91, 27 votes.
 MR. JAMES HARRIS: James Harris, 91, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Harold L. Huff Junior Number 92, 4 votes.
 MS. DORIS DOWNER: Number 91, Doris Downer, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Hawaii, 2 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Hawaii, all votes, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Oahu Number 1, 72 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: (Inaudible) Oahu, Chapter 1, all votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Idaho, 2 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Idaho, unanimous vote for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Nampa Number 13, 10 votes.
 Jim McNamara Number 17, 9 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 17 casts our 9 votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Albert W. Jardine Number 22, 22 votes.
 MR. ROLAND TOLMAN: PDC Ronald Tolman, Department of Idaho, Chapter 22, votes all votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Payette County Number 23, 7 votes.
 MR. TRACY THOMAS: Tracy Thomas, Chapter 23, casts all votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dupage Veterans Number 5, 20 votes.
 Effingham County Number 7, 8 votes.
 MR. LARRY WENDT: Larry Wendt, Effingham County Chapter 7, all votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Forget-me-Not Number 24, 20 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Twenty-four Forget-me-Not casts 20 votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Verdun Number 33, 43 votes.
 MR. ROBERT NORBERTOWICZ: Robert Norbertowicz, Chapter 33, all votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John Hannan Number 42, 36 votes.
 MR. ROBERT MYERS: Robert Myers, all 36 votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: D. Monico Bus-Pro Number 47, 11 votes.
 Franklin County Number 51, 6 votes.
 MR. DONNIE HOUGLAND: Franklin County Chapter 51, Don Houghland casts all votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: McLean County Number 60, 7 votes.
 MS. VERONICA DACE: Veronica Dace, Chapter 60 of Illinois, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Williamson County Number 71, 8 votes.
 Egyptian Gateway Number 76, 4 votes.
 MR. JOHN CLAYBAUGH: John Claybaugh Chapter 76, all votes for John—I mean James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: A.G. Tricentennial Number 84, 34 votes.
 And Chief Shabbona Number 86, 8 votes.
 MR. S. CORSELLO: S. Corsello, Chief Shabbona Post 86, all votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Doctor Worthington Number 3, 43 votes. No?
 Glenn F. Renicker Number 17, 21 votes.
 Kokomo Number 28, 29 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have somebody for three.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Doctor Worthington Number 3, 43 votes.
 MS. KIMBERLY WALKER: Kimberly Walker, Department of Indiana, Chapter 3, James Procnier, all votes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: There was no one from Kokomo Number 28?
 John H. Weiss, Number 52, 24 votes.
 MR. REX RITCHIE: Department of Indiana, this is Chapter 28, Rex Ritchie commander, all of our votes to James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: For clarification, you're Kokomo Number 28?
 MR. RITCHIE: Yes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John Weiss Number 52, 24 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joseph Young Number 60, 30 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Carlos Arambula Number 102, 16 votes.
 MR. ROBERT DEPYSSLER: Department of Indiana, Chapter 102 Commander Rob Depyssler, all votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Iowa, 2 votes.
 MR. CHRIS SALLADAY: Department of Iowa, Chris Salladay commander, all votes for Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Colonel Don Macrae Number 5, 10 votes.
 Fighting Back for Veterans Number 6, 9 votes.
 MR. JOHN KIEFFER: John Kieffer, Chapter 6, 9 votes for Jim.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Des Moines Number 20, 30 votes.
 MR. AUDIE THORNBURG: Audie Thornburg, Des Moines Iowa Chapter 20 commander, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Chapter Number 53, 8 votes.
 MS. CHERYL KIEFFER: Cheryl Kieffer, Chapter 53, all 8 votes for Mr. Procunier. Right? Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you. Department of Kansas, 2 votes.
 MS. CARLA ROBBINS: Department of Kansas, Carla Robbins, treasurer, all votes for Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Topeka Number 3, 22 votes.
 MR. FERNANDO REQUEJO: Fernando Requejo, Kansas Chapter 3, all votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Loren T. Manning Number 11, 37 votes.
 MR. JOHN MURCH: John Murch, Chapter 11, all votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Manhattan Number 28, 9 votes.
 MS. KARIN MYRON: Chapter 28, Karin Myron, all votes for Jim Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Kentucky, 2 votes.
 MR. AARON ANDERSON: Aaron Anderson, adjutant, Chapter 19, all votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fred Bristol Memorial Number 19, 25 votes.
 Aaron, were you voting for Number 19 or the Department of Kentucky? I assume 19. Correct?
 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, sir.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: No one is here from the Department of Kentucky?
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes, sir. Commander, Department of Kentucky, 2 votes or 19 votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: You have 25 total votes to cast. I'm sorry. Is this for the Department of Kentucky?
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for James Procunier, Department of Kentucky.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you. Sorry.
 H. Richardson Memorial Number 89, 49 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Henry Richardson Memorial casts whatever our vote number is for James Procunier. (Laughter)
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: That's 49 votes. Benton Number 118, 5 votes.
 MR. JEREMY WALLACE: Jeremy Wallace, Chapter 118, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Goshen Number 173, 11 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Goshen Number 173, all votes for Monsieur Procunier. (Laughter)
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: The Department of Louisiana, 2 votes.
 MR. AL (INAUDIBLE): Al (Inaudible), Department of Louisiana, 2 votes, James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Capital City Number 5, 23 votes.
 MR. L. C. THOMAS: L. C. Thomas, all votes for James Procunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bayou Number 9, 10 votes.
 MR. TONY (INAUDIBLE): Tony (Inaudible), Chapter Number 9, all 10 votes for James Procunier.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Alvin E. Armstrong Number 15, 19 votes.
 MR. J. WILLIAMS: J. Williams, Chapter 15, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jack Redell Memorial Number 20, 13 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for Cynthia Madison, 13 votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sabine Number 21, 6 votes.
 MS. PAMELA RUSSELL: Pam Russell, Chapter 21 senior vice, we have 6 votes and we were casting them for Mr. Jim.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Westbank Number 23, 18 votes.
 MS. BELINDA HILL: Westbank 23, Belinda Hill, adjutant, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Shreveport Bossier Number 30, 33 votes.
 MS. KATY HOLLAY: Katy Holley, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John April Number 33, 14 votes.
 MR. BRIAN BERG: Brian Berg Chapter 33, all votes for Jim Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Maine, 2 votes.
 MR. DAVE BURNS: Dave Burns, Department adjutant, alternate, delegate, James Procnier, both votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John F. McPherson Number 1, 36 votes.
 MR. RICHARD FOURNIER: Richard Fournier, Chapter 1, Maine, all 36 votes, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John F. Kennedy Number 6, 30 votes.
 Thomas W. Bazemore Number 19, 17 votes.
 MR. RICHARD BRUNELLE: Richard Brunelle, Chapter 19, Maine, all votes to Jim Procnier.
 MS. JOAN SABREE: Joan Sabree, Commander, Department of Maryland, 2 votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Paul Thompson Memorial Number 1, 42 votes.
 MR. CRAIG BARNES: PDC Craig Barnes casts all 42 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ernie Pyle Number 4, 17 votes.
 MS. SABREE: Joan Sabree, Chapter 4, Department of Maryland, 17 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Omaha Beach Number 7, 31 votes.
 MR. LAWRENCE WHITE: Lawrence White, Chapter 7, 31 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Rockville Memorial Number 12, 21 votes.
 MR. STEVE TCHOUBE: Steve Tchoupe, Chapter 12, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Severn Number 13, 35 votes.
 MR. DANNY DUBOSE: Danny Dubose, Chapter 13, Severn, Maryland, all 35 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: General M.J. Maas Number 17, 43 votes.
 MR. ROB YOUNG: Rob Young, commander, Chapter 17, all 43 for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Old Glory Number 22, 13 votes.
 MR. ALEXANDER JIMNEZ: Alex Jimenez, Chapter 22, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: M. R. Sarge Warehime Number 33, 31 votes.
 MR. GEORGE E. ROSS: George E. Ross, commander, Chapter 33, all 31 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Eastern Shore Number 34, 13 votes.
 MR. LAVAUGHN PRICE: Eastern Shore Number 34, Adjutant Lavaughn Price, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: PFC J. Demarr Memorial Number 36, 23 votes.
 MS. MARGUERITE STUBBS: Marguerite Stubbs casts 23 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of—I'm sorry, Silver Star JFK Memorial Number 3, 32 votes.
 Worcester Number 4, 31 votes.
 MR. STANLEY PRATT: Stan Pratt, Chapter 3, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: That was Chapter 3, correct?
 MR. PRATT: Yes, sir, Chapter 3, JFK.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you. Anyone from Worcester Number 4, 31 votes?
 MR. MICHAEL VALILA: Mike Valila, Worcester Chapter Number 4, all votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joseph Harold Memorial Number 10, 18 votes.
 MR. WILLIAM HOEY: Good afternoon. William Hoey, Chapter 10, Department of Massachusetts, the votes for James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Westover Number 11, 26 votes.
 MR. RICHARD CONNOR: Chapter 11, Richard Connor, all votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Memorial Chapter Number 24, 9 votes.

Edith Rogers Number 25, 17 votes.
 Somerville Number 27, 9 votes.
 MR. RONALD BARTLETT: Ronald Bartlett, senior vice-commander, all votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Braintree Number 29, 20 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Braintree Number 29, all votes, James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fitchburg Number 30, 10 votes.
 MR. MICHAEL EUVRARD: Mike Euvrard, commander, Chapter 30, half the votes for Cynthia, half the votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Marshfield Memorial Number 35, 9 votes.
 MS. HELEN BENNETT: Helen Bennett, treasurer of Chapter 35, Marshfield, all votes, James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thomas Hayes Memorial Number 37, 9 votes.
 MR. JEFFREY BLONDER: Jeffrey Blonder, Chapter 37, all votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Charles Musante Number 46, 4 votes.
 Billerica Number 47, 14 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Billerica 47 votes 13 votes for Procnunier, 1 vote for Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: W.F. Reardon Number 57, 21 votes.
 MR. WILLIAM EGAN: William Egan, Chapter 57, all votes for Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: E. F. Gilmore Number 64, 8 votes.
 MS. ALICIA REDDIN: Alicia Reddin, Chapter 64, all votes to James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: D. W. Clifford Number 85, 12 votes.
 MR. JAMES FOLLIS: James Follis, treasurer for 85, for Jim P.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Woburn Number 88, 7 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Seven votes for Jim, please.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Norwood Number 90, 13 votes.
 North Middlesex Number 122, 4 votes.
 MR. RUSSELL MOORE: North Middlesex, Russ Moore, four votes for Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Michigan, 2 votes.
 Keane-Rankin Detroit Number 1, 27 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 1, all votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Genesee Number 3, 33 votes.
 MR. ANDREW SPRINGER: Andrew Springer, Chapter 3, all votes, James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Holland Number 14, 10 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Holland Number 14, all votes for James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: South Oakland Number 19, 15 votes.
 MR. GERALD GORSKI: Gerry Gorski, Chapter 19, all votes for Jim Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Cloverland Number 23, 6 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for Jim.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Menominee County Number 25, 7 votes. No Menominee County Number 25?
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nope.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Karl H. Brown Number 102, 19 votes.
 Livonia Number 114, 33 votes.
 MR. JASON ZIELKE: Jason Zielke, all votes, James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: St. Clair Shores Number 119, 13 votes.
 MR. KWAN TILLMAN: Kwan Tillman, all votes, James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bieuuyck-Romano Number 127, 14 votes.
 MS. ANGELA BOLLIN: Angela Bollin, Chapter 127, James Procnunier, all votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Robert H. Cox Number 129, 16 votes.
 MR. ZACHARY HAVERANECK: Zack Haveraneck, all votes, James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Minneapolis Number 1, 62 votes.
 St. Paul Number 2, 38 votes.
 MR. JEFFREY LUBARSKI: Jeff Lubarski, commander, Chapter 2, all votes for James.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Morrison County Number 12, 13 votes.
 MR. TRENT DILKS: Trent Dilks, Chapter 12, all votes James Procnunier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Itasca County Number 13, 11 votes.
 Washington County Number 17, 8 votes.
 MR. DAMIAN KOSMOSKY: Damian Kosmosky, Chapter 17, all votes for James.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Carlton County Number 18, 16 votes.
 Fairbault Number 20, 8 votes.
 Mayo Southeast Number 28, 25 votes.
 MS. ANGELICA REINCKE: Angela Reincke, Chapter 28, all votes, Jim.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Hutchinson Number 37, 11 votes.
 MR. MICHAEL MEDHAUG: Michael Medhaug, Hutchinson Chapter 37, all votes, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Park Rapids Number 38, 9 votes.
 MS. DAWN BATCHO: Dawn Batcho, commander, Chapter 38, all votes, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Anoka Number 39, 33 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Anoka Number 39, all votes, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: South Metro Number 40, 7 votes.
 MR. JOSH DAWSON: Josh Dawson, Chapter 40, all votes, James Procnier.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Mississippi, 2 votes.
 MR. ROGER HORMEL: Roger Hormel, Department commander, both votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: We have a pause. Cynthia, you are seeking to be recognized.
 COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Go to a mic.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Go to the mic over there, please.
 COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Go to any mic.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Waive so she can see where the mic is, please.
 MS. CYNTHIA MADISON: I would like to thank everyone that has voted for me but it's now, for me, to come to the realization that I should concede and congratulate Jim Procnier as the first junior vice-commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Correction. We still have to—go ahead, call the meeting back to order, please. With Cynthia's concession, the nominations are now closed for first junior vice-commander.

The Nominating Committee has nominated Glenn Hohman for the office of national second junior vice-commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Glenn Hohman elected as national second junior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Brenda Reed for the office of national third junior vice-commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Hearing none, I will close the nominations and declare Brenda Reed elected as national fourth junior vice commander—or third, third national junior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Cynthia Madison for the office of national fourth junior vice-commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

MR. MAURICE PORTILLO: Mic 4.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MR. PORTILLO; I, Maurice Portillo, Department adjutant for New Mexico, nominate Adam Greathouse, Department adjutant of Chapter 2, West Virginia, for fourth junior vice-commander.

Adam Greathouse is a dynamic and energetic leader who brings a wealth of experience, integrity, compassion, and innovation to the table. His ability to encourage growth, inspire change, and build consensus among diverse groups will be invaluable to the future of the organization.

Adam's ability to reenergize and drive the DAV forward into the future is precisely what we need to strengthen our organization and support our youthful veterans in the years to come. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Hearing none, nominations are now closed.

Delegates will now take a 15 minute recess so you may caucus and so our IT department can prepare our roll call. When we reconvene each national officer, each member of the NEC—oh, as you were, as you were. I will need a second.

MR. ROBERTO CONCEPCIONE-RAMOS: Mic 4.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MR. CONCEPCIONE-RAMOS: Roberto Concepcione-Ramos, Department adjutant for Puerto Rico, to second. (Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Now, are there any further nominations? Any further nominations? Any further nominations? Hearing none, nominations are now closed. Delegates will now take 15 minutes recess. You may caucus so our IT department can prepare for our roll call.

When we reconvene, each national officer, each member of the NEC, and each past national commander will cast their individual vote first. They (Delegates began talking amongst themselves)—please. Let's wait for the instructions. Thank you very much.

When we reconvene, each national officer, each member of the NEC, and each past national commander will cast their individual vote first, if they have registered in such capacity.

In accordance with Convention Rule 14, this will be an odd-numbered year, the roll call vote will be conducted in alphabetical order. We will begin voting with the Department of Alabama and then each chapter with the department. Only one delegate from each entity will announce the votes for the entity based on the desires of each delegate of the entity.

I ask that you begin lining up at the center microphone in that order I just announced following your caucus and prior to reconvening. I declare the convention in recess.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:16 o'clock, p.m. on Aug. 12, 2025, to allow delegates to caucus; Adjutant Jesinoski addressed the delegates at 3:36 o'clock, p.m.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: You guys know the drill, right? And we're going to do it the same way we just did it, with the same lineup for Mic 1, same order, same thing for Mic 3.

As a reminder for Mic 3, we're starting with our National Commander and our line officers who are registered as line officers and then our NECs who are registered as NECs and then our past national commanders who are registered in their role as past national commander. Same order as last time, please. Mic 1 and Mic 3 and we'll start momentarily.

(Whereupon, the caucus continued from 3:36 to 3:37 o'clock, p.m., Aug. 12, 2025, at which time it was called to order by Commander Contreras.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The convention will come to order. You have heard the nominations of Cynthia Madison and Adam Greathouse for the office of fourth national junior vice-commander. I will ask National Adjutant Barry Jesinoski to the podium to facilitate the roll call.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: First of all, I'd like to thank everybody for your cooperation on the first roll call. Well done. That's why we're DAV. How in the world does anybody else get a group of this size that organized? Nice job, everybody. Thank you. (Applause)

Dan Contreras.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I, Daniel Contreras, National Commander, cast one vote for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John Donovan.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER DONOVAN: Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: James Procunier.

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER PROCUNIER: Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mike Dobmeier.

JUDGE ADVOCATE DOBMEIER: Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Debra VARNER-DANCER. CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 1.

NEC DISTRICT 1 ALTERNATE OLSON: Alternate Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 2.

NEC DISTRICT 2 MARTIN: Michael Martin District 2, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 3.

NEC DISTRICT 3 SLOAN: District 3, Lisa Sloan Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 4.

NEC DISTRICT 4 DONBERGER: District 4, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 6.

NEC DISTRICT 6 MILLER: District 6, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: District 7.

NEC DISTRICT 7 KECKLER: District 7, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 8.

NEC DISTRICT 8 HARMON: Mike Harmon, District 8, Cynthia Madison

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 9.

NEC DISTRICT 9, BOOKER: District 9, Leon Booker, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 10. No NEC for District 10 this time?

NEC District 12.

NEC DISTRICT 12 REYNOLDS: District 12, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 13.
 NEC DISTRICT 13 MCGINNIS: Adam Greathouse
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 14.
 NEC DISTRICT 14 BERNDT: Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 16.
 NEC DISTRICT 16 ALTERNATE RAMOS: Sixteen, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 17.
 NEC DISTRICT 17 CARMONA: Seventeen, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 18.
 NEC DISTRICT 18 BROWN: Eighteen, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: NEC District 21.
 NEC DISTRICT 21 ALTERNATE SCHERMER: Twenty-one, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Armando Albaran. Nancy Espinosa.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ESPINOSA: Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joe Johnston.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Moses McIntosh.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MCINTOSH, JR.: Moses McIntosh, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Delphine Metcalf-Foster.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER METCALF-FOSTER: Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dennis Nixon.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER NIXON: All my votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sorry. We need to pause for our counters to catch up on the computer.
 All right, guys, that compliment earlier was warranted. You're so efficient and fast you're faster than the computer. And we're going to go back to District 10 because the NEC is here to cast a vote. District 10,
 DISTRICT 10 NEC BARENBRUGGE: District 10, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And now we'll catch back up to where we left off. Joe Parsetich.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PARSETICH: Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dave Riley.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RILEY: Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Don Samuels.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SAMUELS: Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Butch Whitehead.
 PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WHITEHEAD: Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Alabama, 2.
 MR. MERRIHEW: Gerry Merrihew, 2 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Tuscaloosa Number 1, 22 votes.
 MS. JONES: Tawanna Jones, 22 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Birmingham Number 4, 32 votes.
 Shehan Pake Number 7, 28 votes.
 MS. WALKER: Deb Walker, Shehan Pake, 28 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Enterprise-Coffee County Number 9, 41 votes.
 MR. SUTTERFIELD: Mike Sutterfield, 41 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: J. Paul Pitts Number 12, 41 votes.
 REVEREND DR. WHITE: Reverend Doctor L. White, all 41 votes to Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bill Nichols Number 13, 6 votes.
 MS. ANITA PEREZ: Chapter 13, 6 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Blount County Number 28, 9 votes.
 MR. TURNER: Daniel Turner, Chapter 28, all 9 votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: R. Geo Isaacs Jr. Number 66, 10 votes.
 MR. WAUGH: Charles Waugh, R. George Isaacs Chapter 66, 26 votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ozark 94, 15 votes.
 MR. WOOD: Thomas Wood, Chapter 94, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Staff Sergeant Travis L. Nelson Number 101, 6 votes.
 MR. WOODS: They are not present.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Alaska.
 Phoenix Number 1, 80 votes.
 MR. KOENIG: Michael Koenig, Chapter 1 of Phoenix, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: East Valley Number 8, 80 votes.
 MS. STEPHANIE DAVIS: Stephanie Davis, Chapter 8, all votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fry Number 14, 24 votes.
 MS. TORRES: Rexanna Torres, Chapter 14, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Rincon Renegades Number 18, 37 votes.
 MR. GARY REPH: Gary Reph, Chapter 18, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Glendale Number 20, 66 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 20, senior vice-commander, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Star Number 24, 33 votes.
 MR. HAGE: Star Chapter 24, Rod Hage, senior vice-commander, all votes Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: San Pedro Valley Number 26, 7 votes.
 MS. BILLY: Lorrie Billy, Chapter 26, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I'm going to try it this time. Sahuarita Green Valley Number 38, 5 votes.
 MR. NOGAR: Bruce Nogar, Chapter 38, Arizona, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Arkansas, 2 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Arkansas commander, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: James L. Whitby Number 5, 14 votes.
 Greater Little Rock Number 7, 60 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Arkansas Chapter 7, all votes for Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: G. P. Houston Memorial Number 57, 6 votes.
 Homer Blevins Number 1, 45 votes.
 MR. MARQUEZ: Vince Marquez, commander, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dick Cosgriff, San Diego Number 2, 216 votes.
 MR. ACOSTA: Leroy Acosta. Adam Greathouse, Chapter 2, San Diego.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Los Angeles Number 5, 67 votes.
 Sacramento Number 6, 62 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Sacramento, all votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Excuse me. What was that?
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: My apologies, Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes, sir.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Marysville Number 9, 18 votes.
 San Bernardino Number 12, 30 votes.
 MR. MENDOZA: Jose Mendoza, commander, Chapter 12, all 30 votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Camp Kerney, Van Nuys 13, 22 votes.
 Edmund Parrott Number 16, 17 votes.
 Bakersfield Number 20, 26 votes.
 MR. KURTZ: Eric Kurtz, Chapter 20, 26 votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: For?
 MR. KURTZ: Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thank you. Jack Fisher Number 23, 60 votes.
 MR. SANCHEZ: Robert Sanchez, senior vice-commander Chapter 23 for Adam Greathouse, all 60 votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ventura Number 24, 27 votes.
 MR. JAFROODI: Vahid Jafroodi, Chapter 24, all votes, 27, going to Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Charlotte W. Fay Number 28, 51 votes.
 MR. NICHOLS: James Nichols, Riverside, California, we are all about integrity and loyalty. All votes for Mr. Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Atwater-Merced Number 31, 13 votes.
 MS. LOPEZ: Maria Lopez, Chapter 31, all votes, all 13 votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ray Clark Number 35, 18 votes.
 Memorial Number 45, 11 votes.
 MR. SALES: Steve Sales, Chapter 45, all votes for Virginia. Virginia.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Cynthia Madison or Adam Greathouse. Cynthia Madison or Adam Greathouse.
 MR. SALES: Cynthia. Sorry.
 MR. FLORES: Gilbert Flores, Chapter 48, all votes for Adam Greathouse, 25 votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: George E. Morey Number 59, 19 votes.

MS. SOUSA: Melissa Sousa, commander, Chapter 59, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Morongo Basin Number 60, 16 votes.
 MR. BELL: Rickey Bell, Chapter 60, Morongo Basin, 16 votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thomas F. Durbin Number 70, 43 votes.
 MR. GALLARDO: Carlos Gallardo, Chapter 70, all votes Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Turlock Number 74, 5 votes.
 MS. HIBBS: Cynthia Hibbs, commander, Chapter 74 all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fremont Newark Number 77, 15 votes.
 MR. EUSTIS: Patrick Eustis, Chapter 77, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lake County Number 83, 5 votes.
 MS. MOIST: Michelle Moist, Chapter 83, all votes for Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: General J. Stillwell Number 85, 26 votes.
 MR. JOHNSON: Kirk Johnson, Chapter 85, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Tri-Cities 95, 42 votes.
 MR. RAMIREZ: Aaron Ramirez, Chapter 95, all votes. Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Mount Diablo—sorry.
 Lillian Bushnell Number 123, 14 votes.
 MR. COOKS: Richard Cooks, Chapter 1-2-3, Culver City, I give everything to Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mount Diablo Number 154, 20 votes.
 MR. WILSON: J. R. Wilson, Chapter 154, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Colorado, two votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Colorado, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Murphy-Boreli-Klumker Number 7, 89 votes.
 MR. SQUYRES: Jerry Squyres, Chapter 7, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Seiler-Berget Number 21, 50 votes.
 MR. GRIEB: Andrew Grieb, chapter adjutant, casts all of our votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Leon Daily Number 25, 19 votes.
 Knob Hill Number 26, 107 votes.
 MS VIRGINIA DUNN: Virginia Dunn, alternate for Knob Hill 26, Colorado, all votes, Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: DAV Gene Doty Number 41, 6 votes.
 Jessie Martinez Number 50, 30 votes.
 MR. KENNEDY: Paul Kennedy, Chapter 50, 30 votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Connecticut, 2 votes.
 MR. PACITTO: Department of Connecticut, Terry Pacitto, 2 votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: New Haven Number 2, 17 votes.
 MR. MAEBRY: Ronnie Maebry cast my vote for Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: James McNamee Number 5, 14 votes.
 MR. AL CHURCH: Al Church, 14 votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Shea C. Clark Number 7, 9 votes.
 MR. CINTRON: Cintron, Chapter 7, all votes for Mr. Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John R. Morse Number 10, 14 votes.
 Stamford Number 13, 5 votes.
 MS. TAYLOR: Juliet Taylor, Stamford Number 13, Cynthia Madison
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Milford Number 15, 17 votes.
 MR. SANDERS: Kevin Sanders, Milford 15, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Chapter Number 47, 6 votes.
 MR. WERLICH: Ron Werlich, Chapter 47, for Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Is there anyone here from District of Columbia, D.C. Number 1 or Dorie Miller Number 14?
 Department of Delaware, 2 votes.
 MR. COHEN: Philip Cohen for Department of Delaware, 2 votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: First State Number 1, 17 votes.
 MR. BENJAMIN FLYNN: Benjamin Flynn, chapter adjutant, 17 votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Milford Number 6, 6 votes.
 MS. COHEN: Audrey Cohen, chapter adjutant, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Florida, 2 votes.
 Jacksonville Number 1, 49 votes.
 MR. AYALA: Thomas Ayala, adjutant, Chapter 1, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John C. McCarthy Number 4, 85 votes.
 PNC MARSHALL: Andy Marshall, delegate, Chapter 4, all 84 votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bay Pine Holiday Island Number 13, 49.
 MR. GORE: Yes, sir, Ken Gore, commander, all 49 votes Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Central Number 16, 63 votes.
 MR. ROSE: Commander Laymond Rose, Chapter 16, all votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Manatee County Number 18, 46 votes.
 MR. JOHN RABER: John Raber, all votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sergeant Bradley S. Crose Number 38, 36 votes.
 MR. CORNISH: Commander John Cornish, Adam Greathouse, Chapter 38.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: All votes? Are you casting all votes?
 MR. CORNISH: All votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Riviera Beach Number 42, 47 votes.
 MR. OAKES: Lester Oakes, Chapter 42, Riviera Beach, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Crestview Number 57, 15 votes.
 Hernando County Number 67, 28 votes.
 MS. GARDNER: Freda Gardner, all votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: R. L. Cochran Junior Number 82, 31 votes.
 MR. GRANT: David Grant, Chapter 82 commander, all 31 for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Titusville Number 109, 17 votes.
 MR. WALTER: Bob Walter, Chapter 109, all votes to Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sun City Center Number 110, 16 votes.
 MR. DUNN: Mike Dunn, Chapter 110, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Port St. Lucie Number 113, 25 votes.
 MR. LICHTFELD: Commander Lichtefeld, Chapter 113, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Space Coast Number 123, 23 votes.
 MR. B. J. MCGUIRES: B. J. McGuires, Space Coast Chapter 123, 23 votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Georgia, 2 votes.
 MR. WILSON: Bennie Wilson, Department of Georgia, two votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: William E. Tate Number 1, 70 votes.
 MR. SOLOMON: Robert Solomon, Chapter 1, all 70 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: J. B. Conally, Number 2, 10 votes.
 Pendleton King Number 10, 29 votes.
 The Pinkerton-Williams Number 18, 15 votes.
 Dick M. Lynch Number 27, 20 votes.
 MR. STOKES: Samuel Stokes, Chapter 27, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Gus Valeri Memorial Number 31, 11 votes.
 Donald A. Moody Number 33, 23 votes.
 MS. SMALL: Carolyn Small, adjutant, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Raymond Williams Number 50, 16 votes.
 MS. WILLIAMS: Cathy Williams, Chapter 50, all 16 votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: For?
 MS. WILLIAMS: Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Newton-Rockdale Number 55, 14 votes.
 Fountain City Number 56, 16 votes.
 MR. EARL GRAHAM: Earl Graham, Chapter 90, senior vice, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Gwinnett County Number 90, 20 votes.
 MR. GRAHAM: That's Gwinnett County there.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: No one from Gwinnett County?
 MR. GRAHAM: That's Gwinnett County right there.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: The last vote cast was that Fountain City or Gwinnett County?
 MR. GRAHAM: Gwinnett County.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Gwinnett County. Is there anyone here from Fountain City? Okay.
 Decatur Number 91, 27 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 91, Decatur, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Harold L. Huff Junior Number 92, 4 votes.
 MS. DOWNER: Number 92, Doris Downer, for Cynthia Madison, all votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Hawaii, 2 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Aloha. Department of Hawaii, all votes, Adam Madison—Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Oahu Number 1, 72 votes.

MS. BRANDI THORNTON: Brandi Thornton, Hawaii Chapter 1, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Idaho, 2 votes.

MR. KARL KURTZ: Karl Kurtz, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Nampa Number 13, 10 votes.

Jim McNamara Number 17, 9 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 17 votes all 9 votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Albert W. Jardine Number 22, 22 votes.

MR. TOLMAN: Ronald Tolman, PDC, Idaho, Chapter 22, 22 votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Payette County Number 23, 7 votes.

MR. THOMAS: Tracy Thomas, Chapter 23, all 7 votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dupage Veterans Number 5, 20 votes.

Effingham County Number 7, 8 votes.

MR. WENDT: Larry Wendt, Chapter 7, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Forget-me-Not Number 24, 20 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 24, Forget-me-Not, all votes. Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Verdun Number 33, 43 votes.

MR. NORBERTOWICZ: Robert Norbertowicz, Chapter 33, all votes for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John Hannan Number 42, 36 votes.

MR. CARLOS MALONE: Carlos Malone, Illinois 42, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: D. Monico Bus-Pro Number 47, 11 votes. That's business professionals, I think, Number 47, 11 votes. No?

Franklin County Number 51, 6 votes.

MR. HOUGHLAND: Don Houghland, Franklin County, all 6 votes to Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: McLean County Number 60, 7 votes.

MS. DACE: Veronica Dace, Chapter 60 of Illinois, all votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Williamson County Number 71, 8 votes.

Egyptian Gateway Number 76, 4 votes.

MR. CLAYBAUGH: John Claybaugh Chapter 76, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: A.G. Tricentennial Number 84, 34 votes.

And Chief Shabbona Number 86, 8 votes.

MR. CORSELLO: S. Corsello, Chief Shabbona Chapter 86, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Shabbona, thank you. Department of Indiana, 2 votes.

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS: Department of Indiana, Michael Thomas, commander, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Doctor Worthington Number 3, 43 votes.

MS. KIMBERLY WALKER: Kimberly Walker, Department of Indiana, Chapter 3, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Glenn F. Renicker Number 17, 21 votes.

Kokomo Number 28, 29 votes.

MR. REX RITCHIE: Chapter 28, Rex Ritchie, all votes Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John H. Weiss, Number 52, 24 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joseph Young Number 60, 30 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 60, all votes, Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Carlos Arambula Number 102, 16 votes.

MR. DEPYSSLER: Chapter 102, Carlos Arambula, Rob DepySSLer, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Iowa, 2 votes.

MR. SALLADAY: Department of Iowa, Chris Salladay, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Colonel Don Macrae Number 5, 10 votes.

MR. KIEFER: John Kiefer, Chapter 6, all votes for Cynthia.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: That's 9 votes for Fighting Back for Veterans Number 6.

Des Moines Number 20, 30 votes.

MR. THORNBURG: Audie Thornburg, Chapter 20, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Chapter Number 53, 8 votes.

MR. GARY SCHMERBECK: Gary Schmerbeck, commander, Chapter 53, Des Moines, Iowa, 8 votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Kansas, 2 votes.

MS. ROBBINS: Carla Robbins, State of Kansas, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Topeka Number 3, 22 votes.
 MR. REQUEJO: Fernando Requejo, Department of Kansas Chapter 3, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Loren T. Manning Number 11, 37 votes.
 MR. MURCH: John Murch, Chapter 11, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Manhattan Number 28, 9 votes.
 MS. MYREN: Corrine Myren. Chapter 28, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Kentucky, 2 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Kentucky, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fred Bristol Memorial Number 19, 25 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 19, all votes to Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: H. Richardson Memorial Number 89, 49 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Henry Richardson Memorial Chapter 89, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Benton Number 118, 5 votes.
 MR. WALLACE: Jeremy Wallace, Chapter 118, 5 votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Goshen Number 173, 11 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Goshen Number 173, Adam Greathouse, all votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: The Department of Louisiana, 2 votes.
 MR. AL (INAUDIBLE): Department of Louisiana, Al (Inaudible), 2 votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Capital City Number 5, 23 votes.
 MR. THOMAS: L. C. Thomas, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bayou Number 9, 10 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter Number 9, Tony (Inaudible), all 10 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Alvin E. Armstrong Number 15, 19 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 15, all votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jack Redell Memorial Number 20, 13 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 20, all 13 votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sabine Number 21, 6 votes.
 MS. RUSSELL: Pamela Russell, Chapter 21, all votes to Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Westbank Number 23, 18 votes.
 MS. HILL: Belinda Hill, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Shreveport Bossier Number 30, 33 votes.
 MS. HOLLAY: Katy Hollay, all votes to Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John P. April Number 33, 14 votes.
 MR. BERG: Brian Berg Chapter 33, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Maine, 2 votes.
 MR. CRAIG FLORES: Department of Maine, Craig Flores, two votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John F. McPherson Number 1, 36 votes.
 MR. FOURNIER: Chapter 1, Richard Fournier, delegate all votes, for Adam Whitehouse—I mean Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John F. Kennedy Number 6, 30 votes.
 Thomas W. Bazemore Number 19, 17 votes.
 MR. BRUNELLE: Richard Brunelle, Chapter 19, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Maryland, 2 votes.
 MS. SABREE: Joan Sabree, state commander, Department of Maryland, 2 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Paul Thompson Memorial Number 1, 42 votes.
 MR. BARNES: PDC Craig Barnes, 42 votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ernie Pyle Number 4, 17 votes.
 MS. SABREE: Joan Sabree, Chapter 4, Department of Maryland, 17 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Omaha Beach Number 7, 31 votes.
 MS. STEPHANIE BUXTON: Stephanie Buxton, Chapter 7, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Rockville Memorial Number 12, 21 votes.
 MR. TCHOUBE: Steve Tchoupe, Chapter 12, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Severn Number 13, 35 votes.
 MR. DUBOSE: Danny Dubose, Chapter 13, all 35 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: General M. J. Maas Number 17, 43 votes.
 MR. YOUNG: Rob Young, Chapter 17, all votes for Cynthia Madkson.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Old Glory Number 22, 13 votes.
 MR. JIMENEZ: Alex Jimenez, Chapter 22, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: M. R. Sarge Warehime Number 33, 31 votes.
 MR. ROSS: Chapter 33, George E. Ross, 31 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Eastern Shore Number 34, 13 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Eastern Shore 34, 13 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: PFC J. Demarr Memorial Number 36, 23 votes.
 MS. STUBBS: Marguerite Stubbs, 23 votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Massachusetts, 2 votes.
 MS. ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT: Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Department of Massachusetts, two votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Silver Star JFK Memorial Number 3, 32 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Silver Star Chapter 3, all votes for Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Worcester Number 4, 31 votes.
 MR. MIKE VALILA Mike Valila, Worcester 4, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joseph Harold Memorial Number 10, 18 votes.
 MR. HOEY: Joseph R. Harold Memorial 10, William Hoey, votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Westover Number 11, 26 votes.
 MR. CONNOR: Richard Connor, Chapter 11, all votes for Adam—I'm sorry.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Noe P. Valois Memorial Number 24, 9 votes.
 Edith Rogers Number 25, 17 votes.
 Somerville Number 27, 9 votes.
 MR. BARTLETT: Ronald Bartlett, all votes for Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Braintree Number 29, 20 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Braintree Number 29, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fitchburg Number 30, 10 votes.
 MR. EUVRARD: Mike Euvrard, commander, Chapter 30, 5 for Adam Greathouse and 5 for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Marshfield Memorial Number 35, 9 votes.
 MS. BENNETT: Marshfield Memorial Number 35, Helen Bennett, treasurer, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Thomas Hayes Memorial Number 37, 9 votes.
 MR. BLONDER: Jeffrey Blonder, Chapter 37, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Charles Musante Number 46, 4 votes.
 Billerica Number 47, 14 votes.
 MS. TRACY CLAUDIO: Tracy Claudio, Billerica 47, all 14 votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: W. F. Reardon Number 57, 21 votes.
 MR. EGAN: William Egan, Chapter 57, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: E. F. Gilmore Number 64, 8 votes.
 MS. REDDIN: Alicia Reddin, E. F. Gilmore 64, all votes to Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: D. W. Clifford Number 85, 12 votes.
 MR. FOLLIS: James Follis, Chapter 85, Adam—Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: You have 12 votes to cast, sir. How many would you vote for Adam?
 MR. FOLLIS: All my votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Woburn Number 88, 7 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Woburn 88 votes all its votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Norwood Number 90, 13 votes.
 North Middlesex Number 122, 4 votes.
 MR. MOORE: Russ Moore, delegate, all votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Michigan, 2 votes.
 MR. BRIAN FOGG: Department of Michigan state commander Brian Fogg, two votes for Adam Greathouse. Sorry.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Keane-Rankin Detroit Number 1, 27 votes.
 MR. DUANE DeWITT: Duane DeWitt, Chapter 1, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Genesee Number 3, 33 votes.
 MR. SPRINGER: Andrew Springer, Chapter 3, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Holland Number 14, 10 votes.

MS. JOANNE SKIPPERGOSH: Joanne Skippergosh, Chapter 14, Michigan, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: South Oakland Number 19, 15 votes.

MR. GORSKI: Gerry Gorski, Chapter 19, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Cloverland Number 23, 6 votes.

MR. ANDREW SMITH: Andrew Smith, Cloverland, six votes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Menominee County Number 25, 7 votes.

Karl H. Brown Number 102, 19 votes.

Livonia Number 114, 33 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have 102.

MR. JAMES ROBINSON: James Robinson, Michigan, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Was that Livonia 114?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That was Chapter 102.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: One-oh-two for 19 votes.

Livonia Number 114, 33 votes.

MR. ZIELKE: Jason Zielke, all for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: St. Clair Shores Number 119, 13 votes.

MR. TILLMAN: Kwan Tillman, Chapter 119, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bieuyck-Romano Number 127, 14 votes.

MS. BOLLIN: Angela Bollin, Chapter 127, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Robert H. Cox Number 129, 16 votes.

MR. HAVERANECK: Zack Haveranek, Chapter 129, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Minnesota, 2 votes.

MR. LUBARSKI Jeff Lubarski, commander Chapter 2, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Minneapolis Number 1, 62 votes.

St. Paul Number 2, 38 votes.

MR. LUBARSKI: Jeff Lubarski, commander, Chapter 2, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Morrison County Number 12, 13 votes.

MR. DILKS: Trent Dilks, Chapter 12, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Itasca County Number 13, 11 votes.

Washington County Number 17, 8 votes.

MR. KOSMOSKY: Damian Kosmosky, Chapter 17, Washington County, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Carlton County Number 18, 16 votes.

Fairbault Number 20, 8 votes.

Mayo Southeast Number 28, 25 votes.

MS. REINCKE: Angelica Reincke, Chapter 28, all votes, Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Hutchinson Number 37, 11 votes.

MR. CORY FOUQUETTE: Cory Fouquette, 37, all votes, Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Park Rapids Number 38, 9 votes.

MS. BATCHO: Dawn Batcho, commander, Chapter 38, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Anoka Number 39, 33 votes.

MS. ASHLEY HESSE: Ashley Hesse, Anoka Number 39, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: South Metro Number 40, 7 votes.

MS. KHOL WALLA McWILLIAMS: Chapter 40, Kohl Walla McWilliams, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Mississippi, 2 votes.

MR. HORMELL: Rod Hormell, Department of Mississippi, both votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: R. W. Veal Number 5, 25 votes.

Spencer H. Dawson, Number 11, 24 votes.

MR. GARY GRAY: Gary Gray, Chapter 11, all votes, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Singing River Number 17, 13 votes.

MR. VERNON MILLER: Vernon Miller Chapter 17, Cynthia Madison, all votes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Hattiesburg Number 62, 6 votes.

MS SHEILA VARNADO: Hattiesburg Number 62, Sheila Varnado, all votes, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Missouri, 2 votes.

MR. DREW WHEATLEY: Drew Wheatley, 2 votes, Greathouse, both.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: St. Louis Number 1, 107 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 1, Missouri, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ernestine Schumann Heink Number 2, 77 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes, Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Orlan Smith Memorial Number 11, 34 votes.
 MS. DENISE CHAMBERS: Denise Chambers, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: A. Cook-V Wickham Memorial Number 43, 14 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 43, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ken Sisler Number 47, 21 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 47, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Larry Daniels Number 48, 14 votes.
 MS. KIMBERLY TATHAM: Kimberly Tatham, Chapter 51, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lebanon Number 51, 9 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That was the previous one.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sorry. Larry Daniels 48, 14 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The previous vote was for Chapter 51.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lebanon Number 51, 9 votes. What was cast?
 MS. TATHAM: All votes. All.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: For who?
 MS. TATHAM: All votes Adam.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Do we have anyone from Larry Daniels Number 48?
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Okay. Bottom-Stogsdill Number 52, 13 votes.
 MR. ROBERT SELSOR: Robert Selsor, commander, Chapter 52, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bolivar Memorial Number 66, 8 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Bolivar Memorial Number 66, 8 votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Veterans City Number 68, 10 votes.
 MR. MICHAEL JAMES: Mike James, commander, 68, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Montana, 2 votes.
 MR. GRANTIER: Kevin Grantier, Department commander, casts its two votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lewis-Clark Number 3, 14 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 3, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Nebraska, 2 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department commander for Nebraska, 2 votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: William V. Brooks Number 47, 14 votes.
 MR. BRYAN BELL: Bryan Bell commander, Chapter 47, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: DAV Elkhorn Number 49, 4 votes.
 Department of Nevada, 2 votes.
 MR. JEROME WASHINGTON: Department of Nevada, department adjutant, Jerome Washington, two votes for Cynthia Mason—Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Reno Number 1, 38 votes.
 MR. CHRIS HARVEY: Chris Harvey commander, Reno Chapter 1, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Black Mountain Number 12, 27 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 12, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Sunrise Mountain Number 13, 70 votes.
 MR. DANIEL MYER: Sunrise Mountain Number 13, Daniel Myers, 20 votes for Cynthia Madison or—70 votes it looks like, huh? Yes, all 70 votes for Cynthia Madison. Sorry.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Pahrump Number 15, 13 votes.
 MS. REDELL SAMUEL: Redell Samuel, commander, Chapter 15, all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of New Hampshire, 2 votes.
 MR. RICHARD BORRAZAS: Department of New Hampshire, Richard Borrazas, past department commander, all votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Queen City Number 18, 27 votes.
 MR. BORRAZAS: Richard Borrazas, past department commander as well as chapter commander, all votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Capital City Number 19, 24 votes.
 MR. ROBERT GULDNER: Bob Guldner, Capital City 19, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of New Jersey, 2 votes.

MR. ROBERT BUCCINO: Department of New Jersey Commander Robert Buccino, 2 votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Clifton City Number 2, 9 votes.

Carnevale-Spitz Number 3, 14 votes.

Captain P. J. E. Hogan Number 5, 7 votes.

Corporal George H. Keller Number 14, 14 votes.

MR. JEREMY BARATTA: Chapter 5, Captain P. J. E. Hogan, Jeremy Baratta, Chapter adjutant, delegate, casts all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Is there no one from Corporal George H. Keller Number 14?

Ocean County Memorial Number 24, 18 votes.

Northern Valley Number 32, 23 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 32, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joseph A. McNerney Number 41, 15 votes.

MR. TONY STRATFORD: Commander Tony Stratford, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Willingboro Number 42, 15 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 42, Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: All 15 votes?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Woodbridge Memorial Number 56, 7 votes.

MR. GEORGE SCHNEPF: George Schnepf, Woodbridge Memorial Number 56, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Genesis Number 94, 2 votes.

Grant Fort Bayard Number 1, 5 votes. Is that a no for that one?

R. C. Lopez-Ernie Pyle-Cutting Number 3, 54 votes.

MS. CANDACE BACA: Candi Baca, New Mexico Chapter 3, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Rio Rancho Number 5, 19 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 5 Rio Rancho, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: San Juan Number 9, 7 votes.

MR. TIM TIMMERMAN: Tim Timmerman, New Mexico Chapter 9, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John W. Smokov, Number 33, 39 votes.

MR. GENE WEBBER: Gene Webber, Chapter 33, New Mexico adjutant, casts all my votes for Adam. Thank you.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Number 38, six votes.

MR. KEVIN DASING: Kevin Dasing, commander, Chapter 38, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of New York, 2 votes. Greater Buffalo Number 1, 19 votes.

MR. DAVID BOWES: David Bowes, Chapter 1, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Monroe Powers Number 15, 35 votes.

MR. DAVID BERGMANN: David Bergmann, Chapter 15, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Wheeler Stars-Stripes Number 82, 20 votes.

MR. RAYMOND SYLVESTER: Chapter 82, Ray Sylvester, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lieutenant Alfred Lucia Number 118, 41 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 118, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Roll of Honor Number 120, 22 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Roll of Honor 120 goes to Greathouse, all votes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Herald Square Number 126, 36 votes.

MS. JUDITH RUSSELL: Judith Russell, Chapter 126, all votes to Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Michael M. Deoca Senior Memorial Number 135, 12 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 135, all votes, Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Castle Point Number 144, 29 votes.

MR. PHILIP DU: Philip Du, Chapter 144, Department of New York, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: And Marcelle Nolan Number 158, 18 votes.

MR. SCOTT STEPHENSON: Scott Stephenson, Chapter 158, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Wake County Number 1, 35 votes.

MS. CAROLYN CASH: Commander Carolyn Cash, Chapter 1, all votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lumberton Number 7, 9 votes.

Robert G. Tate, Number 9, 21 votes.

MR. ISAIAH T. HEALY: Department of North Carolina Chapter 9, Isaiah T. Healy, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Byers Morehead Number 18, 6 votes.

MR. EARNEST McCUNEY: Byers Morehead, Earnest McCluney, commander, all of those for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Guilford County Number 20, 45 votes.

MR. STEVENS: (Inaudible) Stevens, commander, Chapter 20, all votes for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Haverlock Number 26, 11 votes.

MR. JAMES HUNTER: James Hunter, past department commander and chapter commander, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Pitt County Number 37, 16 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Pitt County Number 37, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Craven County Number 40, 9 votes.

MR. DAVE ROUSE: Dave Rouse, treasurer, chapter 40, all 9 votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Francis J. Beaton Number 1, 33 votes.

Andy Nomland Number 2, 18 votes.

Adam Klein Number 3, 16 votes.

MR. JOE HALL: Joe Hall, Chapter 3, North Dakota, Adam Greathouse, all our votes.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jamestown Number 31, 5 votes.

MR. WARREN TOBIN: Warren Tobin, Jamestown 31 votes its 5 votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Ohio, 2 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Ohio, 2 votes, Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Cincinnati Number 1, 27 votes.

MR. RICHARD HEADEN: Cincinnati Number 1, Richard Headen, senior vice, vote all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Capital City Number 3, 35 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 3, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jesse R. Stevanics Number 9, 39 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 9, 2 votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Trumbull County Number 11, 14 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 11 casts all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Hamilton-Fairfield Number 15, 16 votes.

MR. FRED MANNING: Commander Fred Manning, Chapter 15, Hamilton, Ohio, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Summit County Number 35, 25 votes.

MS. ARLINDA MITCHELL: Arlinda Mitchell, state chaplain for Ohio, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Walter Klekota Number 49, 13 votes.

MR. LOGAN MORAN: Logan Moran, Chapter 49, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Van Wert Number 54, 5 votes.

MR. STEVE POLLACK: Chapter 54, Steve Pollack Commander, all for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Union County Number 55, 4 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 55, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Clermont County Number 63, 18 votes.

MR. JOHN PLAHOVINSAK: John Plahovinsak, Chapter 63, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Willie Marcum Number 72, 10 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 72, Ohio, casts all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Putnam County Number 77, 3 votes.

MR. DENNIS HANNEMAN: Dennis Hanneman, commander of Putnam County Chapter 77, 3 votes, Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: H. R. Cartwright Number 92, 7 votes.

MR. JOHN STEELE: John Steele, Chapter 92, all votes for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: J. N. Nemeth Memorial Number 108, 20 votes.

MR. JACOB DROST: Jacob Drost, Chapter 108, all votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Brooklyn Parma Number 116, 39 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 116 adjutant, all votes, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Bellaire Number 117, 7 votes.

MR. JAMES MILTON BAILEY: James Milton Bailey casts all votes for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Oklahoma, 2 votes.

MS. MERLINE LEDAY-MAUNEY: Department of Oklahoma, Merline Leday-Mauney commander, two votes for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Louis L. Anthis Number 7, 20 votes.
 MR. FRED WHITE: Fred White, Chapter 7, 20 votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Will Rogers Number 29, 42 votes.
 MR. LEROY GILES: This is Leroy Giles, Chapter 29, Cynthia Madison, all votes.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: J. E. Jim Bracy Number 32, 41 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Clarence H. Diehl Number 39, 32 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Clarence H. Diehl Chapter 39 casts all 32 votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mayes County Number 43, 7 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mayes County 43 casts all seven votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Joe McCain Number 56, 33 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Wagoner County Number 88, 12 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Eighty-eight, 12 votes, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Williams-Schermer Memorial Number 94, 3 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 94, all three votes, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Portland Number 1, 35 votes.
 MS. SHERRY RICHARDS: Sherry Richards, Chapter 1, Oregon, casts all votes for Cynthia Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jackson County Number 8, 24 votes. Do we have Jackson County?
 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have Chapter 12.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dewey Powell Number 12, 12 votes.
 MS. BRIGITTE MARKER: Brigitte Marker from Chapter 12, all 12 votes to Cynthia.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Dow V. Walker Number 25, 15 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Dow V. Walker Chapter 25, all votes to Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: William C. Malia Number 1, 9 votes.
 MR. ROBERT CUDWORTH: PDC Cudworth, Chapter 1, all nine votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mountain City Number 3, 10 votes.
 MR. WILLIAM HINES: William Hines, Chapter Number 3, Adam Greathouse, all votes.
 MR. VINCENT DeSTEPHANOS: Vincent DeStephanos, Chapter 7, all votes for Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mid Valley Number 11, 12 votes.
 Naomi Number 15, 61 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Naomi Chapter 15, 61 votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Norristown Number 25, 21 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Norristown Number 25, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Altoona Number 34, 17 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Robert Johns Erie County Number 73, 16 votes.
 MR. ERIC CASS: Eric Cass, commander, Chapter 73, all votes to Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Colonel S. D. Foster Number 76, 34 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 76, all votes, Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lebcos Number 81, 8 votes.
 MR. PHIL ARNOLD: Phil Arnold, Chapter 81, all for Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Vietnam Memorial Number 85, 11 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 85, all votes for Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Delaware County Number 113, 20 votes.
 MR. JOSEPH KAUFFMAN: Joseph Kauffman, Chapter 113, all votes, Adam Greathouse.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Puerto Rico, 2 votes.
 MR. CONCEPCION-RAMOS: Department of Puerto Rico, Roberto Concepcion-Ramos adjutant, two votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: SFC A. Pena Garcia Number 1, 44 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 1, San Juan, Puerto Rico, all votes for Cynthia.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mayaguez Number 6, 9 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 6, Mayaguez, six votes for Adam.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Fajardo Number 7, 15 votes.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 7, seven for Adam, eight for Madison.
 ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: CSM J. Rodriguez Number 16, 35 votes.

MS. CARMEN SUAREZ-PEREZ: Carmen Suarez Chapter 16, 17 votes for Adam, 18 votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Staff Sergeant C. Velazquez Number 21, 9 votes.

MR. AXEL LOPEZ: Axel Lopez, Chapter 21, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Rhode Island, 2 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Rhode Island commander, two votes, Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Emily E. Baker Number 9, 12 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Emily E. Baker Chapter 9, all votes for Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Mount Pleasant Number 21, 19 votes.

MR. BOB MARINO: Bob Marino, Chapter 21, commander, all votes, Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of South Carolina, 2 votes.

MS. LASSITER-BELTON: Department of South Carolina Commander Lassiter-Belton, our votes are for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Frank Montgomery Number 3, 14 votes. Frank Montgomery? Woodrow Wilson Number 4, 25 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: South Carolina Chapter 4, all votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Beaufort Number 12, 35 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Beaufort 12, all votes for Cynthia.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: John W. Crews Junior Number 13, 31 votes.

MR. MICHAEL HALE: Michael Hale, Chapter 13 commander, all votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Swamp Fox Number 17, 32 votes.

MR. ROBERT JENSEN: Robert Jensen, Swamp Fox Number 17 Chapter, all votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Ninety-second Buffalo Number 20, 16 votes.

MR. JERRY BROWN: Jerry Brown, Chapter 20, all votes for Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Clayton Durham Number 28, 26 votes.

MR. LEROY MCDONALD: Leroy McDonald, Clayton Durham, all votes, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Carroll E. Prosser Number 30, 29 votes.

PNC ROB REYNOLDS: Chapter 30, Rob Reynolds, all votes, Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Master Sergeant Preston B. Johnson Number 39, 9 votes.

L. Mendel Rivers Number 44, 7 votes.

DR. JEFFREY MOFFETT: Dr. Jeff Moffett, commander, all votes, Cynthia Madison.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of South Dakota, 2 votes.

MR. TIM WALSH: Commander Tim Walsh, Department of South Dakota, two votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Arthur H. Muchow Number 1, 42 votes.

MR. DAN FRANCIS: Dan Francis, Chapter 1, for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Rapid City Number 3, 28 votes.

Don Bren Number 22, 4 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Don Bren Chapter 22, four votes for Mr. Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Tennessee, 2 votes.

MR. BELEW: Department of Tennessee, Adjutant Kenny Belew, two votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Nashville Number 3, 37 votes.

MR. FRANKLIN BUDD: Frank Budd, Chapter 3, Nashville, Tennessee, all votes, Adam.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jackson Number 7, 10 votes.

MR. DARIN TAYLOR: Darin Taylor, Chapter 7, Department of Tennessee, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Greene County Number 42, 7 votes.

Hardy Shelby Number 45, 34 votes.

MR. RODNEY HUGHES: Rodney Hughes, Chapter 45, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Jerry Alvis Number 59, 13 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Commander, all votes for Adam Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Shelby County Number 70, 30 votes.

MR. WILL MENTON: Will Menton, Chapter 70, all for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Gallatin Number 95, 10 votes.

MR. MICHAEL WILSON: Michael Wilson, past commander, all votes for Greathouse.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Department of Texas, 2 votes.

MS. TERESA JOHNIKEN: Teresa Johniken, Department adjutant, both votes for Adam.
ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: DAV Heart of Texas Number 3, 37 votes.
UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All votes for Greathouse, Chapter 3.
ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Lone Star Number 4, 26 votes.
MR. BILL FERGUSON: Bill Ferguson, Chapter 4, all votes, Adam.
ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: Alamo Number 5, 120 votes.
MR. KEVIN LOMAX, SR.: Kevin Lomax Senior, commander, Alamo Chapter Number 5, all votes for Greathouse—Adam Greathouse. (Applause) Point of parliamentary procedure. We would like to address the chair.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: You're out of order, sir.

MR. LOMAX: Point of information.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: You're out of order.

MR. LOMAX: Point of information overrides under parliamentary procedure. (One rap of gavel)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Out of order.

MR. LOMAX: My point of information over –

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Out of order.

MR. LOMAX:—procedure.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: We will proceed with the roll call.

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: J. Earley San Antonio Number 14, 45 votes. Hold Please.

MR. STEVE GARCIA: Steve Garcia, senior vice, Chapter 14, all votes—(One rap of gavel.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Point of attention. Roll call is over. There is no conceivable way that the vote could to anywhere other than for the candidate Adam Greathouse. (Applause)

If there are no further nominations I will close the nominations and declare Adam Greathouse elected as national fourth junior vice-commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dobmeier for the office of national judge advocate. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Michael Dobmeier elected as national judge advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Debra VARNER-DANCER for the office of national chaplain. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Debra VARNER-DANCER elected as national chaplain. (Applause)

And I will now instruct the national adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for these offices.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: I, Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant of DAV, cast one unanimous ballot for Coleman Nee for national—I'm sorry—for John Donovan for national senior vice-commander; Jim Procunier for national first junior vice-commander;

Glenn Hohman for national second junior vice-commander; Brenda Reed for national third junior vice-commander; Adam Greathouse for national fourth junior vice-commander; Michael Dobmeier for national judge advocate; and Debra VARNER-DANCER for national chaplain. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would like to ask that the newly-elected officers and their spouses be escorted to the stage, please.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers and their spouses advanced to the stage to be seated.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: It is my great pleasure to now call on National Commander-elect Coleman Nee for remarks. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the commander-elect advanced to the lectern.)

COMMANDER-ELECT COLEMAN NEE: Thank you. Thank you, DAV. I honestly can't tell you how incredibly proud I am. And I really want to thank Andrea for that incredibly generous introduction. It's truly humbling to hear those words from someone of your caliber and your character, and I appreciate it.

And I also think probably within the 250 years of both of our respective services Andrea, that is the nicest things that a full bird Army Colonel has ever said about a Marine Corps corporal ever. (Laughter) You're a remarkable fierce lioness, Andrea, and I look forward to working with you for a long time. Thank you. (Applause)

Before I get to my remarks, I'd also like to take a moment to thank my family—my wife Karyn, my son Jack, and my daughter Kate, who unfortunately could not be with us today but is in the mission working for the Department of the Army, working at Arlington National Cemetery right now and caring

for our dead and making sure that their stories are told. So we, I thank her for that. And I am extremely proud of her for that.

I am also extremely proud to have my son Jack here, as well. My son Jack—where is my Maryland delegation? They're gone? All right. Well, Jack is here. My son is a proud Turop. He's also someone who I've raised and his mother has raised and today he is someone with the characters that I can only say are what everyone wishes for their child. He has a strong heart and a strong mind and a kind soul. And he has compassion at his soul. Jack, thank you very much. I'm so very proud of you. (Applause)

And to my wife, Karyn, 25 years ago we were watching TV as Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and she looked at me and said, "Are you really worried?" And I looked at her back and said, "No, what are you kidding? They never deploy the reserves." (Laughter)

Three weeks later she was driving me to the Anacostia Naval Air Station with my pack and my sea bag. Karyn, you've been right ever since and I've never doubted you. Thank you so much. And I love you very much. (Applause)

I also have to pay tribute to some fellow Massachusetts natives here who have helped shape me both as a veteran and a veteran advocate. Many of us miss Past National Commander Alan Bowers, a combat-disabled Air Force pilot.

After being seriously injured in an aircraft incident in Vietnam in 1972, he went on to live an astonishing life as a business executive and a tireless veterans' advocate, dedicating himself to improving the lives of those who served. Alan was an inspiration and a mentor to me and so many others of us here in Massachusetts and across the country.

I know I wish he was here today. I think Alan would have been very proud of this and I know we all miss him and I know the entire DAV family joins his loving wife Teresa and the rest of his family in mourning his passing in December. And, really, Alan, I hope you're looking down on me, buddy. We did it.

And I also need to thank Dan Stack. Many of you know Dan Stack. If you're unhappy with me as your choice as commander blame Dan Stack. He recruited me into DAV. He served as a career NSO. He went on to lead the Department as its adjutant for many more years.

Dan has been a trusted advisor and friend. I owe a great deal of generosity and wisdom to him and I have for many years as he was one of the most trusted advisors I had when I served as secretary of the Massachusetts Veterans Services. Dan, you're a true friend and a true veteran advocate and I can't thank you enough and your wife, Jeanie, for all you've done. (Applause)

And, lastly, the entire Department of Massachusetts and the veterans and supporters who make it run. You're all proof that you can have the thickest accent and the sharpest opinion but you still have the biggest hearts, guys.

To all the members of this great organization, DAV, my comrades, my friends, I stand here before you today as your national commander-elect, I'm humbled. I am honored. And I am infused with the spirit that you bring to this organization.

Oh, I've seen it. It's a spirit I've seen at your chapter events and I've seen at Capitol Hill. I've seen it at stand downs where you're working with homeless veterans, many of you staring into the eyes of someone and providing them the first look of dignity that they've had in a very long time.

I've seen you in our hospitals. I've seen you on street corners. I've seen you working shelters and emergency family housing assistance programs. It's the spirit that is the reason that I'm here. It's the reason DAV exists.

It's the same spirit that drew me into the Marine Corps as a young man. I was from a neighborhood in South Boston, someone who came home changed by war, physically and emotionally. But I was still determined to meet my creed as a Marine and to serve.

And it's a spirit that's been rooted in something in me that I saw from a very young age, even long before I put on a uniform. You see, growing up in the South Boston neighborhood where I was from, we may have lacked influence, and trees, but it never lacked in camaraderie or patriotism for this country.

And at a time in the early '80s when much of the country was either protesting or ignoring Vietnam veterans, I watched and admired as those same veterans of that conflict from my community, led by my friend Tom Lions, pulled together to build one of the first memorials in the nation to honor 25 sons of Southie who never came home.

Included on that list was the brother of my best friend Private Henry Cole, United States Marine. And I saw what that memorial did for our community. It didn't just honor the fallen. It healed the living. It gave people a way to remember, to connect. It gave us a way to band together around something bigger than ourselves. Man, that moment left an impression on me that I've carried my entire life.

And like many of you, I found that belief, that importance of unity and selfless service, constantly reinforced during my time in uniform. And I think it's what drew me to the Marine Corps and into the

armed forces, in general. But as we all know, our military service brings its trials and tribulations. They often outlast the uniform, itself.

Transitioning into civilian life can feel isolating. And that's why being around people who "get it," who truly understand what we've endured, is so important. It's also why I chose my new mission after the Marine Corps.

When I had the privilege of serving as Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services, I remembered what I learned back in Southie. When veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan came home, we didn't wait for them to come to us; we showed up at their door.

We went looking for them. We engaged post-9/11 veterans and embedded them in communities across the state to make contact, face-to-face, with those who were struggling with return to civilian life and to give them the pathway to a successful transition. And guess what, it worked.

Because when peers speak to peers, when veterans speak to veterans, things get heard, things get understood. We speak our language. And I mean our language. We show up. We say, "I've got your back." And that makes all the difference.

And that, my friends, is what DAV does best. We don't just provide services, we show up. We listen. We advocate. And we work alongside of our veterans in some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

For more than a century, service to our fellow veterans has been a hallmark of DAV. And in the current year we're going to continue building on that legacy together, I assure you.

Now that legacy for me comes from a certain place and I need to take a moment just to recognize some people here who have helped instill in me that spirit of service and desire to be something greater than just myself and re-invigorated as I've been in DAV.

First off, I have to thank my fellow line officers: John, Jim, Cynthia, Glenn, Debra, Mike. You guys are tremendous and you have been tremendous leaders. And I've seen your passion and I've seen your effort. And I tell you right now, it inspires me.

And I feel honored, privileged and somewhat humbled to have worked alongside such great veterans' advocates such as yourselves. And I assure you that won't change going into the future as we continue through this next year. It is a privilege and an honor to have served and to serve with all of you.

I also have to say thank you to the DAV staff. You have the most professional staff in the world here. Barry, Cody, Randy, we see them the most but what you don't see are the hundreds of people behind the scenes who work every day for you, hard, doing what they can to help this organization.

We are grateful for them and we should be thankful that we have such a professional staff. Thank you so much, Barry, for your leadership in making that happen. (Applause)

And, finally, to my friend, Commander Dan Contreras, now you would think the two of us might not, on paper, get along. Dan is good looking. Dan is from California. Dan drinks Starbucks lattes with extra double twists and all sorts of stuff in them. I drink Dunkin' black. (Laughter)

Dan roots for a certain baseball team that takes all the best Red Sox and wins World Series with them. But, honestly, Dan is—we all owe Dan and Teresa a great deal of appreciation. And we should be grateful for what they have done for this organization.

To endure the kind of challenging year that they have and to still rely on that spirit of selflessness as their greatest strength has been an inspiration to me. And yes, Dan and Teresa are beautiful to look at. They are the perfect California couple.

But, I assure you, if you were to put a mirror up to them that could reflect their internal self, that their soul, their character, and their integrity is far more beautiful. And for that we appreciate you, Dan, and I appreciate everything you have done for this organization and Teresa. Thank you so much. (Applause)

But for all of us we need to understand what DAV is. I know we think we have an idea but we have to ensure that DAV in service to our veterans is more than just our claims work, which is outstanding. And it's more than just forms and checklists. We know that service is picking up a phone to a veteran and reaching out and checking on them.

We know that service to a veteran is going to those underserved communities where veterans are and finding those overlooked and underserved veterans and making sure they get the benefits and services that they deserve and have earned.

We know that volunteering at food pantries to help veterans who are not only living on the edge but in many cases are middle class but yet have no income to buy nutritious food, to buy nutritional food and have to rely on food pantries to supplement their daily intake of food.

We know that you can mow a lawn for a surviving spouse who feels forgotten. You can build a wheelchair ramp for a veteran who needs one to access their domicile.

Anything you can do to help a veteran or a family in your community makes a difference. And when you do so and you are seen doing so, you introduce them to our cause and you introduce your

community to our cause. You show them what DAV is really about. And in many cases it brings them back into the fold. Think about that.

Many of you came into DAV probably later after your service. How great did it feel to be back in the fold as a member, as an advocate and as a leader, as someone who had the power to change lives of your fellow veterans? I bet it felt pretty good.

And we're all aware of the membership trends and our demographics. We know about aging population. We know about the challenges we face getting active members and how hard it is to bring in the next generation of veterans.

But I'm here to say this plainly: we're not going to grow by waiting. We're only going to grow by doing. We need to stop asking how we're going to attract our younger members and, instead, we need to start asking how do we serve veterans better? How do we serve veterans more visibly? More intentionally? More consistently?

Let's be present where veterans actually are. New members aren't hanging around our chapter meeting rooms waiting for us to ask them to join. They're in our colleges. They're in our gyms. They're in shelters. Sometimes they're in the community. They're in barbershops. They are job fairs. They're at town halls.

We can be and let's be intentional with our volunteer work, creating opportunities and inviting veterans to continue to serve. And let's keep our L-VAP hours because, believe it or not, your chapters' L-VAP hours are one of the best recruitment tools you have.

Let's make DAV unmissable in our communities. Because, honestly, if they don't see us, how can we ever persuade them to join us? This doesn't mean we abandon our traditions. It means we honor it through action.

When our founders created DAV they weren't focused on comfort or ceremony. They were focused on the urgency of people who needed advocacy or they were going to die. They were meeting needs that no one else would. They were building a movement, a community.

And to our younger veterans, we want you to encourage—we want to encourage you, rather, to access and utilize every benefit and service that you need and that you have earned. But never take for a moment that any of those things can be taken for granted because I guarantee you they came at a cost in blood, sweat, and tears from the very founders of this organization and from millions of veterans just like them.

Those folks were determined to make sure that this nation kept its promise to them and their families. They did this out of respect and obligation to their service to this great nation. That is still our charge.

Look, we have the infrastructure well in place to meet this mission. We have the technology. We have a lot of training. We have most trusted status in communities and on Capitol Hill. But what I need from you and what I will gladly join you wherever you are in this great nation, what we need from you is the intentionality.

We need to see you at every event. We need to see social media posts of every event. We need to see every ride, every form, every phone call. And we need to see that as an opportunity to connect, serve, and grow. Look, I've seen this power firsthand and no more so than right here at DAV.

The greatest strengths of this organization aren't in our policies and our platforms. The greatest strength of this organization is in you, our members. Our core and our backbone is our chapters. That spirit is in our vans. Our strength is in our personal relationships we build with veterans who need someone to believe in them again.

And so here is my promise to you. And I mean this sincerely. This year you're going to see me out there with you. Oh, I'm going to be in your chapters. I'm going to be in your towns. I'm doing the mission alongside you and our members.

You give me community service projects to serve at and I will do everything I can to be there. Because I think this mission transcends any title. And I assure you this mission doesn't live here at this podium. It lives with you. The mission lives in our personal moments, in the conversations that change lives and in the actions that build trust.

And before I finish, I want to speak directly to every member who might feel a little disconnected, even a little discouraged by the pace of change, both here at DAV and generally within our society. I do understand it. Change is not easy. Sometimes it can feel like you don't know what your place is. I get it. But, change is inevitable. And we either met it or we get run over by it.

So when I first heard about Twitch, I didn't know what it was. I thought it was something I got in my neck. (Laughter) The last time I had done any live gaming was at the arcade up the street from

my house in the '70s with a pocket full of quarters and streaming meant the line behind me for Space Invaders.

But—and there is some debate about this—I say thanks to my son I became more engaged in gaming. He says I bought an X Box and made him watch me play it for 24 hours. But now I'm actually playing as the national commander on our DAV Twitch stream. That's pretty amazing for a 58-year old guy.

And I get that those changes are coming and they're coming faster and faster. I know we see electronic forms. I know the social media sometimes feels like you're George Jetson on that treadmill.

But you have to know that if I can remember and do these things, I assure you, you can, too. We can't let this pace of change be a barrier to service or use it as a reason for an impediment to us accomplishing our mission.

To all of you I issue this challenge, let's not be passive observers. There is no M-O-S for passive observer in the United States military. We're not that. Let's open our doors wider than before. Let's raise our visibility higher than it has ever been.

Let's tell our stories with boldness and pride. We should. Not just inside our halls, but outside our walls, as well. Let's be clear with America and our communities what DAV stands for: service, integrity, accountability, for—and let me underscore this—all veterans.

DAV is and always has been a home for every veteran, regardless of era of service, race, religion, gender or orientation. We won't waiver in this conviction. In fact, we will go a step further. We will advocate for them.

DAV has and will continue to support our LGBTQ+ veterans. DAV serves and will continue to serve veterans in underserved communities and populations. DAV has and will continue to lift up all our women veterans. And DAV creates leadership opportunities for those too often overlooked in other spaces because that's who we are.

And I assure you—and this is my personal guarantee to those populations—I will be your ally. I will be your champion. And I will be proud to stand alongside you in the fight to get every single benefit and service that you've ever earned and been denied.

You will have justice and I will help you and support you in any way I can to make sure that occurs. Because I'm not here to check a box and neither are you. I came here to change lives and I know you did, too. And we can't do that by waiting for veterans to come to us.

No, we need to go to them. We need to go to them with empathy. We need to go to them with purpose. And we need to go to them with real tangible solutions to their problems. We continue to live that standing order that we will leave no one behind.

Each of you has an incredible power in this mission. Each of you is a potential powerful agent of change. You have the power to be a real difference in your own communities, especially with the numbers we have and with the motivation and the spirit that you have.

And you can be the reason—and I've seen this so many times that a veteran doesn't give up. You can be the face of DAV for the next generation. Because this work doesn't stop with us, but it will continue through us, I assure you of that.

And I just want to close with a line from something that I read in high school in Latin class when I was translating Cicero's on Republics and for some reason this line stuck with me for the rest of my life. *Non nobis solum nati sumus. Non nobis solum nati sumus.* I haven't excommunicated any of my fellow Catholics, so don't worry about that. No, it was written by Cicero and it says, "Not for ourselves alone are we born."

That's not a fancy quote in a dead language. It's a fundamental cornerstone of our great civilization and society. We all lived it in uniform. We live it now through DAV. We will carry it forward together.

And I can tell you this: over the next year we will be in the community together getting our hands dirty, serving those veterans, seeing those faces, reminding ourselves and reminding America why DAV has, does, and needs to continue to exist for now and long into the future in order to support and protect the promise that America has made to those men and women and their families who are willing to give their lives in its defense.

Now let's get to work.

I thank you so much. God bless you DAV and I am so honored and humbled. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the commander-elect returned to his seat and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I will now call on National Senior Vice-elect John Donovan for any remarks he would like to make. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the senior vice-commander-elect advanced to the lectern.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT JOHN DONOVAN: Well, here we are again and I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as the senior vice-commander of our great organization. As a family there is nothing that we cannot do.

And, commander—he's busy right now. Hold on a second. (Laughter) Commander Nee, I will be at your side working with you throughout the whole year to make sure your promises are made, that you gave are going to be made.

I know we're pressed for time so I just want to do a quick thank you to Commander Contreras for your guidance throughout the year and for your wardrobe advice, too. You really helped me out, my friend. Thank you. (Laughter)

I also want to thank the most important person and that's my wife of 38 years who stood behind me and put up with all the stuff I do with DAV. She's a great person. (Applause) Thank you.

And I also want to thank District 21. You guys have stood behind me. Thank you very much. Stand up if you would, I want to see you.

(Whereupon, the delegates from District 21 stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT DONOVAN: There they are. And I really want to thank Danny Oliver. You've been my mentor for more than two decades. I really appreciate everything you help me with. And I can tell you together we cause a lot of heck in Arkansas and Oklahoma so thank you, Danny.

I'll keep it short. Again, we're a great family. We know that. We work together. We help veterans, their survivors and their families. There is nothing that this organization can get, can do that any of the other ones can. We've surpassed them.

They're trying to catch up right now but they will never catch us because we're strong and we're going to keep, continue to move forward, no matter the obstacles in front of us. We're either going to move it, blow it up or just jump on it. (Laughter)

So thank you all very much for the privilege and I'm humbled by it. And I'm going to sit down now so the rest of them can come up here. Thank you all, again. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the senior vice-commander-elect withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: And now I'd like to call National First Junior Vice-elect James Procunier for any remarks he would like to make. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the first junior vice-commander-elect advanced to the lectern.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT JAMES PROCUNIER: First off and foremost, I want to thank my chief-of-staff and admiral of the fleet, Katie, for sticking with me and putting up with me all these years.

District 9, Department of North Carolina, Onslow County Chapter 60 in Jacksonville, thank you for your steadfast support through this journey I've had.

The line officers, since I've been on the line, are the greatest group of men and women veteran advocates I have ever worked with. Thank you for your guidance and your support.

Barry, Cody—I think he's out there. There he is—Randy, your support, your guidance and the work that the staff in both Washington, D.C. and Erlanger do is nothing short of amazing. Thank you for all of that.

Dan, your inspiration this year, your guidance makes me proud to call you my commander and even prouder to call you my friend. Thank you.

And to each and every member out there, I am here to represent you. And as Coleman said, I'll be out in the trenches with you as much as I possibly can.

You know, it's often been said that men and women that go off to war are heroes. But I think the real heroes are the men and women that went off to war, came home broken, and never gave up.

So what I close with is just don't stop believing in yourself. Don't stop believing in our mission. And don't stop believing in DAV. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the first junior vice-commander-elect withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would now like to call up Glenn Hohman, second national junior vice-elect for any comments or remarks he would like to make. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the second junior vice-commander-elect advanced to the lectern.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT GLENN HOHMAN: Well, I'm a few things right now. I'm definitely humbled. I'm definitely overwhelmed and I'm definitely thankful.

I'm humbled to stand before such a group of men and women who care so tirelessly for our veterans and every day show up, like the commander-elect said, to be there. I'm humbled by the opportunities that I've had to serve, myself, alongside of you. And I'm humbled by the level of support that I've gotten.

I've been overwhelmed over the last year and more by the outpouring of love and a sense of family that each and every one of you extend to myself and to my wife and to my family. It's truly, truly overwhelming. It exceeded my expectations that I met many of you either here at the convention or in your departments or districts.

And I'm truly, truly thankful. I'm thankful for the support of both my chapter and department, for District 18, everything that you guys have done for me. Thank you very much. (Applause)

I'm thankful for the example that my parents set for me and I'm most thankful for my wife, my Vegas bride, by the way. Thank you very much, baby. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the second junior vice-commander-elect withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would now like to call up Brenda Reed, national third junior vice-elect for any remarks she would like to make. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the third junior vice-commander-elect advanced to the lectern.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT BRENDA REED: Thank you. I am honored and I must say a little bit shocked to be elected as your national third junior vice-commander. My husband, Greg, sends his regrets that he is not here. He is at home dealing with two tears in his rotator cuff and is undergoing pretty extensive physical therapy at the moment.

I would like to really send out a huge shout of appreciation for my other family, the Department of Florida, for your support and your love. (Applause) It's been a road. I know.

Even though I'm coming from the Land of PNCs, you all know I'm already there, so I'm living in the land so you know that no matter what happens this year I will have outstanding people showing me the way.

National Commander-Elect Coleman, you and I have had some great conversations over the past year. And you know that I am behind you 100 percent and that I will support you in whatever I do. And the same goes for John, Jim, Glenn and Adam.

So thank you very much. And I appreciate your support and your election for me. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the third junior vice-commander-elect withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Now I would like to call up Adam Greathouse, national fourth junior vice-elect for any comments he would like to make. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the fourth junior vice-commander-elect advanced to the lectern.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT ADAM GREATHOUSE: Hello, everybody. I apparently took a lot of your time already so I'm going to keep this quick. It's just I'm honored, way more than honored, to be your fourth junior vice national commander, to be part of something greater than myself, the organization that saved my life and I'm up here able to serve my veterans, my brothers and sisters.

Just real quick I'd like to thank a/k/a The General, my wife, Stacy, for not giving up on me, the DAV not giving up on me. I also want to give a big shout-out to Huntington, West Virginia, Chapter 2, for helping me become the leader I am now and to be a great leader you have to be a follower and I'm ready to follow the great leaders in front of me so I can stand here one day as your national commander.

So thank you guys very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the fourth junior vice-commander-elect withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I would now like to call up National Judge Advocate-elect Michael Dobmeier for any comments he would like to make. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the judge advocate-elect advanced to the lectern.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: He reminded me, Sandy, thank you. What I'm talking about is my wife of 50 years, Past National Auxiliary Commander Sandy Dobmeier. (Applause)

And the 14th District that's been supporting me for 30 years now, the Departments of Minnesota, and Montana, North and South Dakota, thank you. Would you rise, please?

(Whereupon, the members of District 14 stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: To our professional staff, which is, bar none, the best in the world, and they lead us in great ways and always have. And Commander Dan, you hit nothing but home runs this year.

Commander Coleman, we've got your back. And now I'm going to get out of the way so we can all go eat. (Laughter and applause)

(Whereupon, the judge advocate-elect withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: I now would like to call up National Chaplain Debra VARNER-DANCER for any remarks she would like to make. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain-elect advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT DEBRA VARNER-DANCER: Thank you very much. First of all, I would like to say thank you to the great staff in Kentucky for all that they've done in our support. If I called, they answered. If I emailed, they answered to let me know that if I needed anything they were there for me.

Second and foremost, to the great MALT, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee, for your confidence and your trust and encouraging me to come to this great convention once again.

And to all of you who met me in the hallway just to say thank you, two small words but they have such great meaning and power that I do not take lightly.

And for all of you that continue to know that it's going to take all of us to not allow any spirit of deception or division to cause us to scatter.

Last, but not least, to my companion who always encouraged me that there is greater and better and as long as we are together, not just he and I, but all of you, as long as we are together we can continue to make this organization greater and better.

Once again, thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the chaplain-elect withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: At this time I will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee. Do I hear a motion? MR. DUNN: Mic 4.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 4.

MR. DUNN: Michael Dunn, Chapter 109, Florida, Titusville, Florida, so move.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WHITEHEAD: Mic 1.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Mic 1.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WHITEHEAD: Stephen Whitehead, Chapter 40, Minnesota, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. That about concludes today's business. (Applause)

National Adjutant Jesinoski, would you please read the list of newly-elected National Executive Committee members and share any other announcements.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT JESINOSKI: The following members have been elected to the National Executive Committee for the two-year term 2025 to 2027: 1st District, Deb Olson; 3rd District, Lisa Sloan; 5th District, William Hines; 7th District, Thomas Ayala; 9th District, Willard Cunningham; 11th District, James Bailey; 13th District, George Hall; 15th District, Jamie Jakub; 17th District, John Carmona; 19th District, Harvey Dixon; (Cheers) and 21st District, Danny Oliver. (Applause)

As a reminder to all of our National Executive Committee members, including those newly-elected, the Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the convention, in just a few minutes, in Champagne 2 and 3. We, of course, will do our best to make that meeting as efficient as possible.

A swearing-in ceremony will be held at that time. NEC alternates should also attend this swearing-in ceremony.

The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the NEC meeting.

Our presentation of the national officers has to be changed this evening. Unfortunately, although democratic process is important and you are all extremely good and efficient at what we did today, the dinner has to start now at 7:30.

The time that is required to set up the room is beyond what we could do to have the event in this room so it's going to be a little bit different tonight. I hope that you bear with us. Make the best of it. But the meal will now be held down the hall in Concord A, B, and C at 7:30.

Our line offices, our NEC, will also meet in Champagne 1 either at 6:30 or as soon after our NEC and Board of Directors meeting and the amount of time that you need to go get ready for the meet-and-greet for the NEC only prior to the dinner this evening.

As a reminder, only those who RSVP'd by the deadline for dinner can attend. If you are on our wait list you will be contacted if a seat is available. I would imagine if that was the case it would be done by now.

Back to you, commander.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern and gave three raps of the gavel.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thank you, Barry. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the retrieval of our colors. Color Guard, retrieve the colors.

(Whereupon, the Department of Nevada Chapter 12 Honor Guard retrieved the colors then departed.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Ladies and gentlemen, let's give our fellow veterans from the DAV Department of Nevada Chapter 12 Color Guard a round of applause for their outstanding service. (Applause)

Chaplain VARNER-DANCER, will you please lead us in a closing prayer.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN VARNER-DANCER: Let us pray. Almighty Creator, once and again we are standing in your presence, giving thanks for all things being done well, in the spirit of excellency, in the spirit of integrity.

Let our take-away be from this point on that we are stronger together. We are that one. We are that example. So as we leave this place never to leave your presence.

Father, for those who are leaving early, we ask for traveling grace and safe arrival. And as we conclude this great convention, knowing that your presence, your wisdom, your understanding and your guidance have been with us, we will forever be grateful and thankful as we continue to be united as one.

These and all things not only that we ask but we receive for it is in your name that we give you glory. And the people of God said—

(Response of "Amen;" whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from the stage and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CONTRERAS: Thanks, Chaplain. The 103rd National Convention of Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. (Applause) We will see you next year in Orlando. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Aug. 12, 2025, at 5:41 o'clock, p.m.)

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
102ND NATIONAL CONVENTION**

PARIS LAS VEGAS HOTEL | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

August 9, 2025

First Business Session

The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in Concorde B Ballroom of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday afternoon, August 9, 2025, and was called to order at 2:05 o'clock, p.m., by National Adjutant Bunny Clos.

ADJUTANT BUNNY CLOS: Okay, we're going to go ahead and get started. So, as your commander just said, keep the conversations down. If you want to talk, you can go outside. And cell phones, please silent your cell phones or turn them off. Ann, are you ready?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ANN WILNER: Yes.

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms please present National Commander Christopher Easley to the platform.

(Whereupon, the commander was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort National Chaplain Austin Blanton to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the chaplain was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort National Judge Advocate Paula Raymond to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the judge advocate was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander Jane Casher to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the fourth junior vice-commander was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort National Third Junior Vice-Commander Carolyn Harris to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the third junior vice-commander was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort National Second Junior Vice-Commander Terry Grabowski to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the second junior vice-commander was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort National First Junior Vice-Commander Kathleen Wenthe to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the first junior vice-commander was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort National Senior Vice-Commander Melissa Pierce to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the national senior vice-commander was escorted forward.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort immediate Past National Commander AnnMarie Hurley to the platform.

(Whereupon, the immediate past national commander was escorted forward.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, have National Convention Chairman Hannah McCauley escorted to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Convention Committee chairman was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, present and post the State Colors of Oklahoma.

(Whereupon, the state colors were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, present the National Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were presented.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, post the National Colors.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILNER: Please post the Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were posted.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: National Sergeant-at-Arms, dismiss the Color Bearers.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILNER: Color Bearers, you are dismissed.

ADJUTANT CLOS: We will now have prayer by National Chaplain Austin Blanton.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN AUSTIN BLANTON: Let us pray. Our Gracious Heavenly Father, Lord, thank you for another beautiful day that you allowed us to live.

God, I want to thank you for everyone in this room, Lord, and for their hearts of service toward our veterans and their families, God.

Please be with us today and in the following days to come as we meet, go over this previous year, and get ready for another amazing year of service toward our veterans and their families, God.

Watch over us and keep us all under your hands. In your name we pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which the chaplain withdrew from and the adjutant returned to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: The Pledge of Allegiance will now be led by National Americanism Chairman Carolyn Harris.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the third junior vice-commander and National Americanism chairman advanced to the lectern.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN CAROLYN HARRIS: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the third junior vice-commander and Americanism chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Whereupon, the third junior vice-chairman and Americanism chairman withdrew and the adjutant returned to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: Great job, juniors.

"The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in the Annual National Convention composed of the National Officers and representatives of the state departments and units.

"In accordance with these directives I, Bunny Clos, National Auxiliary Adjutant, declare the 102nd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened at Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Consideration and disposition of business brought before this Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force. To all present, take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly."

You can be seated. My bad.

I will now introduce our national commander, our caring and fun-loving and comedian commander, Christopher Easley. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander advanced to the lectern.)

COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER EASLEY: Good afternoon, my family.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

COMMANDER EASLEY: I just want to make sure y'all are awake. If I have to be awake, so do you.

It is my privilege to welcome you to our 102nd DAV Auxiliary National Convention in beautiful Las Vegas, Nevada. We hope that you take the time during this convention to rekindle old friendships and make new ones.

Your dedication to our organization is top-notch. Let's work hard this week to complete our business and have a lot fun – not a little fun, a lot of fun.

Before I go on with this I would like to have our national Caregiver chairman, Ron Minter, please come up to the podium if you'd like to say a few words. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Minter was escorted to the lectern.)

NATIONAL CAREGIVER CHAIRMAN RON MINTER: Well, good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

NATIONAL CAREGIVER CHAIRMAN MINTER: I don't want to take up too much of your time. Bunny and I talked before we got out here about the opportunity to tell you about our DAV National Caregiver Support program. Anybody familiar with that?

(Response of "Yes.")

NATIONAL CAREGIVER CHAIRMAN MINTER: Good. How many caregivers do we have?

(Whereupon, the caregivers raised their hands, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL CAREGIVER CHAIRMAN MINTER: I applaud you because I understand what it takes to be a caregiver of a veteran or a veteran that maybe caring for a loved one.

So I know it's a long, hard journey and that's one of the reasons that we had this DAV Caregiver Support Program is to support you, specifically, the caregiver. And no journey is the same as another. They are very unique.

And of you that raised your hands, that are caregivers, how many have registered for the program? (Whereupon, those registered raised their hands.)

NATIONAL CAREGIVER CHAIRMAN MINTER: So it's not everybody that raised their hand previously so my challenge to you is – what is this, B? Next door in C is the exhibitors. Have you been over there yet?

I ask that if you have not registered in the program that you please go and do that. Take benefit of these tailored resource plans at no cost to yourself and help them provide you that little bit of respite. Let us take care of you to the extent possible.

It has nothing to do with your entitlement to VHA benefits or a veterans' entitlement and/or enrollment to Veterans Health Administration benefits, notwithstanding any disability compensation benefits.

We're here to take care of veterans, their families, and their survivors and their children, as well. All right? In keeping with our mission statement.

Do you have to be a member of the DAV or our Auxiliary? You do not. I'll say it again: you do not have to be a member to enroll in this program.

So my challenge is not just for you, yourself, as a caregiver to get enrolled. Take this message back to someone else that you know that's on a caregiving journey that's caring for a veteran or veterans that may be caring for a loved one. Can we do that?

And it's not my program. It's our program. It's going to take all of us. There is over 14.3 million caregivers in the United States in the military and veterans community.

We have assisted, since October of 2023, nearly 2,000 families. We haven't scratched the surface, not even one percent. We've got a lot of work to do and it's going to take all of us to do that so, please share that message. Be proactive.

If there is anything I can do, how can you help? Go to your community. Share with your community centers, your agencies on aging, Alzheimers' facilities, Dementia. I have program brochures in digital format. I can email that to you.

Again, send me a message. I'll get it out to you. You can request hard copies from us at headquarters if you're doing an event. If we can be there to speak, we'll be there.

I know we're supposed to be at the Auxiliary Fall Conference coming up in September somewhere. Don't listen to me; you'll be there on the wrong weekend. (Laughter) But we look forward to being there and doing real-time registration. But we're also doing that next-door right now.

So, please – you know, I talked about the kids. The kids are part of this caregiving journey, also, and the VA will not care for children until they are 18 and an adult in their own right.

We will not rest until we find a way to deliver services to these children, too, who are also part of that caregiving journey. Their life is different. They're in mental health counseling. They're providing that care.

We shouldn't have to hear those stories of kids and mental health counseling on account of the traumas they deal with when a parent or parents return home.

So, again, it's a great program. I encourage all of you to take advantage of it. I hope you guys have a great conference. And, please, look us up. Come next door and see us. And if I can be of any assistance to you, please let me know.

Bunny, thank you for having me. And you guys take care. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Minter withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: He's just salty because when we were in Minnesota together I made sure he had all of the weather experiences because he was traveling all over.

And so we had sun and we had rain. It even snowed while we were there. And he was like, darn it, Chris, you said it was going to snow. I didn't believe you. (Laughter)

At this time I'd like to introduce our 2025 National Convention Chairman Ms. Hannah McCauley for her official remarks.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the national convention chair advanced to the lectern, amid a round of applause.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN HANNAH McCAULEY: Hi, everybody. I'm Hannah McCauley out of Oklahoma. I have had the honor to be the national chairman for the Auxiliary because, one, I love Chris from Oklahoma, so we had the honor to take care of that for us.

So hopefully you guys will come to the Forget-me-Not and the testimonial. It will be on Monday so we can honor Chris a little bit more, too, on his way out the door. But, thanks for having me. And let's have a great convention. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the national convention chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: At this time it gives me great pleasure to introduce our past national commanders. Please stand if you are able, when called; if not, you can waive.

Miss Paula Raymond; (Applause) Miss Linda Trulio; (Applause) Miss Judy Steinhouse; (Applause) Miss Sandy Dobmeier; (Applause) Miss Susan Henry; (Applause) Miss Donna Adams; (Applause) Miss Susan Miller; (Applause) she's back there;

Miss LeeAnn Karg; (Applause) Miss Ellen Timmerman; (Applause) Miss Lynn Helms Prosser; (Applause) Miss Darlene Spence; (Applause) and our immediate past national commander, Miss AnnMarie Hurley. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as their names were called each past national commander stood or waived her hand and acknowledged the audience.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: And I would also like to introduce your friend and mine, our past national adjutant, Miss Pat Kemper.

(Whereupon, Ms. Kemper stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I would like now to acknowledge the state delegates. If you were elected during your state department to represent the state department, please stand, if you are able, to be recognized. So there should be a few of you all.

(Whereupon, the state delegates stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I would like to call on Past National Commander Susan Henry to bring greetings. Please come forward.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the past national commander advanced to the lectern.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN HENRY: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: I'm Susan Henry, past national commander, and, as you just heard introduced, our past national commanders, and we would like to present a gift to Chris. You might want to be really careful.

(Whereupon, the commander was presented with his gift.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: We thought you would like that.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes. It's like I swear it's not COVID. It's just allergies. I've got to figure out how to open it.

(Whereupon, the commander opened the gift.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: And while I'm up here, I'd like to take the opportunity, if you see this purple ribbon, ask them anything you want. (Laughter) They're past national commanders. They should be able to answer any question you have so just walk up, say hi, and ask whatever question you have. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you. (Applause) If you see this white ribbon, it says DAVA Junior Member, they left me along with a little box full of ribbons. (Laughter)

All right, so National Sergeant-at-Arms, if you want to grab some juniors for this next part.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILNER: How many do you need?

COMMANDER EASLEY: However many of the people stand up because they're going to be passing out the ribbons. All right, if this is your first national convention, would you please stand and be recognized. Let's give them a round of applause.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Our juniors will be passing out ribbons that we'd like for you to proudly wear this week. We'd like to invite everyone to join us for the DAV – please stay standing until you get your ribbon.

We'd like to have everyone join us for the DAV Auxiliary Informational Seminar beginning at 4:00 in Champagne Rooms 2 and 3. Yes, folks, we're going to have to get up and move.

It's the room right across where the little sweeping dude is in the hallway. It's the room, the double doors right by that. Don't get lost like I—I mean, yes. Finding landmarks in this hotel is fun.

(Whereupon, all first-time attendees were given ribbons, after which they sat down.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: At this time I would like to recognize and, again, congratulate our DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year Ms. Lorether Colbert.

(Whereupon, the member of the year stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you for all the work you do for veterans and their families.

I would also like to introduce our DAV Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year, Miss Hattie Lambert of Virginia. Congratulations and thank you for all the work you do for veterans at the VA.

(Whereupon, Ms. Lambert was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: This is a great time to remind all of you to submit their applications for these prestigious awards. There are many deserving candidates in every unit of this organization. Please, you know, you do great work. Send that in so that way these people can be recognized.

Anyone making or seconding a motion must go to the microphones that are located in the center of the aisle and loudly and clearly state their name, unit, and state department or they may not be recognized since the recorder hears this information through his headphones. So an example would be Chris Easley, Unit 43, Oklahoma, I make a motion or I second the motion.

Will the Credentials Chairman Linda Oliver please come forward and give a preliminary report of the Credentials Committee?

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA OLIVER: Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: Commander, national officers, delegates and guests, the Credential report is as follows.

Total units registered, 129; total departments registered, 31; national officers registered, 7; past national commanders registered, 8; total guests registered, 241; total delegates, 267; total alternates, 27; total registered, 550; total vote count, 862.

Commander, I move that we accept the credentials report.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee chairman withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion to accept the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee made by Linda Oliver. Is there a second?

MS. KIMBERLY STAKE: Kim Stake, Unit 57, District 21, I second the motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: A motion has been made and a second. Is there any discussion? All in favor aye; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee chairman withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: The first order of business is the adoption of the National Convention Rules.

Printed copies of these Convention Rules have been furnished to all registered delegates. I will now entertain a motion for adoption of these rules. They were in your blue bags. Not everybody jump up at once. You have to go to the microphone.

MS. MARY ELLEN BELL: Mary Ellen Bell, Unit 42, Texas, adopt them as written, accept them as written.

COMMANDER EASLEY: No, you made the motion. You made the motion. So I need a second.

MS. SHEILA STEPHENS: Second, Sheila Stephens, Unit 20, Louisiana.

COMMANDER EASLEY: So we have a motion and a second. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

May I have a motion to accept the agenda subject to change?

MR. ARTHUR GEARY: Arthur Geary, Unit 33 of District 1, I make a motion to accept the agenda as written.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right. I need a second.

MS. LYNN SWANSON: Lynn Swanson, Unit 23, District 13, I second the motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: A motion has been made with a second. Is there any discussion? All in favor aye; any opposed. The motion carries.

I will now call on the Finance Committee Chairman Ann Wilner for the National Finance Committee report and the budget review.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Finance Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANN WILNER: I'm a little short. Good afternoon, everybody.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: National Commander Christopher Easley, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, family and friends. Good afternoon. That was poor. Come on, people. Wake up. Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: There we go. The National Finance Committee meeting was held on April 2nd, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. via GoToMeeting online platform.

The voting members of the Committee present were Christopher Easley, National Commander; Linda Applegate, District Number 4 NEC, Karen Eccles, District Number 10 NEC, Kim Stake, District Number 21, NEC and myself, Ann Wilner, District 9 NEC.

Those present without a vote were National Senior Vice-Commander Melissa Pierce; National Adjutant Bunny Clos; and National Assistant Adjutant Ann Glende.

The purpose of the meeting was to set up and adopt a budget for the 2026 year.

At this time I would like to thank the Committee and the staff for all their help.

The budget was included in your registration packets. And at this time I move for adoption of the budget.

(Whereupon, the Finance Committee chairman withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

MS. STAKE: Kim Stake, District 21, I make a motion to move the adoption of the budget.

COMMANDER EASLEY: You seconded it, Kim. Kim, say "second."

MS. STAKE: I second this motion to move to adopt the budget.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All righty, we've got a motion and a second to approve the budget. Are there any questions? All right, all in favor – oh, wait.

Please come to the microphone. Ann, please, after she asks her question if you want to use that microphone so you don't have to hike back up here.

MS. MARY ANN JENSEN: Mary Ann Jensen, Auxiliary commander for the State of South Carolina. With everything being computerized and everything sending out, we're not mailing things anymore, why do we have so much money to the name and address label? You know we have 45 and 38,000. That's a lot of money for mailings.

ADJUTANT CLOS: That's the mailings when you get them in the spring and the summer or the fall, so your labels, when you get your labels, when you get your calendar, that's what those, that cost is.

MS. JENSEN: That's what that –

ADJUTANT CLOS: That's what that cost is, yes.

MS. JENSEN: Okay, thank you.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, is there any more discussion? All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

At this time I would like to excuse the Nominating Committee. Please follow Bunny.

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee withdrew from the ballroom and the commander withdrew from and the senior vice-commander advanced to the lectern.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER MELISSA PIERCE: I will now present our National Commander Christopher Easley for the purpose of reading his report. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the senior vice-commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All righty. So in your bags you have a copy of my report and I asked Bunny, I was like, hey, do you all have a thing in the podium book? And she was like, no.

Oh, I can't really read that typing. I don't know who typed that. They should be shot. Oh, wait, that was me. (Laughter) So I'm going to give you the highlights of my year. It's been an interesting one.

You know, I got elected and installed in Phoenix. It was just as hot there as it is here. First thing that I did was when I got home we had my unit meeting that Friday and then I drove down to San Antonio, Texas, and visited Alamo Chapter and Unit 5. That is where I got my start. It was a great time seeing all those people.

After that, we had Fall Conference. There was a little bit of a hurricane problem. You know, some of you all may have known that or been affected by that.

And I was really worried that one of two things was going to happen: you all were going to end up trapped in Indiana or you were going to get trapped on the way home and I was just praying everybody made it home safe. And from what I understand, everybody did. And I'm so thankful to God for that.

The next weekend, literally the next weekend, I got to fly to D.C., took the red-eye flight from Oklahoma, and I got to attend the rededication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. It was the ten-year anniversary of it.

Funny story to that, 14 years prior, when I was the last elected and first appointed national chaplain, I went to the groundbreaking for that memorial. It meant a lot.

I got to see Jelly Roll in Oklahoma and talk to him about the DAV Auxiliary, a very interesting man, and his wife. They really do support veterans.

I told him of the YouTube video I saw where he was at a concert here in Vegas and saw a man with a Vietnam veteran hat on and he went and pulled the guy out, you know, down there and they're talking and back and forth.

Come to find out, the guy flew all the way across the country because it was the only place he could get a ticket to be able to see him. And so Jelly Roll said, hey, my management will be with you.

And so one of his people came and got him and took him back stage and then they recorded the video, too. And he said you know, what, you served our country. Here is my number. Here is the number for my people.

Anytime you want to come see me, you call us and let us know. We will get you transportation. We will get you to the concert. And we will make sure that you have a place to stay.

Any musician, any actor that will do that for a veteran, just a random veteran he saw wearing a hat, they're tops in my book. And now he's touring with Ann's favorite, Post Malone, so. (Laughter)

After that, unfortunately, I lost my father. It was rough. But, I got to go to Birmingham, Alabama. I got to go. And I met Miss Alabama, a super sweet girl. She's going into nursing. I told her to apply for the Auxiliary scholarship.

I tried to talk her into go into IT but she decided she wanted to be a pediatric oncology nurse so I said, you know, that's pretty noble but, hey, here's the application to become an Auxiliary member. I don't know if she has joined.

Then I got to ride in the parade. And everybody was upset because it was raining and it was like nasty raining the night of the gala dinner. And then it got nicer.

And I said, hey, guys, I talked to the big guy upstairs and I asked my dad to make it, you know, a nice day for this parade and they're like, oh, whatever, Chris.

It was kind of sprinkling when we went to the VFW for breakfast. But, you know, what? The sun came out. It was about 2,000 degrees because we had like 90 percent humidity. (Laughter)

All those people in band uniforms, those ladies in the dresses, I know they were melting. We rode in air conditioning. It was great. Had a great time at that parade. And that finished out the 2024.

In 2025 I got to do what I consider a once-in-a-lifetime event, I got to attend the Presidential Inauguration. I don't care where your political lines lie; you respect the Office of President. To be in D.C., to experience that, there is nothing like it. The energy.

I saw the protests of the people against. I saw the protests of the people for. I saw the protests of the people that didn't even know why they were there. (Laughter)

The hotel did me right. I walked down to the Capitol, gave some interviews, came back. And I went up to my room and they had a bottle of champagne and some flutes there for me that said, you know, the Presidential Inauguration, and some orange juice and cranberry.

So I sat in my bed, drinking mimosas, watching the rest of the inauguration. I mean, if you've got to do it, that's the way to do it, folks. (Laughter)

That night I attended the Inaugural Ball that was hosted by the American Legion. It was honoring our heroes and it was for all living Medal of Honor recipients.

Now, this was kind of funny, I was supposed to be at the table with National Commander Dan and his wife and Randy Reese and, but there were so many DAV people there I got regulated to what we dubbed the "Kids Table." (Laughter)

And that was me and Amy Mathis and all the legislative crew, the younger group. And so we had the greatest time there. I mean it was fun. I enjoyed being at the "Kids Table."

After that we had – I came back to Oklahoma then, went back to Mid-Winter Conference. I was back to D.C. like two weeks later. I had a Top 3 moment of my life laying the wreath. You do not know the power until you are up there with that wreath.

Then, I got to go see Dan do his testimonial. And the whole time I'm begging them, like, hey, do I have to have anything prepared? Oh, no. They never call on Auxiliary. Guess what happened? (Laughter) A lovely Congressman from Texas, Mr. Morgan Luttrell, called on me to say something.

I remember pressing the button to turn on the mic. That was Step 1. That was good. I remembered that part. I thanked him. I word vomited some stuff. Thanked him again and pressed the button.

And everyone came up to me, hey, that was great. Do you know, do you have that written down? What did you say? They thought I was joking when I said, "What did I say?" (Laughter) No, Chris, what did you say? No, what did I say? (Laughter)

They said, oh, you really don't know. I said, no, I just kind of opened my mouth and whatever came out, came out. I hope it wasn't a problem.

And Barry and Dan were smiling so I figured, you know, one of two things is going to happen: I would be the first Auxiliary National Commander to get Article XII for pissing off Congress or I said something right.

Well, I found the YouTube video. I said something right. To paraphrase it, basically I told them that our job, or my job as the national commander, is to educate our membership, to educate people in office like themselves, at the federal level, the state level, and the local level, along with the public, on the needs of our injured, ill, and disabled veterans and their families.

And there might have been a comment about, you know, that we will put somebody in office that will do that for us if they won't, but it was a lot nicer than that. (Laughter)

Also in January I went to Florida. That was our first snowstorm in Oklahoma and I decided to bring it with me. It was in the 30s when I landed in Orlando. Everybody was freaking out. They were like, "Watch out for the lizards that are going to fall out dead from the trees."

Then they thought I was crazy one morning because I got on a work call before we started and I'm outside in slacks and a polo shirt and it's like 45 degrees. I'm like, this is warm.

But, yes, they had a big snowstorm both times I was gone. It was great. I didn't have to worry about shoveling snow.

After that I traveled to Dan's testimonial in California. I'm so glad none of you all were there when I showed up. I got shanghaied and I did something I never do. Commander Dan and Senior Vice Coleman and I sang a trio of "Tennessee Whiskey." (Laughter)

Yes, I had literally just gotten off the plane, dropped off my luggage, walked out to see what all the noise was outside and the next thing you know I'm singing "Tennessee Whiskey."

And I told them that I need a shot of Tennessee Whiskey to be able to get up there and do that. And then they – I was done.

You know, I found Sandy's husband, Mike, and I was like, hey, Mike, it looks like you are heading to the room, I'll escort you to your room. You know, I don't want you to get lost. So I got out of having to sing any more.

Conventions this year after that, went to Puerto Rico, fell in love with the island. Love it there, the people, the culture, everything. It was great.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you see the island?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes, for the most part. I met a lot of really good friends and I've kept in contact with people that I've met there quite a bit.

And even in my report it says, "Who knows, maybe I'll move there one day." It might be the retirement type place or it might be just during tornado season. (Laughter) And people say, Chris, they have hurricanes in Puerto Rico.

Yes, but you see that on a map. It's not like the day of our National Finance Committee meeting when I'm taking a shower and I go, is that the sirens or is that my tinnitus?

And then my phone goes off so I run out to the hallway where my phone is and go, oh, crap, there is a tornado two miles from my house. Let me get dressed.

And so then I'm sitting there dressed in my little safe spot and I'm like, I look down and I go, great, I'm going to be on the news because I didn't have any shoes on.

You know, it's always the guy, you know, they're wearing the mustard-stained shirt, no shoes, "I saw the whole thing." You know. And so I just, now I have shoes in my go-bag in that area, too.

After that I went to South Carolina, had a great time in South Carolina. I brought the rain to you guys, too, just because I'm very giving that way. Then had a small issue with a retinal detachment and had to miss Utah and Kansas. I do apologize.

I went to my Oklahoma convention and Ann Wilner was our guest. And who was the DAV guest? John

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Kleindienst.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes, John K – were there and so they had the full Oklahoma experience. On one side of the Hard Rock when they looked out the window they saw a double rainbow; the other side of the window, on the other side going away from us they saw two tornadoes at our banquet on like the 18th floor in a glass thing at the casino, it was great. (Laughter)

You know, I told them, well, we just wanted you to have the full Oklahoma experience. Yes, we had a great time.

If you ever want good fundraising ideas, hit up Linda Oliver. She, our juniors there, man, they got a racket going there in Oklahoma.

Next I went to Arkansas. Arkansas, we had a lot of fun there. I got to call the pigs. So any of you all that came to the NEC meeting, we did it there. It was, you know, I mean, it was a lot of fun.

Then right before I was supposed to go on a three-state tour, Chris decided to see what it was like to go to the ER and find out what a cracked rib feels like because I slipped in the mud at three o'clock in the morning getting home from work and hit some concrete steps, broke a phone, all that good, fun stuff.

So I missed the last three states I was supposed to go to so I apologize to Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. But I understand you all had a great convention.

And the final thing I got to do as national commander was I talked with Unit 61 in Texas and I got to ride in their parade, their Fourth of July parade. I've ridden in that parade many times when I lived in Texas and I felt that was a fitting way to end my year before I came here.

But, no, I've had a great year. I appreciate you all. I love you all. I thank you all for what you do. Like I put on Facebook, I've been a member for 20 years as of March of this year. And I never thought I'd be standing up here before you all. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the senior vice-commander returned to the lectern.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER PIERCE: I will now entertain a motion to accept the national commander's report as shared.

MS. STEPHENS: Sheila Stephens, Unit 20, Louisiana, I make a motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER PIERCE: And a second.

MS. PAMELA GLASS: Pamela Glass, Unit 9, I second the motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER PIERCE: A motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

(Whereupon, the senior vice-commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you. The book says I will now call on Adjutant Clos but she's not here so now I'll call on my best friend and travel buddy, Assistant Adjutant Ann Glende. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Okay. We're going to have announcements. First and foremost, thank you. I know there has been quite a few registration issues at this convention so thank you for your kindness and your patience. Hopefully next year will be a little better. But thank you for that.

Tomorrow morning will be the Memorial Service at 7:30. Business attire is appropriate for those involved. Remember to check in with Bunny or myself at 7:00 o'clock outside of Rivoli A-B at the Paris Convention Center. There will not be programs this year.

National chairmen, please pick up your respective committee folders tomorrow morning in the Auxiliary office. Please help us out and don't forget.

Convention Committee meetings convene tomorrow morning. If serving on a Committee, check the program schedule for rooms and times. Most of them are over where the district meetings were held so please allow yourself enough time so that you arrive on time.

This afternoon at 4:00 o'clock we will offer an informational seminar until, well, starting at 4:00 o'clock in Champagne Room 2 and 3. Topics include DAV Auxiliary information, procedures and possibly some Q&As.

There are no Auxiliary business sessions tomorrow so that you can participate in Convention Committees and take advantage of DAV seminars. We highly suggest taking advantage of seminars.

As a reminder, registration badges are needed to enter the National Commander's reception tonight, Fun Night and the Introduction of National Officers and Dinner. All attendees must be registered in order to attend these events, including juniors.

Speaking of juniors, following adjournment, juniors, please see Kim Stake. Kim, where are you?

MS. STAKE: Over here.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Kim will meet you in the back of the room. Please see Kim Stake and make sure your parents or guardians are with you.

We would like to congratulate Edith Bradford from Florida Unit 18. She was the winner of our Florida vacation this year. (Applause) Is Edith here? Yes, she's back there.

We'd also like to congratulate the 28 states that made quota for 2024-2025. Next year let's all shoot and make quota for 2025-2026.

If you haven't done so already, please don't forget to visit the store in Champagne Room 1. They do have some "Program and Procedure Manuals" to purchase.

And that's all I have. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the assistant adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Can all the juniors please stand up or raise your hand?

(Whereupon, the juniors stood or raised their hands.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I identify as a junior so.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Stand up.

COMMANDER EASLEY: I want to thank you all for coming here, giving up of your summer vacation to help us out and—and a new thing that we're going to do tomorrow afternoon in the commander's suite, it's in the Burgundy Tower, Room 1501P, you'll need to bring an adult with you, a parent or a guardian, we are not having a pizza party. But we're having a meet-the-commander.

MS. STAKE: We are going to have a meet-the-commander. Junior Auxiliary members get their time with the commander, anything that they would like to ask the commander or myself. That's what they're going to be doing. They're going to be asking questions.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They want pizza.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Now, the commander might have snacks there that are round and have tomato sauce and cheese on top but it's definitely not a pizza party. (Laughter)

MS. STAKE: Negative. And we might have some sort of drink.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes, there might be some Capri Suns.

MS. STAKE: It will not be alcoholic but it will be something to drink. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EASLEY: But I'm thinking about doing that around, I would say about four o'clock.

That way it's early enough –

MS. STAKE: Four o'clock on Sunday.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Four o'clock on Sunday. And anyone that wants to come by and say hello at that time, that's cool. But the kids get to get into the snacks first. It's my way of thanking them for coming up here and working with us and volunteering. And I appreciate everything you all do, guys.

MS. STAKE: And I do have something really important to go over with them that will be a secret for later on in this week so if you guys could, you know – you don't have to run out or you know what I mean? (Laughter)

But, you know, how do you say it, "get to stepping" so we could be adjourned. I've got something important for them that's going to be later on in the week. Thank you all. You all have a good afternoon and a good evening.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, Mr. Austin Blanton, will you please close us out in prayer? (Three raps of the gavel)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN BLANTON: Let's go to the Lord in prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, thank you again for letting us all be here today, God. Thank you for providing everyone with safe transport here.

Please be with us as we leave this meeting and go about our days, God. Just place your hands on us throughout this convention. Watch over us. And we thank you. We love you. And we praise your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which the chaplain withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, this Convention stands in recess. We will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Monday morning. Everyone be here bright eyed and bushy tailed.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:55 o'clock, p.m., on Saturday, August 9, 2025.)

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
102ND NATIONAL CONVENTION**

PARIS LAS VEGAS HOTEL | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

August 11, 2025

Second Business Session

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in Concorde B Ballroom of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Monday morning, August 11, 2025, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Christopher Easley.

COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER EASLEY: Before I start this, just a reminder, please silence your cell phones.

Also, as a reminder, we're not plugged into the microphones for the Facebook streaming so anything and everything you say will be online. So if you have a conversation that you want to have, please don't have it near the camera. Take it outside.

And if you're with somebody that you shouldn't be, well, we're not going to do the Cold Play concert thing so you're good there. (Laughter)

All right, I will now call this meeting to order. National chaplain Austin Blanton will you please come give us the blessing. (Three raps of the gavel)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN AUSTIN BLANTON: Let us pray. Most gracious Heavenly Father, we come to you to say thank you for allowing us another beautiful day that you've created to live on this earth, Lord.

We ask that you be with us during this meeting. Remind us to always have a happy heart, to always focus on our veterans, and let us not forget why we do this.

Lord, this past year has been filled with trials and tribulations for many, whether it be illness, loss of a loved one. God, I pray you just put your hands on them. Let them feel your presence.

Place a shroud of protection around everyone in this room, Lord. Be with us today and in the following days to come as we bring new ideas and new ways to serve and take care of our veterans and their families.

God, we love you and we praise your name every day. Amen.

(Response of "Amen" after which the chaplain withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We will now have our pledge by our patriotic instructor, Miss Carolyn Harris.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the third junior vice-commander and Americanism chairman advanced to the lectern.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN CAROLYN HARRIS: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the third junior vice-commander and Americanism chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. As the pledge ended people began calling for a medic. The third junior vice-commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: You may be seated. (One rap of the gavel) Once again, if everybody can please either turn off or put your cell phones on silent.

We're just going to take a couple minutes here. Please take your seats and real quick I'd like to thank all the juniors for coming up last night for our "not a pizza party." We had a great time. They turned in some pretty cool artwork that Bunny and Ann have up here.

(Whereupon, someone called out "We can't hear you.")

COMMANDER EASLEY: This building has the worst acoustics, ever. (Commander snapped his fingers.) Like, you can hear the echo when it's not in the microphone.

And when they turn up the microphone or turn up the speakers and then you end up hearing, if you're up here it's like hi-hi-hi-hi. You know.

Can I have the Credentials Chairman Linda Oliver please come forward to give an updated report of the Credentials Committee.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Convention Credentials Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA OLIVER: Good morning, members.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: Commander, national officers, delegates and guests, the Credentials report is as follows: total units registered, 130; total departments registered, 31; national officers registered, 7; past national commanders registered, 8; total guests registered, 264; total delegates, 272; total alternates, 26; total registered, 577; total vote count, 866.

Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee chairman withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: As a reminder, if you want to make a motion, second or ask a question, please step up to the microphones in the center. So I have a motion by Linda Oliver to accept the Credentials report, do I have a second?

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER KATHLEEN WENTHE: Kathleen Wenthe, first junior vice, second the motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee chairman withdrew from the stage.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: The Constitution and Bylaw Committee chairman will now come forward. For the purpose of saving time, she will read only the amendment numbers and the purpose slash rationale.

For the second reading she will read the entire proposed amendment. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the constitution and bylaws chairman and past national commander advanced to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDITH STEINHOUSE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 1. Page N-20, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 1, National Executive Committee, second paragraph, last sentence.

The rationale: this will accommodate unforeseen circumstances and will be equitable with other national positions.

Number 2. Page N-22, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 1, National Executive Committee, remove Alaska from District Number 19.

Rationale: Neither DAV or DAV Auxiliary have chapters, units, state departments in the State of Alaska.

Number 3. Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 3, Membership Applications. Replace second paragraph with the following.

The rationale: clarifies when memberships take effect and provides for membership revocation in circumstances of crimes of moral turpitude or serious or offensive actions that are not in accordance with the mission of our organization.

Number 4. Page N-36, Article VIII, Finances, add a new Section 5, Expenditure of Funds.

Rationale: Bylaws require two signatures for all expenditures.

Number 5. Page N-36, Article VIII, Finances, add a new Section 6, DAV Donor Intent Policy.

The rationale: to comply with DAV Bylaws Regulation 13, Donor Intent Policy, and ensure that donated funds are properly distributed to the intended entity.

Number 6. Page N-41, Article XI, Probation, Suspension, and Revocation of Charters, Section 1, Probation, first paragraph, second sentence, replace the word "suspension" with "probation".

The rationale: for correction purposes since the section references probation, not suspension and suspension is addressed in Section 2.

Page S-10, Article V, Tenure of Office, Section 1, Elected State Officers, third paragraph, add a second sentence to read: "If further vacancies occur, the duties shall devolve upon the remaining State Vice-Commanders in order of their rank."

Rationale: to further clarify succession procedure in the event of a vacancy in the position of First Junior Vice-Commander for those state departments whose state standing rules allow for additional elected Junior Vice-Commanders.

Number 8. S-12, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 1, State Executive Committee, first paragraph, insert a new second sentence.

Rationale: clarification of committee hierarchy and voting.

Number 9. Page S-19, Article VIII, Finances, Section 7, Accumulation of Funds, first paragraph, add "subject to the approval of National Adjutant" to the end of the second sentence.

Rationale: to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Number 10. S-19, Article VIII, Finances, Section 7, Accumulation of Funds, second paragraph, add "and this is subject to the approval of the National Adjutant."

Rationale: to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Number 11. Page U-17, Article XIV, Unit Finances and Dues, Section 5, Accumulation of Funds, first paragraph, add "subject to the approval of the National Adjutant" to the end of the second sentence.

Rationale: to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Number 12. Page U-17, Article XIV, Unit Finances and Dues, Section 5, Accumulation of Funds, second paragraph, add "and is subject to the approval of the National Adjutant."

Rationale: to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the constitution and bylaws chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I now call on our Education Program chairman, Ms. AnnMarie Hurley, for a report.

For those wishing to make donations to our national programs, they will be accepted upon completion of the Education Program report. Please be sure checks are signed appropriately and earmarked accordingly.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ANNMARIE

HURLEY: Again, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HURLEY: And thank you all for being here. It is my privilege to provide you with the annual DAV Auxiliary Education report.

This year DAV Auxiliary had a record number of 131 students apply for the scholarship. (Applause) This is 55 more scholarship applications received over the previous year. That's good. (Applause) We awarded 20 scholarships this year, totaling \$45,000. Ten students received \$2,500, the maximum amount allowed. Ten students received \$2,000.

A committee of three judges takes care of the applications blindly. They have no idea who sent them in.

All identifying information is removed by national headquarters before being received by the Committee. They are numbered in the order received and at no point is the Committee aware of whom an application belongs to.

Selected students are required to submit proof of enrollment to national headquarters no later than September 2nd, 2025.

Payments are made directly to the university or college.

We'd like to thank all the individuals who applied and encourage those who did not receive a scholarship this year to apply again next year.

Per our guidelines, a student may receive up to five scholarships.

I'd also like to report on the Vocational Training Assistance Program. As you are aware, this program provides up to \$500 to ill or injured disabled veterans, their spouse or children attending a course to improve their workplace skill or career development.

Those wishing to apply should complete an application and include the necessary requirements for pre-approval. The application will be reviewed by the DAV Auxiliary Education Program Committee.

If approved, applicants will receive notification of the amount granted and what information will be required within 60 days of course completion in order to receive reimbursement.

At this time we have only provided \$2,500 in assistance since the inception in 2021. Many who apply are not eligible because they are attending colleges or universities for higher education.

Please be sure to share this important program with your members and the community. There is much potential and we need to get the word out there to our members. Thank you for your attention. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the committee chairman withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: For those planning to present donations make sure your checks are signed and that state and unit checks have the two signatures.

Form a line down the center of the aisle and one-by-one you can place your donation. Announce your name, state, and/or unit, and the donation amount at the microphone and step forward. Okay. I'll be down there in just a second.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

MS. LYNN SWANSON: Are you ready? I'm waiting for it to start moving. Okay, I'm Lynn Swanson, State of Indiana commander and we would like to present \$400 for the Scholarship fund and \$400 for Caregivers. (Applause)

MS. VELMA STEINMAN: Velma Steinman, state commander, State Department of Missouri, we have three checks: \$100 for the Winter Sports Clinic, \$100 for the Family Assistance Program, and \$100 for the Educational Scholarship Program. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander, former recipient of the Educational Loan Fund, with a donation. (Applause)

MS. BONNIE PETERSON: Bonnie Peterson, Rust County Unit 33, State of Wisconsin, \$200 for DAVA for Kids and \$200 for the DAVA Family Services. (Applause)

MS. KATHY CLAMPITT: Kathy Clampitt, Department of Oregon state commander, I have \$100 for Emergency Relief Fund and \$100 for DAVA for Kids. (Applause)

MS. ALLISON DEVINE: Allison Devine, Department of Massachusetts, I have five checks: \$250 for the Disaster Relief Fund, \$250 for the Educational Scholarship Program, \$250 for DAVA for Kids, \$250 for the Family Assistance Program, and \$250 for the Caregiver Support. (Applause)

MS. BARBARA FISHER: I'm Barbara Fisher from Indiana 23. I would like to make a donation for \$100 to the service league. (Applause)

MS. AMIE RABER: Amie Raber, Unit 18, Florida, I have \$2500 for Just for Kids, \$2500 for the Golf Clinic, \$1,000 for the National Disaster Relief, and \$1,139 for the Caregivers Program. (Applause)

MS. JOEY CAYWOOD: Joey Caywood, State Department of Florida, commander, I have a check for National Service Program for \$500. (Applause)

MS. DEANNA DUNN: Deanna Dunn, commander, Unit 109, Titusville, Florida, we have one check including \$1,000 for National Disaster Relief Program, \$1,000, DAV for Kids \$1,000, Caregivers Incentive \$1,000, and Winter Games, \$500. (Applause)

MS. JULIA RAWLINGS: Julia Rawlings, Department of Kentucky, state commander, I have two checks of \$50 each, one for the National Headquarters Service Program and the other one is for the Education Program. (Applause)

MS. DARLENE HANNEMAN: Darlene Hanneman from the Department of Ohio, I have three checks: \$500 to the Disaster Relief Fund, \$500 to the Service Support Fund, and \$500 to the Scholarship Fund. (Applause)

MS. DIANE SULLIVAN: Diane Sullivan from the State of Massachusetts on behalf of Chapter 27, Somerville, Massachusetts, I have a check for \$1,000 to sponsor the Auxiliary Fall Conference. (Applause)

MS. SHEILA STEPHENS: Sheila Stephens, commander of Jack Redell Unit 20 out of Louisiana, we have a thousand dollars for the Disaster Relief Fund. (Applause)

MS. BARBARA GREGORY: Barbara Gregory, adjutant, Unit Number 7, California, I have \$100 for the Caregiver Program. (Applause)

MS. JANET PRATT: Good morning. Janet Pratt, Unit 29, Braintree, Massachusetts, I have a check here for \$250 for DAV for Kids, being donated on behalf of the National Executive Committee members. That is my donation, personally, instead of giving little gifts.

I also have a check from my husband, Stan, and I for \$500 to be given to the National Auxiliary Fall Conference sponsorship. (Applause)

MS. KAREN REDIKER: Karen Rediker, White River Junction Unit 3, Vermont. We have \$100 for the National Education Scholarship, \$100 for DAV Family Services, and \$100 for DAV for Kids. (Applause)

MS. LOLA MOSES: Lola Moses, DAV Auxiliary State of Georgia, I have a hundred dollar check for the Fall Conference sponsorship with other donations given at Fall Conference. (Applause)

MS. JOSEPHINE RIVERA: Josephine Rivera, Unit 118 from New York, I donate a personal \$50 for DAV for Kids. (Applause)

JUNIOR ALEXANDER BLANTON-SCHUETTE: My name is Alexander from Arkansas Unit 57. I would like to donate \$100 to DAV for Kids. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right. I would like to personally thank everyone for the generous donations to our national programs. Your support is appreciated. Your generous donations are the reason why we're able to assist veterans and their families.

Also, let's see, we have some thank yous. So, for the scholarship:

"Thank you for the scholarship. I appreciate organizations like yours that support such a valuable cause. I'm sincerely grateful for these funds and know they will make it possible for me to achieve my educational goals. It has changed my life for the better." From Colorado.

"Thank you so much for sending the exciting news of my being selected for a scholarship. I appreciate your support as I head into the next adventure." From California.

DAVA for Kids:

"Thank you so much for this grant." From Georgia.

"I appreciate your kindness." From New Mexico.

"Thank you for your help." From Kentucky.

"Thank you so much for your generous support and for the payment made to cover senior pictures. We are truly grateful for this assistance. It has lifted significant burden off our shoulders during what is both an exciting and financially challenging time. As a permanently disabled veteran and father of five, I can't express enough how much this support means to our family." From California.

"I would like to thank the DAV Auxiliary for giving me a grant to participate in community theater. We put on *Les Miserables*. I really enjoyed my time doing it and I really appreciated the DAV Auxiliary giving me the chance to participate in this theater program. It's my favorite musical and I am so happy I got to act in it. I think this camp helped strengthen my singing capabilities and it was an amazing, powerful show." From Virginia.

"Thank you so much for doing this. She'll be nine in August. We appreciate you all more than you know. I'm in my car crying. Someday I hope we can share the story and all the people that helped keep this afloat. It's been the hardest transition ever and more so on my children. Being homeless for months and transitioning is not easy, but God's plan is always greater than our own. Thank you for" something with the team. Missouri.

Sorry, I was having trouble focusing on that one. (Applause)

The Family Assistance Program:

"Please tell the committee thank you. It's humble to know that we needed to ask for help and received it." From Kentucky.

"I'm grateful for this organization and the people behind the scene. You have no idea how much this has helped me and I'm now able to work full time while my daughter is in daycare. I can get my life back on feet and I will bless another veteran. Thank you so much." New Jersey. (Applause)

"Thank you so much for your help. It is greatly appreciated." Texas.

"Your assistance means the world to us. My wife is nearing the end of her surgical journey and having financial relief will allow her to fully embrace her new cancer-free life." From New Jersey. (Applause)

"During a time of great uncertainty the DAV Auxiliary stepped in and provided vital support for my family. Their kindness and generosity allows us to stay on our feet and focus on our child's needs rather than them being consumed by the stress of unpaid bills. Their impact goes far beyond the financial assistance. It restores hope and dignity when you need it the most. Thank you, again, for everything you do and for being a lifeline for veterans and their families, like mine." Texas.

"Let me begin to thank you, DAV Auxiliary family, from the bottom of my heart for your assistance and kindness to me and my family. I'm a single mother of two teenage daughters and the stress of keeping the lights on was overwhelming. It's my goal to now do what I can to help the next fellow veteran. Once again, thank you so much for helping my family." That doesn't have a state.

Let's see. Now I think I hand it over to Ms Bunny but, also, real quick, Bunny did say she will take cash, casino chips, slot machine vouchers, (Laughter) 10 percent of all winnings, 15 percent if you're feeling generous, to go to our programs. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: When called upon, the convention committee chairman will approach the podium and announce the winners.

I ask the committee advisors to step to the awards table to the right of the podium for award presentation and photo ops.

As winners are announced, please step forward to the awards table to receive the awards. If needed, please form a line.

The chairmen will not read the committee members names individually but, rather, have members stand to be recognized.

We will go ahead and start with Americanism and the advisor was Carolyn Harris. Is Amy Rizzo in here? You need to come read. Oh, I'm sorry, Angela. Sorry.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the Americanism Convention Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANGELA VAN GORP: National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of the 102nd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Americanism Convention Committee met at the Paris Versailles Tower, Provence 2, at 9:00 a.m. on August 10th, 2025. Our advisor was Carolyn Harris. I, Angie Van Gorp, served as the Committee chairman and Amy Jo Rizzo was elected secretary.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Americanism Awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Washington County Unit Number 9, Tennessee.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN GORP: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Park Rapids Unit Number 38, Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN GORP: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Victoria County Unit Number 169, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN GORP: Group Number 4, 201 members or over, Unit Number 39, Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN GORP: Special Americanism awards: Group 1, 10 to 200 members, Millington Unit Number 116, Tennessee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN GORP: Group 2, 201 members or over, Titusville Unit Number 109, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN GORP: The Committee submitted the following recommendations.

If there is not enough room on the report and attached paper, make sure the font is easily read, for example, at least 12-point sized lettering.

Special Americanism report, each activity can be listed on a separate sheet of paper.

When submitting an Americanism report, please indicate how many reports were give out and the number of meetings that you had, for example, if you do four meetings a year and you did four reports, record that you did four reports out of four meetings or 12 meetings a year you did 12 reports out of 12 meetings or six reports out of 12 meetings.

Will the members who served on the committee please stand, if able, to be recognized.

(Whereupon, the committee members stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VAN GORP: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Americanism Convention Committee chairman withdrew from and the assistant adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT ANN GLENDE: All right, next we will have Community Service, Jane Casher and Debbie Adema.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the Community Service Convention Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DEBORAH ADEMA: National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, and guests of this 102nd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Community Service Convention Committee met in the Normandy Room on August 10th, 2025. Our advisor was Jane Casher. I, Debbie Adema, served as Committee chairman and Rory – I can't read his last name –

MR. RORY KIRVEN: Kirven. Kirven.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADEMA: – Kirven was our secretary, was elected and appointed secretary.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Community Service awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Frank L. Bradford Unit 18, Guntersville, Alabama. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADEMA: Group Number 2, 51 to 100 members Aiken Unit 43, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADEMA: Group 3, 100 to 200 members Elizabethtown Unit 3, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADEMA: And Group 4, 201 members or over, Titusville Unit 109, Titusville, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADEMA: The Committee submitted the following recommendations.

Please double-check your math for hours and money, that they are accurate.

Clarify on the instructions that members sign winning report.

Clarify donations, cards cannot be to other 501(c)(3) even if they're veteran-related.

In heading actual unit name not DOV should disqualify.

Reports should include service hours, not just writing checks for monetary donations.

There was a question, should monetary volunteer hours be allowed under the monetary donations, as an example, a bartender donated time but the unit used as a cash donation.

Will the members who served on this Committee please stand, if able, to be recognized.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADEMA: I thank you all for that.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Community Service Convention Committee chairman withdrew from and the adjutant returned to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: We will now do Junior Activities, Sandy Martin.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the Junior Activities Convention Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDRA MARTIN: National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, and guests of this 102nd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Junior Activities Convention Committee met at Provence 6 and 7 at 9:00 a.m. on August 10th, 2025. Our advisor was Kim Stake. I, Sandy Martin, served as the Committee chairman; and I, Sandy Martin, was elected and appointed secretary. (Laughter)

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Junior Activities Awards.

Group 1, 1 through 25 members, Unit 3 Texas, Heart of Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Group 2, 26 through 50 members, Unit 62, Missouri, Buffalo. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Group 3 and 4 we did not have any participants. That would have been 51 through 100 and 101 to over for our juniors.

Let's keep inviting our juniors to our meetings and getting them involved. Any little project you do, you always can involve the juniors. (Applause) My kids are volun-told to come. (Laughter)

Junior Activities Book, Oak Leaf Fisher 1 from Unit 20 in Oklahoma, Pittsburgh – is that company? – County, sorry. My bad. I should have known. (Applause) Somebody please come up and accept Oak Leaf's award.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: National Junior Award, Ages 15 through 17, Braxton Mueller, Unit 3, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: National Junior Award, 11 through 14 age, Kelly Fender, Unit 50, Louisiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: And Ages 7 through 10 for the National Junior Award, Nathaniel Chase, Unit 96, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: The Committee submitted the following recommendations for the National Award.

Please, please, please, please, fill out the DAV Junior Award questionnaire. We had some juniors who presented books with activities that they participated in and because they did not have that form in their book we had to disqualify them.

We couldn't figure out their exact age. It wasn't listed so we didn't exactly know what category to put them into.

Also, please, please, please provide details if you are using the form so that we know what types of activities these juniors did.

And, also, one person per form. We had three girls on one form. They may have done all the activities together, but each individual should be put on a form for themselves (sic).

And, also, for next year we'd like a separate grading sheet for the National Junior Award. We don't actually have like a rubric grading sheet for that so it would be nice to be able to say "so many points for this," "so many points for that."

There were some other suggestions that were made on just the Junior Activity reports, take an additional sheet to write down those activities.

Explain what those activities were. Sometimes it's like, well, what did you actually do so that we actually know.

If you made a mistake and the junior is filling out the report, we understand there are some mistakes, but there was one that had a ton of mistakes on it.

By that point just have the child redo the form. It's hard to read it. We love to see our juniors fill out the forms themselves, but just make it legible for us. Appreciate it.

Will the members who served on this Committee please stand up, if able, to be recognized.

(Whereupon, the members of the Committee stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Junior Activities chairman withdrew from and the adjutant returned to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: Legislative chairman. We would like to see Tonyia Courtemanche come up here, please. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the Legislative Convention Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TONYIA COURTEMANCHE: Thank you. National commander, national adjutant, national officers, and –

(Whereupon, something was called out from the audience.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COURTEMANCHE: Yes, sir. (Laughter) We will begin again. National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of the 102nd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Legislative Convention Committee met in the Provence Room 5 – S?, I'm not sure – at 9:10 on August 10th, 2025. Our advisor was Terry Grabowski. (Applause)

And I, Tonyia Courtemanche, served as the Committee chairman. And the fabulous Sarah from Illinois was the secretary. She was elected and appointed.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Legislative awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Unit 45, Alabama. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COURTEMANCHE: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Unit 13, (Inaudible), Idaho. My apologies. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COURTEMANCHE: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Unit 10, Mankato, Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COURTEMANCHE: Group 4, 201 members and over, Unit 39, Andover, Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COURTEMANCHE: I would also like to thank the Committee members who served on our Committee. Would you please stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COURTEMANCHE: And on threat of death I must recognize the awesome greatest state, Virginia is in the house. And my personal home Unit 15, Prince William County. (Applause) Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, the Legislative Convention Committee chairman withdrew from and the adjutant returned to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: VAVS. Terri, could you please come up.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the VAVS Convention Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TERRI YOUNG-CARNAGEY: National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, and guests of this 102nd National Auxiliary Convention.

(Members called out "We can't hear you" from the audience.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YOUNG-CARNAGEY: The National VAVS Convention Committee met in the Normandy Room at 9:00 a.m. on 8-10-25. Our advisor was Patty Davis. I, Terri Young-Carnagey, served as Committee chairman and Hannah McCauley was our elected and appointed the secretary.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVS awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Carl Chase Young, Alabama Number 70. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YOUNG-CARNAGEY: Group 2, 51 to 100, Luperto Garcia, New Mexico Number 29. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YOUNG-CARNAGEY: Group 3, 101 to 200, Marshfield Memorial, Massachusetts 35. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YOUNG-CARNAGEY: And Group 4, 201 members or over, Wescott Houghton, Massachusetts 56. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YOUNG-CARNAGEY: The Committee submitted the following recommendations.

Add mileage to and from VA.

Divide point system, 60 points, hour; 20 for money.

Hours have more impact on vets.

Place the zero with a slash if no value is there. Reasoning for this is at least we know that you went through and didn't skip it.

For back of the form, then separate Page 2 lost – I don't understand that – and confirm math.

Will the members who served on this Committee please stand, if able, and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YOUNG-CARNAGEY: Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the VAVS Convention Committee chairman withdrew from and the adjutant returned to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: Now we will do Mae Holmes, Lynn Swanson if you could come up.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the Mae Holmes Convention Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LYNN SWANSON: Thank you. National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of this 102nd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Mae Holmes Convention Committee met in Provence 3 at 9:00 a.m. on August 10th, 2025. Our advisor was Melissa Pierce. I, Lynn Swanson, served as Committee chairman and Patti Whitlow was elected secretary.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes Awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, San Pedro Valley Unit 26, Benson, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SWANSON: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Michael J. Thomas Unit 5, Broadway, North Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SWANSON: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Victoria County Unit 169, Victoria, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SWANSON: Group 4, 200 members and over, Carroll E. Prosser Unit 30, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SWANSON: The Committee submitted the following recommendations.

Print legibly or type the reports.

For junior participation, encourage the juniors to come to your meetings and be involved in your activities, as well, to add to their community service or their junior reports.

Attach the original report if your donations are over \$1,000, meaning, if it's for community service, attach that report to the Mae Holmes. We don't want an itemized list of just what was donated.

Make sure the funds and expenditure totals match.

Fill in all the blanks. There is no disqualification if you leave it blank, but you also do not receive the points for that question so make sure that you at least acknowledge that you've read it.

The members who served on this Committee, would you please stand to be recognized, if you are able.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SWANSON: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Mae Holmes Convention Committee chairman withdrew from and the first junior vice-commander and National Membership Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KATHLEEN WENTHE: Good morning.

(Response "Good morning.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: I know it's only ten but good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Much better. I had the honor of being the National Membership Chairman this year and it was absolutely wonderful. It's one of my favorite so far. We'll see what happens.

So, as I call the winners, when you come down to get your picture would you please stay down here. Do not leave. We'd like to have a group picture of the winners.

So, Group 1, 10 to 50, largest member increase, Arkansas, (Inaudible), Number 13. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Group 2, 51 to 100, largest member increase, Louisiana, Florida Parish, Unit 50. Sorry. I get a little excited. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Absolutely. Group 3, 101 to 200 members, largest member increase, Louisiana, Paul P. Benois Memorial 7. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Thank you. Unfortunately, their commander, Auxiliary commander, was unable to be here because she's with her husband at M.D. Anderson.

So, Group 4, largest member increase, Florida, Venice Golf Unit 101. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: So, before I go any further, while they're doing that, I'm going to go from the script for a minute.

If you are in this room and you recruited at a minimum of one member, stand up.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: All right. Keep standing. If you recruited two members remain standing.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited two members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Three members, remain standing.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited three members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over five members remain standing.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited over five members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over ten members, remain standing.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited over ten members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 15.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited over 15 members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 20.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited over 20 members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 25.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited over 25 members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 30.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited over 30 members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 35.
 (Whereupon, the members who recruited over 35 members remained standing and were recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Now, I did this for a reason, because she thinks she's slick. (Laughter) Over 40.
 (Whereupon, the member who recruited over 40 members remained standing and was recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 45.
 (Whereupon, the member who recruited over 45 members remained standing and was recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 50.
 (Whereupon, the member who recruited over 50 members remained standing and was recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: Over 60.
 (Whereupon, the member who recruited over 60 members remained standing and was recognized with a round of applause.)
 FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
 WENTHE: She can put her hands down because I know how many she got. It was 62. (Standing Ovation)
 All right, you all don't leave the members. You all stay over there.

Now, Group 5, department with the largest membership – excuse me, largest percent increase with 134.24 percent Louisiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Now, I'm just going to tell you, where is my Florida people? Raise your hand if you're from Florida.

(Whereupon, the Florida delegation raised their hands.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: I was on your heels. I just want you to know. (Laughter) I worked really hard.

But, having said that, Group 6, for the largest numerical increase with 294 members, the State of Florida. Yes. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: I'm going to get you all one of these years. (Laughter) Somebody from Florida got to come down here.

(Response of "Here.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Oh, I missed that one. I'm sorry. I got excited.

New charter with the most new members was Williamson – Williamson County, Number 71, Marian, Illinois, 15 new members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the first junior vice-commander and National Membership Committee chairman withdrew from the podium and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All righty, we're going to set a timer for ten minutes. Delegates, you will now caucus to discuss the proposed bylaw amendments. You have ten minutes. You all received printed copies of them.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed to caucus, at 10:13 o'clock, a.m.; and the meeting reconvened at 10:23 o'clock, a.m. on Monday, August 11, 2025. There was an issue with the recording equipment so part of the bylaw discussions are not transcribe-able. The proposed Bylaw amendments are included.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 1. Page N-20, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 1, National Executive Committee, second paragraph, last sentence.

The rationale: this will accommodate unforeseen circumstances and will be equitable with other national positions.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion to accept this Bylaw change. Is there a second?

(Audio Inaudible)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chair and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 2. Page N-22, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 1, National Executive Committee, remove Alaska from District Number 19.

Rationale: Neither DAV or DAV Auxiliary have chapters, units, state departments in the State of Alaska.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion to accept this Bylaw change. Is there a second?

(Audio Inaudible)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chair and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 3. Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 3, Membership Applications. Replace second paragraph with the following.

The rationale: clarifies when memberships take effect and provides for membership revocation in circumstances of crimes of moral turpitude or serious or offensive actions that are not in accordance with the mission of our organization.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion to accept this Bylaw change. Is there a second?

(Audio Inaudible)

(Was amended to read: "with proper documentation and completed investigation" after "approval of the National Adjutant".)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chair and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 4. Page N-36, Article VIII, Finances, add a new Section 5, Expenditure of Funds.

Rationale: Bylaws require two signatures for all expenditures.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion to accept this Bylaw change. Is there a second?

(Audio Inaudible until:)

MS. VIRGINIA DUNN: — an itemized statement monthly. Requiring members to pay and then request reimbursement creates a significant burden, especially for our lower-income unit members.

Multiple locations to purchase items to be good stewards of the monies entrusted to us, as an example, when we do our homeless veterans stand down we visit probably eight to ten different merchants looking for sales in order to purchase items for these homeless veterans in order to be that good steward of those monies as entrusted to us.

So to have to pay those out of pocket, which can sometimes reach into \$500-\$1,000, in general that's normally what we spend per year on these items for our homeless veterans in our community, it can be difficult to pay that out of pocket and then request those vouchers, even though we've already voted in the monies to say, yes, we will pay up to \$1,000 towards these items.

So because we've already got all these safeguards in place, we have to vote so the members are already agreeing that we are paying this money, we've agreed on the amount. We've already signed the warrant by two people.

I think it's over the top to require that we cannot use a debit or credit card, especially this day and age when checks are pretty much not allowed in like 90 percent of the establishments that we attempt to go and pay.

So then if we do do this, then we either have to pay out of pocket ahead of time, meaning we'd get that voucher, or we have to write a check to cash and then we're carrying around \$500 or \$1,000 trying to go to all these stores.

and then when we pull out this money to pay, then that opens us up to robbery or to be accosted by people while we're trying to take care of business for our veterans.

So I would like to make a motion to change that but I will wait until there is further discussion, if needed.

COMMANDER EASLEY: What was your name, again?

MS. DUNN: Virginia Dunn, Unit 26, Colorado.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you. You might have to turn it on. On the very bottom by the battery thingy there is a switch on the top. All right, you may have to go to the back one, David.

MR. DAVID BAILEY: Dave Bailey from the State of California, land of sand and sun. (Laughter) I wanted to talk about some debit/credit things. First of all, we're continuing to look the other way on technology and what's going on.

So not only do we have different things, the audit mechanisms that are in place that already allow us to know exactly what's going on with our finances, but we need to start addressing time lags, like was talked about before.

It's not easy for many people to be doing, putting large amounts on their credit card and waiting for the reimbursement.

We have internet subscriptions. Internet subscriptions right now many of them do not receive checks so we would be holding ourselves away from doing internet subscriptions.

Now, you say individuals should be able to do internet subscriptions, that's true. But if they leave or if anything happens, they can take it with them. It is their property. So we need to start thinking about that.

If there is somebody who does leave, for whatever reason, so goes with them all of the property and other things that they have because they have purchased it on their credit card.

The VA right now is even more progressive than us in doing things like this.

Any online purchasing, it puts the burden onto the individuals.

We're managing based on fears that have already been successfully implemented in other places.

The biggest thing, though, that I wanted to talk about was the transition between different groups. If one person is putting things on their credit card and they leave or anything else happens, then we need to, potentially, lose all of the data, all of the things that have been going on before with any subscription.

So, in short, we really think that from a state department, at least to start out with, we should allow state departments to use and have their own debit and credit card for these different transitional times.

One last thing for the audit trail, when settling the expense of this we are getting a check with two signatures. So when we're actually finalizing the transaction – if a credit card is being used, to pay it off, it is getting the two signatures to pay off that debt.

So there are so many different things that are going on right now in our society where we need this, we need to start being a little more progressive on this.

Thank you very much.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you, David. (Applause)

MS. CLAMPITT: Kathy Clampitt, Department of Oregon, state commander, I have an opposing view because we've had experiences with people who have attempted to use a debit card or a credit card and - because the bank gave it to them, and – they've abused it.

So, we discussed during the Constitution and Bylaw Committee that the unit or state department can vote in advance to advance money to someone and then get the receipts. Not close enough?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes.

MS. CLAMPITT: So we think that that is a way to handle it right now, that there can still be a check issued to the individual who is going to be spending the money and then they turn in the receipts and any residual amount.

This is what we do as NECs or national officers. We get an advance for our expenses and then we turn in our receipts afterwards. I believe the states and units can do the same. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Donna Adams, PNC, District 18, I have a couple of issues. I don't believe this is coming down as in the other thing from DAV because I know most of our DAV chapters and DAV departments have credit cards.

We are in a world of technology. I can't even – if I'm at a function and somebody fills out an application and hands me \$20, I can't process that application through our digital system without a credit card.

And I'm not going to ask them for theirs so I put it on my own and then get reimbursed by my unit and I give the \$20 bill to the unit so they can reimburse me. I certainly don't want to just keep it and do it.

The other thing is we're stifling those units who actually run, for lack of a better term, a business, as my unit does.

We operate a snack stand three times a week and make, every two weeks we go do a shopping list and hit Costco or Amazon to purchase our supplies. That bill at Costco easily can run \$1,300 to \$2,000 to make the supplies for the next couple of weeks of sales.

At the present time I have a personal credit card for Costco and we use it for Amazon and everything else. But we are in a non-paper world. I certainly would not expect my unit to hand me a signed check to pay for Costco when I check out.

As far as the rationale of reading, requiring two signatures, when you pay the bill that warrant still has to be issued and two signatures have to be issued, have to be on that warrant in order to pay that credit card. It's actually much safer if used properly.

Now, we already have procedures in place regarding checking account as who can be on that account and who is a legal signor on that account.

I don't understand why we couldn't do the same thing with the credit card, that you are, a unit may have a credit card but the signators must be the commander, senior vice or treasurer, if that makes sense, to allow for purchases from Amazon, to transmit members, to purchase the supplies that are required for the operation of the unit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Real quick, I have a discussion point. National Commander Christopher Easley. Members and delegates and guests, as you all know, I do a little bit with technology. (Laughter)

I support part of this rule. A debit card, in its nature, does not require a signature. It is a pin number or something you can just swipe and go through.

Credit cards you are required to sign the pad, usually, tap or whatever. But to pay a credit card bill, then you can send a check with two signatures.

My suggestion is if someone wants to amend this rule to say "units and chapters are not allowed to use a debit card but they are allowed to use an approved credit card for this but it still must follow our process of checks, warrants, vouchers and signatures" and blood from the first born, whatever, sorry. I'm done. (Applause)

Is there any other discussion?

MR. ROY CLAMPITT: Yes. I just want to differentiate – my name is Roy Clampitt from Oregon, District 19, Unit 4. There is a difference between debit cards and credit cards.

Credit cards are great. Debit cards, all it takes is one person, one debit card, empty out your bank account. There is no two signatures anywhere.

Later, when it's found out that you did that, what do they do? They kick you out of the unit and you go free. There is very few chances that you will get convicted. So if you've got \$15,000 in your checking account, it's gone.

So all I'm trying to say is when you look at debit cards and credit cards, credit cards are great. Fifty bucks is all you're liable for. But debit cards, your whole bank account can be emptied with one time.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Correct.

MR. CLAMPITT: Debit cards are bad.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you. Miss Velma. I'm not sure if that microphone works or not. You can try it again.

MS. VELMA STEINMAN: This one is working just fine. I don't know why it doesn't work for anybody else. (Laughter) I guess I just have the "magic touch."

I just wanted to say, Commander, not all credit cards – you can use your credit card at thousands of places now and if it's underneath a certain amount it doesn't require a signature or a PIN, nothing but to swipe it or to stick it in, that's it.

COMMANDER EASLEY: But to pay the credit card you can send a check and that requires two signatures, so, therefore, that's why I was asking if someone wants to make a motion to amend it to remove "debit card" we will entertain that.

MS. STEINMAN: But my issue is, if that credit card gets misplaced or lost.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Credit cards also have more safeguards than a checking account. So if that credit number should get compromised or lost in such ways, most credit card companies will work with you to dispute any charges.

MS. STEINMAN: Right, but you don't know that until like 30 days later, until you get your statement.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Correct. Well, I mean, the same, you know, the same thing with a debit card.

MS. STEINMAN: But the banks can immediately refund you the money or they will put a complete hold on your account and freeze it until the dispute is cleared. And that could take – depends on how their policies are.

I know in some banks in Missouri if they have to freeze your account due to a lost debit card or to a fraudulent purchase on your debit card, that can freeze your account from anywhere from 30 to 90 days. I don't know if units can afford to have their funds on hold that long. I know I, personally, could not.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Correct. That's the reason why I am asking for the amendment to remove "debit cards".

MS. STEINMAN: Right.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Or to remove credit cards on that list and allow debit cards.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, I call for decorum on the floor.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Okay, guys, we're beating this to death so if someone wants to make a motion. I get it. Some people like credit cards. Some people like debit cards. But if someone wants to make a motion to amend this, I'll entertain that now.

MS. DUNN: I have a motion. Virginia Dunn, Unit 26, Colorado. I motion to change the Bylaws to instead state: State Department and Units will allow the use of an approved credit card only when expenditures have been previously voted on by membership and all subsequent receipts are countersigned by the treasurer and commander before being entered into record as a legitimate transaction.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Okay, we have a motion. Do I have a second to this amendment?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you repeat the motion?

MS. DUNN: Yes. State Departments and Units will allow the use of an approved credit card only when expenditures have been previously voted on by membership and all subsequent receipts are countersigned by the treasurer and commander before being entered into record as a legitimate transaction to be repaid.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, I have the – you all got it written down?

ADJUTANT CLOS: No. Can I have that?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Can you come up and bring it up so that way – they're trying to write as fast as they can but then they have to be able to read it.

MS. SASHA WILDE: Sasha Wilde, state department of Utah, commander, I second this motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Okay, we have a motion and a second to amend the original motion. Is there any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LYNN HELMS PROSSER: Lynn Prosser, past national commander, Unit 30, Carroll E. Prosser, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. I make a motion that we leave it as it is stated.

The reason for that would be if a unit or a chapter or unit or a state department has a credit card and that credit card is given to someone else, it automatically still (Inaudible) drops it right on top of the unit or the state department to be responsible for it.

So if it's not handled properly, then we could have a lawful court order to have to even get a lawyer to try to get that money back. But once it's gone, it's gone. I'm telling you right now, it's gone. (Applause)

Most units – I can tell you right now in South Carolina most units do not have the kind of money in their accounts that would support having a credit card.

Now, when you've got units that only maybe have a thousand dollars, maybe two thousand dollars, why would you want to have a credit card? Then the fact is, with someone having a credit card, are you going to be responsible?

Who is going to hold responsibility of getting that credit card back if someone decides they're going to go to another state? If they pass away who is going to be able to get that back?

We've had issues, even with paperwork, if someone passes away trying to get all the paperwork they have back so I want to amend it that it stays the way it is.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Hold on real quick. Guys, if you all can keep the side conversations down, this room is very echo-y; and I was having trouble hearing her over all the conversations going on.

But the gist of it is that she is not – on the credit cards that she also feels that, like some others, that it doesn't – it can cause the units to lose money and there is a greater chance for fraud. Am I correct in that?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Exactly. Most units and most state departments, there are some state departments that has got plenty of money rolling in. But I can tell you right now, in South Carolina, we do not. And we are still responsible for that credit card.

And if something happens to that credit card, we would have to get an attorney to try to get that fixed. We don't have the money to get an attorney so we're going to lose the money, we're going to eat the money, or it's going to be gone.

And then our members held us responsible for it. National is going to hand us, hold us responsible for it. Are they not? We are responsible for a certain amount of money in our accounts. Every year we've got to file that report. And it better be there in our recordings or we're in trouble.

So if you've got money floating around on a credit card or a debit card, which anybody could steal, anybody could use it and abuse it, at least if you've got the check you've got a paper trail.

You don't have that paper trail if you've got debit cards and credit cards out there. And even that could be abused by the members of a certain unit or a certain state department. It could be abused.

So I make a motion that we leave it exactly the way it is to ensure the safety of the monies in the units.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Past National Commander Prosser, your time is up on this but we have a motion and a second for an amendment to the rule so do you wish to rescind that motion so that way we can have the amendment vote and then vote on the discussion because – if you're making this other motion, then that means we need to have another motion, we need to close the amendment and then have a motion and a second. So –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we have had a motion to amend the Bylaws. We've had a motion to amend the amendment, and then we've had a motion to leave it just as it is.

May I suggest that the membership and the delegates here vote down the original motion, send it back to the or forward it on to the new Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

It's my understanding that it has been national policy and without an amendment to the Bylaws it will continue to be national policy and let the new Interim Constitution and Bylaw Committee hash this out and come up with a viable amendment or a viable change to the Bylaws. Thank you.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Lynn, are you going to – will you rescind your motion that's in the middle of the amendment because we're just talking about amending the rule and then we can go back to the original motion.

MS. AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: Commander Chris, the original motion that was brought forward was brought forward because some banks are now requiring the people have a credit card to enter the bank.

Our policy clearly said that requires two signatures so in order for them to get in the bank they have to have a credit card. But we moved that we would not use, that they would have the credit card but not be able to use it for expenditures to protect the money.

I can tell you – I come from a very small state. And, unfortunately, it's very easy for the chapters that have credit cards to suffer extreme waste and abuse of that money and misuse.

And, sadly, I can tell you what when it happens, the money is gone. And I have personally seen, unfortunately, a member of the organization that helped to raise funds and then those funds were distributed for that person's personal use in large amounts.

And from a small state when you take most of a chapter's money and distribute it to your own personal things, you can suffer great loss. And I can tell you that even legally that money didn't come back.

So I think that using it to enter the bank, which is what the intent was, because the banks are requiring it, is a safe thing but using it to, for expenditures, we're putting our units at high risk of loss of money. And we can't afford it.

And even though, yes, down the road 30 days from then you will get a bill and you will see that there is waste, getting that money back may never happen. So I move to the question.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Okay, I'm ending discussion on the amendment. So we need to –

MS. JULIA RAWLINGS: Julia Rawlings, Kentucky Department commander. I just have a comment.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Well, I'm ending discussion on this amendment for this motion.

MS. RAWLINGS: Okay.

COMMANDER EASLEY: I need to have Commander Lynn, Past National Commander Lynn to either rescind her motion that she made in the middle of the amendment or we have to re-write.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Just for informational purposes here, the national office will have, will be doing – excuse me – will have a policy on how to do all of this.

It's not going to be that you're just going to get a credit card and go. They will write down or give us a policy on how this is all going to work.

(Whereupon the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: Sorry, I had to step out for a phone call. Where are we at? (Laughter)

Okay, I apologize. I am so sorry. So, yes, if the credit card does pass, which did it?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: No, not yet.

ADJUTANT CLOS: Okay. We are going to have a very solid plan. So if it does, it's not going to be like, go out this week and open up debit cards because it's not going to happen like that. There is going to be a very solid, strict policy that everybody is going to follow.

I get that everybody wants credit cards. Some don't. And I, personally, I will say I do not. But, you guys don't see what we see in the national organization.

So our main job is to make sure that our funds are being spent the way they should be. So that's what I'm going to say on this situation. I know that there are several, trustworthy people but what we have seen in the past, sometimes it falls into the wrong hands and that's all I'm going to say about that.

So, you know, I will say if it does get voted on, there is going to be a very, very, very strict policy that's going to be put in place with these credit cards or debit cards, whatever it is.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, Past National Commander Lynn.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: I would like to re-advise my statement a while ago and I would like to make a motion that this entire thing is tabled.

COMMANDER EASLEY: I have to close the amendment first.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Okay.

COMMANDER EASLEY: And you already made a motion on the other portion, in the middle of the amendment.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Right.

COMMANDER EASLEY: I need you either to rescind that motion.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: I'm not going to rescind my motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We're – right now we're just amending, taking out debit card/credit card for the original motion. So if you wish to – you're in the middle of an amendment so I can't put your motion until we get the amendment done first.

So I need you to rescind your motion at this point and then after that vote we can have discussion on the new, amended motion, to which you can make your motion or an amendment, again.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: I will do that as long as we are going to go back to another amendment. Yes, I will do that.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes, we will.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: I will do that. Yes.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right. So right now we're voting on the amendment to the motion to remove "credit card" but not allow debit cards.

(Response of "No.")

COMMANDER EASLEY: That's the amendment.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN HENRY: Mr. Commander.

COMMANDER EASLEY: The amendment was to remove, that units are not allowed to have debit cards and leave credit cards, which are two different animals. So now I'm calling for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. Okay, so the amendment did not go.

So the original motion is still, the original rule now is still –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: On the floor.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We had no – on the floor, so –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Mr. Commander.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, past national commander, I make a motion we table this discussion, leave it on the table throughout the convention. That will drop it and allow the Interim Committee to pick it up.

As long as no one brings it back up during the convention we will be, that will allow the Interim Committee to get better wording and more complete information on if we do allow, if they choose to make the new motion to allow credit cards we can have the opportunity to get rules and regulations in place. But that does require we table it now.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Real quick, we're just figuring out the correct Roberts Rules on this.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: I also want to throw in this, too, that this is something that if it goes in the Bylaws or if it doesn't go in the Bylaws, this is a conversation that we have had.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Exactly.

ADJUTANT CLOS: Ann and I, I know California and I, a couple of other states and I, we've had this conversation. And knowing that there is only a handful of us in the office, if this was something to push through, it really doesn't have to be a Bylaw.

It's going to be a matter of, you know, if we have a very solidified procedure, and we can push it out, I mean we can allow credit cards, you know, at that time.

So I just wanted to throw that out there, as well, because this is something that has been on our minds here and there. But, again, it's making sure – it's not just something that we're going to say, hey, we're going to do this today and do it tomorrow. It's a thought-out plan.

So, again, our job as national officers, delegates of the states, state departments, everyone, is to be good stewards of Auxiliary money, period. Is credit cards the best option for that? Yes, probably in some instances it is. I can't deny that.

On the other hand, though, things happen. So at the end of the day we'll see how this goes. However it goes, if it gets tabled or not, it is something that we are always trying to think about and consider moving forward. Just throwing my two cents out there.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, Past National Commander Susan Henry has made a motion to table this discussion. May I have a second? A table supersedes all so that means if we have a second for this, we vote to table it.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: That was not what we discussed prior to this vote.

COMMANDER EASLEY: But table –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Prior to this vote you said that I would be able to continue my motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Correct. But she did make the thing. If we table it, then you can write your concerns and submit them to national who will get it to the new Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee and so that way they can try to figure out how to rehash this correctly. So that way we can protect our units, our departments, and our national organization financially.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: And I understand that, commander. I understand that. But these people have a right to vote without having to go out of here not knowing because at the end of the day, the units and the state departments will still be responsible for any misuse and mis – you know, any kind of losses. They will still be the ones to have to get the losses back.

National would not probably ever get involved with a unit having to try to get money back that's been misused. It would fall back on the unit that somehow we let it get misused and abused. That's all I have to say.

MR. RORY KIRVEN: Rory Kirven, District 2, I second the motion to table this.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second to table this. Please –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes, ma'am.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: I believe the original amendment to the motion was made by a gal from Colorado, I don't know who she is or where she is. But the motion to amend that you stated was not the amendment.

COMMANDER EASLEY: No, that was the –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: And we've already voted on it.

COMMANDER EASLEY: No, that was – she amended the original motion to remove –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: I don't think so. She's right there. Did you amend your motion?

COMMANDER EASLEY: No, she amended the original motion and that's what we were voting on.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Right, but she – you just said that her amendment was to allow for credit cards but not debit cards. But that was not her amendment.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes. Motion to change bylaws to allow the use of credit cards only when expenditures have been – sorry, I'm having trouble reading cursive here – basically she added remove debit card and put credit card in where the original motion was and that's what the amendment was.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Is that?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Was that your motion?

COMMANDER EASLEY: That is the amendment that failed.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: And that is what we're voting on now?

COMMANDER EASLEY: No, we've already voted on that. That amendment failed.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Okay.

COMMANDER EASLEY: And what we're voting on now is to table this so that anyone that has any questions/concerns can submit to national and next year's Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee can beat this horse and figure out the best way to allow safeguards for our units, departments and –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: So, in the meantime, if this motion is tabled, in the meantime can we just leave it up to our national headquarters which would be our national adjutant and assistant adjutant to come up with some real policy regarding the use of credit card as we have done with the policy on use of checks and –

COMMANDER EASLEY: Correct.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: And we have done with the policy that we don't allow credit cards, to allow them to amend that policy?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Correct. So we have a motion and a second to table this constitution and bylaw rule.

MS. NICODEMUS: Commander Chris, I disagree with tabling this at this time and the reason why is there will be a large percentage in this audience in violation.

Due to the standards of the current banks, many banks are now requiring a credit or debit card to enter a bank. They will not let you in if you do not have a credit or a debit card, especially in the cities. And so an example was New York.

(Whereupon, the audience murmuring became loud.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Please hold down the discussion so that way we can hear the speaker.

MS. NICODEMUS: So the original thing was not about spending money or that sort of thing, it was about allowing people to follow the rules to enter their bank to make deposits and that sort of thing.

If they do not, if they are not allowed to have the credit card to enter the bank, they're not going to be able to enter the bank to make their deposits, et cetera.

So the original one was not about the money, so I think we should go back to the original motion which was to allow the credit cards for bank entry, basically, and not allow it for expenditures.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Unfortunately, that was not what was submitted as the rationale so we have to go with the rationale as printed on that. But we do have a motion and a second to table this and I'm calling for the vote.

All in favor to table this amendment; any opposed. Okay, this is tabled. And if you have any questions or concerns, please submit them in writing to the national office so that way they can start working on this. Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Chris, I know that it has been tabled but can I just make one statement, just a statement?

COMMANDER EASLEY: At this time we have exceeded your time for speaking.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: We exceeded it because you all kept stopping me. That's why it's exceeded. It's not necessarily that I took the time, myself.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We are moving on to the next constitution and bylaw change. If you would like to talk about this after this meeting, I will be available, so will Bunny. But we need to move on per things. This has been tabled so we are now to the next constitution and bylaw change.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Okay, but just remember, it's the delegates that make the decisions, not two or three people. Thank you.

MS. ELAINE PHILLIPS: Excuse me, commander. My name is Elaine Phillips and I'm from Texas, immediate past state commander –

(Response of "Can't hear you.")

MS. PHILLIPS: My name is Elaine Phillips. I'm from Texas. I'm the immediate past state commander. I'm also a tax accountant. I just want to make a point, just something to think about in the procedures.

When you apply for a credit card, you have no credit under the Disabled American Veterans, regardless to what unit or chapter or state. You have individuals that have to sign for that credit card. And their credit will be pulled for that credit card. Just a point of interest. I'm not voting one way or the other but –

COMMANDER EASLEY: Correct. But that discussion is over so I'm sorry. It would have had to have happened during the motion.

MS. PHILLIPS: All right. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws chairman and past national commander advanced to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 5. Page N-36, Article VIII, Finances, add a new Section 6, DAV Donor Intent Policy.

"Section 6. DAV Donor Intent Policy

If a subordinate entity receives any donation and the payee is Disabled American Veterans, DAV National Headquarters, or DAV, and the donor does not specify a department, chapter or Auxiliary entity, that entity is required to forward the donation to the Remittance Processing at National Headquarters.

"Conversely, if National Headquarters receives a donation intended for a department, chapter or Auxiliary entity, Remittance Processing will distribute the funds accordingly, in alignment with the donor's expressed wishes.

"General Rule. All bequests and/or other testamentary gifts like IRAs, bank accounts, and life insurance policies, regardless of size, type or designation, shall be submitted to the Bequests Reporting Program, BRP, to ensure distribution is pursuant to the donor's intent.

"It is the responsibility of all subordinate entities to promptly report all bequests received, or upon notification of a potential gift, to the BRP, by submitting an image of all paperwork or checks received to LegalDepartment@dav.org."

Rationale: to comply with DAV Bylaws Regulation 13, Donor Intent Policy, and ensure that donated funds are properly distributed to the intended entity.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: A motion has been made, I need a second.

MR. JOHN OLINGER: Yes, John Olinger, Unit 2, Michigan, I second it.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on this rule? Hearing none, I'm calling for the vote. All in favor; opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 6. Page N-41, Article XI, Probation, Suspension, and Revocation of Charters, Section 1, Probation, first paragraph, second sentence, replace the word "suspension" with "probation". The second sentence will then read: "Such probation may be for a period of thirty days but not more than ninety days."

The rationale: for correction purposes since the section references probation, not suspension and suspension is addressed in Section 2.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, past national commander, second.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? I'm going to call for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 7. Page S-10, Article V, Tenure of Office, Section 1, Elected State Officers, third paragraph, add a second sentence to read: "If further vacancies occur, the duties shall devolve upon the remaining State Vice-Commanders in order of their rank." The paragraph will then read:

"In the case of the removal for cause, death, resignation, or inability of both the state commander and the state senior vice-commander, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the office of the state first junior vice-commander. If further vacancies occur, the duties shall devolve upon the remaining state vice-commanders in order of their rank."

Rationale: to further clarify succession procedure in the event of a vacancy in the position of First Junior Vice-Commander for those state departments whose state standing rules allow for additional elected Junior Vice-Commanders.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I have a motion. Is there a second?

MS. NICODEMUS: Aura-Lee Nicodemus, Byron Morris Unit 3, I second that.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, I now call for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 8. Page S-11, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 1, State Executive Committee, first paragraph, insert a new second sentence. The new second sentence:

"If the immediate past state commander is elected to a state office, they will cast their vote in the elected capacity only, not as immediate past state commander."

The paragraph will then read:

"The State Executive Committee shall be composed of the state commander, state senior vice-commander, each state junior vice-commander, the immediate past state commander, the state treasurer, any active past national commander, if so desired, and one State Executive Committee member or alternate elected by each unit.

"If the immediate past state commander is elected to a state office, they will cast their vote in the elected capacity only, not as immediate past state commander.

"One-third, one-third in parenthesis, of all eligible voting members of the State Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum."

Rationale: clarification of committee hierarchy and voting.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. BRANDON MOTT: Brandon Mott, District 2, I second this motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Is there any discussion?

MR. MOTT: Oh, unit and state I have to do. I was just corrected. It's New York and Unit 14.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All right, I'll call for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 9. Page S-19, Article VIII, Finances, Section 7, Accumulation of Funds, first paragraph, add "subject to the approval of the National Adjutant" to the end of the second sentence. First paragraph would then read:

"State departments may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three, three in parenthesis, times the expenses of their last fiscal year.

"State departments whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with this section by expending such excess within a reasonable time, subject to the approval of the National Adjutant."

The rationale is to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. OLINGER: John Olinger, Unit 2, Michigan, I second.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? Seeing and hearing none, I call for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 10. Page S-19, Article VIII, Finances, Section 7, Accumulation of Funds, second paragraph, add "and is subject to the approval of the National Adjutant." The second paragraph would then read:

"The expenditure of the excess accumulated funds must be for service purposes and is subject to the approval of the National Adjutant."

Rationale: to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. ROBYN THRAILKILL: Robyn Thrailkill, Alabama, Chapter 101, I second this motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Can you please say your name and it's Unit 101.

MS. THRAILKILL: Robyn Thrailkill.

COMMANDER EASLEY: What was the last name?

MS. THRAILKILL: Thrailkill.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Okay. Sorry, the echo is kind of –

MS. THRAILKILL: Do you want me to spell it?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Oh, she got it.

MS. THRAILKILL: T-h-r-a-i-l-k-i-l-l.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Okay, we have a motion and a second. Do we have any discussion? Okay, I'm going to call for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 11. Page U-17, Article XIV, Unit Finances and Dues, Section 5, Accumulation of Funds, first paragraph, add "subject to the approval of the National Adjutant" to the end of the second sentence. First paragraph would then read:

"Units may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three, three in parenthesis, times the expenses of their last fiscal year.

"Units whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with this section by expending such excess within a reasonable time, subject to the approval of the National Adjutant."

The rationale: to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, past national commander, seconds.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none, I'm calling for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander returned to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE:
Number 12. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Don't worry. There are six more pages after this.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE:
Page U-17, Article XIV, Unit Finances and Dues, Section 5, Accumulation of Funds, second paragraph, add "and is subject to the approval of the National Adjutant." Second paragraph would then read:

"The expenditure of the excess accumulated funds must be for service purposes and is subject to the approval of the National Adjutant."

Rationale: to ensure that DAV Auxiliary funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines.

Commander Chris, I move for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. MARY WELCH: Mary Welch, Unit 35, Marshfield, Massachusetts, I second the motion.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, we have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? Hearing none and seeing none, I will call for the vote. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries. (Applause)

Before I turn it over to Bunny, Judy, I'll let you finish.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and past national commander advanced to the lectern.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Would the members of my committee – cancel that. Will the members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee please stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the committee members stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I want to thank them all for the work that they did on these proposed amendments. We had lots of discussion within the Committee and I just want to thank you all for making this possible. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Judy. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chair and past national commander withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Real quick before I turn it over to Bunny, I just want to thank everybody for the discussion and the debate that we did have because that's how, you know, these constitution and bylaws are the life blood of our organization. This is what we, how we rule the organization.

And by tabling the one motion we'll allow for people to express their concerns to the national office, which will pass it to the next Interim Constitution and Bylaw Committee so that way, one, if they do decide, if we do decide to go with a policy versus a constitution and bylaw rules, they can make informed decisions and come up with an adequate policy.

But I do appreciate and value all of your opinions. I'm sorry if I came off a little, you know, a little gruff but I had to assert the – quote unquote, even though I'm not one, the "dad" voice on that just to keep the meeting flowing.

Bunny, I now call on you for any announcements.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ADJUTANT CLOS: I just kind of like to add to that, you know, there's lots of us in this room right now. And there was lots of different opinions but we can walk away and still be friends and get along with each other.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here, here. (Applause)

ADJUTANT CLOS: And that's okay. Okay, Forget-me-Not Luncheon, 12:30 in the Horseshoe Resort, Skyview 5 to 6 on the 26th Floor. Must show your ticket at the door.

Speaking of Forget-me-Not, do we have James Plaisance in here? Mary Jones? Brooke Burger? Vicky Beeler? Vicky Partridge? So these are all tickets that were paid for but nobody is claiming them so I guess maybe –

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second?

ADJUTANT CLOS: What?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Seconds? Does somebody get seconds? (Laughter)

ADJUTANT CLOS: No. We have a long list. So Dana Palmer, we do have two tickets that we can legitimately sell you. Do you – are you in here? You're right here. Okay, so after the meeting you can see Ann.

And then anybody that was on the list, if you want to show up at the door and they legitimately don't show, then we can sell them to you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bunny, can you explain where to go for this? A lot of people are confused.

ADJUTANT CLOS: Okay, so I can try to explain this to you. So if you go to the Horseshoe you will go by where – I mean don't go to the registration check-in at the Horseshoe.

You will kind of go toward your right and there will be a set of elevators and then you would just go up to the 26th Floor. I know that might not help but I'm kind of directionally challenged here, myself.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry, but to clarify, would it be helpful if we looked for signs for hotel registration in Horseshoe and then?

ADJUTANT CLOS: No, so when you are kind of following the little cobblestone road –

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

ADJUTANT CLOS: You've been there?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Well, I haven't been to that room but the easiest way, you go up here to the man sweeping, you know the little statue?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. The sweepy guy. Yes.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Hang a right. When you hang a right you will eventually go down some ramps. You will sit there. You will have gaming tables to your left, slot machines to your right. Go up either the stairs or the ramp there. Take a right.

To your right you will see a set of elevators. (Applause) Once you get – once you see those elevators try to figure out which elevator goes to the 26th Floor because some go to some floors and some don't go to others.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Okay, so one more time. When you leave this room hang a left.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

COMMANDER EASLEY: When you get to the end of the hallway hang a right. When you see the little statue of the dude sweeping the floor, hang a right.

Keep going down that, straight down the hallway, down a couple of ramps, you'll see gaming tables on your left, slot machines on your right. (Laughter)

Go up the ramp or stairs. When you see the walkway, take a right. Elevators will be past the slot machines on your left. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

ADJUTANT CLOS: Hopefully we see you all there. Okay.

COMMANDER EASLEY: If you see me lost, I didn't follow my own directions.

ADJUTANT CLOS: Follow the crowd. Exactly. There you go.

Districts will caucus immediately following this meeting to discuss the report of the Nominating Committee.

If they have not already done so, immediately following this meeting, Districts will caucus regarding the Constitution and Bylaws. That's over.

National officers and NECs will not have reserved seating at the Forget-me-Not Luncheon and are welcome to sit with their states. PNCs will have a reserved table near the front of the room. No one will be escorted in.

Junior members are invited this year so we're excited about this. They will have a little reserved table of their own, so we're excited about that.

Registration badges will be needed to enter Fun Night tonight and the Introduction of the National Officers and the dinner tomorrow night. All attendees must be registered in order to attend these events.

To alleviate the need for attendees to pick up their dinner tickets, they will no longer be issued for the dinner. Instead, an email will be sent by the morning of Tuesday, August 12th, to the attendees who made a reservation, noting their assigned table number with instructions regarding how to check in at the entrance to the dinner.

You can find that if you have downloaded the application on your phone. They are supposed to also include that information on that app for you.

And I have to say, I'm kind of excited right now because my daughter-in-law and son just called me and they're in labor so. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: She didn't turn my pages again. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT CLOS: Sidetracked?

COMMANDER EASLEY: We will let you be sidetracked. We are very excited. This will be her first grandbaby.

(Response of "Awe.")

COMMANDER EASLEY: Let's keep the family in prayer and hope everything works out, comes out okay. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT CLOS: Me too. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EASLEY: There being no further business, we will now have our closing prayer by our national chaplain, Austin Blanton.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN BLANTON: Let's pray. Dear Heavenly Father, Lord, thank you again for everyone in this room, God, and their heart and their passion for this organization and everything in it, God.

I pray that you continue to be with us today as we go to our Forget-me-Not Luncheon. Lord, thank you, again, for everyone in here. I pray that you anoint them with many blessings. In your name we pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen", after which the chaplain withdrew from and the adjutant returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: This convention stands in recess and will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. Thank you, all.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 11:50 o'clock, a.m., on Monday, August 11, 2025.)

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
102ND NATIONAL CONVENTION**

PARIS LAS VEGAS HOTEL | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

August 12, 2025

Final Business Session

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in Concorde B Ballroom of the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday morning, August 12, 2025, and was called to order at 9:01 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Christopher Easley.

COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER EASLEY: Sorry, we're one minute late. Normally, I'm like right on the dot. All righty, I'm going to call this meeting to order. It's our third and final business session.

As a reminder, please silence or turn off –

(Response "Can't hear you.")

COMMANDER EASLEY: Please silence or turn off your cell phones. If everybody would be quiet, you might be able to hear better. Just saying.

As a reminder, we are streaming this live. We are not connected to the audio so anything you say can and will, probably, be streamed on Facebook. If you wish to have an external conversation, please do us a favor and step outside the door.

We know the audio in here is not the best because it's the building acoustics. It's not the microphone or the speakers. But the more they turn it up, the more echo and then it's just like, hello-hello-hello-hello. And that's just because of the way the building is.

We will now have the prayer by National Chaplain Austin Blanton.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the chaplain advanced to the lectern.)

CHAPLAIN AUSTIN BLANTON: Let's go to the Lord in prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, thank you, again, for letting us wake up to another beautiful day you've created for us, God.

I just want to thank you for every individual in this room, Lord, and their heart for service, their passion for this organization, God. I pray that you bless them to the fullest of your ability for all the work they do.

God, everything we do for this organization or everything we do in life, please let us do it to your glory, God, and let you – we want you to show through us through our actions, God.

I want to pray for everyone up in Wisconsin during these floods, Lord, that you keep them safe. Anyone who has lost everything, the things they have, God, just let them feel your presence and know that everything is going to be okay because you are the beginning and the end and everything happens through you, God.

We love you and we praise your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," whereupon, the chaplain withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Next, we will have the Pledge of Allegiance from Carolyn Harris.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the third junior vice-commander and Americanism chairman advanced to the lectern.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN CAROLYN HARRIS: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the third junior vice-commander and Americanism chairman led the pledge of allegiance, after which she withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: You may be seated. Will the Credential chairman please come forward to give an updated report of the Credentials Committee?

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Convention Credentials Committee chairman advanced to the lectern.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA OLIVER: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: Commander, national officers, delegates and guests. This will be the final reading of the credential report.

Total units registered, 130; total departments registered, 31; national officers registered, 7; past national commanders registered, 8; total guests registered, 273; total delegates, 272; total alternates, 26; total registered, 586; total vote count, 866.

Commander, I move that we accept the credentials report.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials chairman withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I have a motion. I will need a second.

MR. BRANDON MOTT: Brandon Mott, Unit 15, New York, District 2, and I make a second.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; any opposed. The motion carries.

All right, so you all want to hear about how much we raised in our little donation drive?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER EASLEY: DAVA for Kids, \$4,550; (Applause) Disaster Relief, \$3,850; (Applause) the Service or the Family Assistance Program, \$1,800; (Applause) Education, \$1,500; (Applause) Caregiver Fund, \$5,389; (Applause) Fall Conference, \$1,600; (Applause) and the Winter Sports Clinic, \$600; (Applause) for a total of \$19,289. (Applause)

All right, let's see. The national adjutant or assistant adjutant will now call the roll of the newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates. As your name is called please come forward for the purpose of installation and just line up across the front here.

(Whereupon, the adjutant advanced to and the commander withdrew from the podium. The newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates advanced to the front of the room as the assistant adjutant called their names.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT ANN GLENDE: Okay, District 1 NEC Nancy Hoey, Alternate Kayla Valila; District 3, Karen Rediker, and Sally Ann Campagnone; District 5, Laurie Stopyra;

District 7, Rose McGinnis and Maria Holloway; District 9, Felicia Evans-Walls and Beatrice Montague; District 10 Alternate, Christina Alexander; District 11, Darlene Hanneman and Diana Pollock;

District 13, Aundra Lett-Jackson and Julia Rawlings; District 15, Velma Steinman and Danny Pierce; you guys can step forward; District 17, Kathy Phelps and Leslie Mestas; District 19, Karen Haltiner and Freddy White; and District 21, Linda Oliver and Kristy Chisum.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Whoo-hoo, she got it printed in blind people's font. (Laughter) You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

Are the newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates, are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of "I am.")

COMMANDER EASLEY: Members please stand. (Three raps of the gavel) Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the obligation of your respective office.

"I, Chris Easley, having been selected as a national officer of this Auxiliary, do most solely pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and in spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter.

"I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers, and exact the obedience of others thereto, to the best of my ability and means.

"When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may now lower your hands. (One rap of the gavel) And members, you may be seated.

Delegates, members and guests, I now present to you the National Executive Committee members and alternates of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

I trust you will aid them in the performance of their duties. With your help their term of office will be highly successful. If you all want to turn around.

(Whereupon, the members of the National Executive Committee turned to face the audience and received a round of applause.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All righty, NECs and alternates, you may return back to your seats with your districts.

(Whereupon, the members returned to their seats.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Will the chairman of the Nominating Committee please come forward to give the Committee report. She has to go back and get it.

And juniors, once again, while she's doing that, if you all can get with Miss Rachel and then Brandon and Rory, they want to film you all folding the flag again so that way we have a, like a top-down kind of video that we can use.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the Nominating Committee chair advanced to the podium to give the report.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LAURIE STOPYRA: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STOPYRA: The Nominating Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary held their first meeting on 8-10-25. We are pleased to submit the following slate for your consideration to serve as our 2025-2026 officers:

Commander, Melissa Pierce; (Applause) Senior Vice-Commander Kathleen Wenthe; (Applause) First Junior Vice-Commander Terry Grabowski; (Applause) Second Junior Vice Carolyn Harris; (Applause)

Third Junior Vice Kimberly Stake; (Applause) Fourth Junior Vice Ann Wilner; (Applause) and our Judge Advocate is Paula Raymond. (Applause)

The secretary who served on the Committee was Karen Rediker. And our advisor was AnnMarie Hurley. And I'm Laurie Stopyra.

And would everyone, members of their district who served on the Committee please stand to be recognized?

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STOPYRA: Now, we have a couple of things that we—we have a couple of recommendations.

And the first one is when you put a resume in for national office you must be present at the convention for an interview, unless you have a valid, documented reason.

Number 2, we need to have a sound system when interviewing the candidate in the Nominating Committee so everyone can hear properly.

Number 3, the Committee would like to have a picture attached to the resume. We used to years ago have a picture attached and they would like that again. Okay?

Number 4, make sure when you fill out your resume you sign it and you write the correct date.

And, Number 5, candidates should keep their discussions when interviewed to themselves. Thank you very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee chair withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right. When two or more candidates are nominated for any one office, roll call shall continue until completed unless a candidate or candidates withdraw. The person receiving the majority of the roll call votes shall be elected.

I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their time and effort. I now discharge the Nominating Committee and all other convention committees.

I now ask that all the officers please leave the podium and go to your respective districts for the purpose of nomination and election. NECs, please join your districts now if you're not with them.

(Whereupon, the officers and NECs withdrew to their respective districts.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I will now appoint three tellers. Please come to table to the right: Karen Eccles, Linda Oliver and Pat Kemper. Just waiting for everybody to get in place here. If you can all please keep the –

(Whereupon, the tellers advanced to the table.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: You have heard the report on the committee on nominations. Melissa Pierce has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Commander. Is there a seconding speech?

MS. PATTY DAVIS: National Commander Easley, may I please approach the podium for giving the second speech?

COMMANDER EASLEY: You may.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Patty Davis advanced to the lectern.)

MS. DAVIS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. DAVIS: My name is Patty Davis and I'm a member of Number 19 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is my pleasure and honor to second the nomination of Melissa Pierce for the office of national commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

She is a life member since 1989 and a junior before then. Melissa belongs to Des Moines Unit Number 20 in Iowa and Milwaukee 19 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

She is eligible for membership through her father who was a Marine during the Vietnam War.

During his three tours of duty in Vietnam he received three Purple Hearts and was rated at a hundred percent disability.

Melissa's mom also served in the military and was a Navy nurse stationed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard at the base hospital. Both of her parents were active in the DAV Auxiliary.

Many of you have seen the movie, *Field of Dreams*. Much like Kevin Costner emerging out of the cornfield and onto the baseball field, Melissa is often the first to emerge, possibly shoeless, (Laughter) to aid and assist veterans and their families.

Just a girl from the Hawkeye State of corn and soybeans, Melissa is a DAV hospital service coordinator and lives and breathes DAV Auxiliary.

Whether she is playing Bingo with patients at the Des Moines VA, the CLC, coordinating back-to-school events for veterans' children, working a Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day, or volunteering at the Veterans Golf Clinics, she's always on the go.

On the unit level, Melissa has served as adjutant, junior vice- and senior vice-commander. On the state level she has served as junior vice-commander, senior vice-commander and commander. She currently serves as the state adjutant, a position that she has held for six years.

Nationally, Melissa has served as National VAVS Representative, Alternate NEC, NEC for the 15th District, and was a National Caregivers' Initiative chairman.

Melissa married the love of her life, Danny, who can be found traveling and volunteering with her, in 1991, and, together, they have two children, all of which are members of the DAV Auxiliary.

When they are not volunteering, Melissa is watching football. I can't believe I'm going to say this. She cheers for the Patriots. (Applause)

We are so very proud of Melissa and it gives us great honor to have witnessed her grow and advance within the DAV Auxiliary throughout the years. We know she will do nothing but amazing things for our organization as our national commander. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Davis withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: At least Patty didn't have to say that she was a Vikings fan. (Laughter) Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nomination closed for the office of national commander.

All of those in favor of Melissa Pierce for the office of national commander signify by saying aye; any opposed. The motion carries. (Applause) Melissa Pierce, is our new national commander. (Applause)

Kathleen Wenthe has been nominated by the Committee for the office of national senior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national senior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Kathleen – they put Kathleen, but Kathy Wenthe for the office of national senior vice-commander signify by saying aye; any opposed. The ayes have it and Kathleen Wenthe is your national senior vice-commander. (Applause)

Terry Grabowski has been nominated by the Committee for the office of national first junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national first junior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Terry Grabowski for the office of national first junior vice-commander signify by saying aye; any opposed. The ayes have it and Terry Grabowski has been elected to the office of national first junior vice-commander. (Applause)

Carolyn Harris has been nominated by the Committee for the office of national second junior vice-commander. (Applause) Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national second junior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Carolyn Harris for the office of national second junior vice-commander signify by saying aye; any opposed. The ayes have it and Carolyn Harris has been elected to the office of national second junior vice-commander. (Applause)

Kimberly Stake has been nominated by the Committee for the office of national third junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations?

MS. TERRI YOUNG-CARNAGEY: Terri Young-Carnagey from Indiana Unit 19. I nominate Jane Casher.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Jane Casher. Okay. Thank you. We will now have to have a roll call vote. Are there any other nominations? All right, districts, people, if you're not sitting with your district, please get with your district.

I am setting a timer for five minutes, maybe, setting a timer for five minutes for you to caucus on this. We will be having a roll call vote.

MS. LISA CARSTENSEN: Commander Chris, can you have the two candidates please stand up so we know who they are? Some of us are new.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, if you all can please hold down the conversation real quick. I'm going to pause the timer here. Kim Stake, can you please stand?

(Whereupon, Ms. Stake stood up.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Kim Stake is to my right. Sarah – not Sarah, Jane.

(Whereupon, Ms. Casher stood up.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Jane is in red to my left.

MS. CARSTENSEN: Thank you, commander.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes? Who was it that spoke? No. No. Who asked for them to stand? Real quick, who was the person who asked for them to stand? The court reporter needs it. I think it was Maryann from South Carolina.

(Whereupon, the meeting went into caucus at 9:25 o'clock, a.m.; and reconvened at 9:31 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, ladies and gentlemen, if you can please take your seats. If people couldn't see Kim and Sarah really well – not Sarah, Kim and Jane. Jane, if you can please come up here and Kim, real quick.

(Whereupon, the candidates advanced to the front of the podium.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: To my right is Miss Kim Stake; to my left is Miss Jane Casher, just so that way you all can see them because, you know, some people couldn't see them. So these are the two ladies that are running for the position of national third junior vice.

If you ladies want to go back with your states and districts, I wish you all the luck. All right, real quick, Jane, Kim, if you all would like you can have up to two minutes to make a statement. Let me –

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER JANE CASHER: Kim, would you like to go first? Okay.

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, I'm starting my timer.

(Whereupon, Ms. Casher advanced to the microphone.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER CASHER: Can I do it from here?

COMMANDER EASLEY: Yes.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER CASHER: Okay. Greetings, members. My name is Jane Casher. And we all had choices we make in life. And there is consequences to the choices. Please don't judge me by the choice I made last year.

Next to marrying my husband, the birth of my children, the honorary acceptance into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame was right next to me. And being selected as the fourth junior vice-

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear her.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER CASHER: I'm sorry. In being selected as the national fourth junior vice was atop my – I'm sorry. Okay.

Greetings, members. My name is Jane Casher. And we all have choices that we make in life. And there are consequences to our choices. Please, don't judge me by the choice I made last year.

Marrying my husband and the birth of my children and being nominated and selected for an honorary position into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame was right amongst and the national fourth junior vice were my top accomplishments in my life.

I understand I was unable to be here. I did everything within my power to make sure I had everything present. Please judge me on my position and my accomplishments within my position this past year. (Applause)

Judge me on my professionalism while representing national Auxiliary. Please judge me on my articles that I put into the newsletters. Please judge me on that and the fact that I am devoted and live by our motto: making a difference in the lives of the veterans. I go above and beyond.

As the department commander for Kentucky my theme was "Going above and beyond, reach for the stars for our veterans and for our family members." Please judge me on that. (Applause)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you, Jane. Kim, would you like to please step to the microphone.

(Whereupon, Ms. Casher withdrew from and Ms. Stake advanced to the microphone.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LINDA TRULIO: Excuse me. May I just say something? I thought there were no seconds allowed.

COMMANDER EASLEY: They're not seconding. First, state your name, who you are so that way the court reporter gets it.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: So if there is a run-off –

COMMANDER EASLEY: Linda, please state your name and –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: This is Linda Trulio, Unit 118, District 2. All the years I've been in here I've always realized that when there has been a run-off there has been no seconds, no speeches, no nothing.

So do the candidates actually get a chance to get up and speak and say things for themselves? I don't know if that's in our bylaws.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We cannot hear.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Miss Paula.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: I know, we already heard one but now Kim is here but.

COMMANDER EASLEY: I'm going to hand this over to Miss Paula.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the judge advocate advanced to the lectern.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: Paula, you do it.

JUDGE ADVOCATE PAULA K. RAYMOND: Linda, it is not in the convention rules that they can't. You have two candidates. You have a lot of people in this room that don't know either one of them.

Some of them didn't even know what they looked like. (Applause) And when I was asked, it was my decision as judge advocate to say that, yes, they could each speak. (Applause)

(Response of "Thank you;" whereupon, the judge advocate withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Give me one second, Kim. I'm going to start the timer for you just like I did for her. All right.

MS. KIMBERLY STAKE: My name is Kim Stake. I'm a member of District 21, Arkansas and Oklahoma. I've been a member for 24 years. And I was going to read you my resume but the biggest part of my resume you have saw with the Junior Auxiliary.

Somebody asked me what I was going to do if I was elected line with my chairmanship and I said, well, if you look at the Junior Auxiliary, I demonstrate community service, Americanism.

I even teach them how to vote for their units when we have the junior units. I feel like that the work that I do, myself, you get to see. I've been doing it for 24 years.

Jane Casher is a great volunteer. And we both would appreciate your vote but I think that for the DAV Auxiliary I would be the best qualified this year for this position because I do have 24 years put in. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I will now hand the podium over to Miss Ann Glende, our national assistant adjutant, for the purpose of the roll call.

There are no seconding speeches. Seconding speeches are only for the office of commander. For our roll call vote, Ann will be calling out the state so the state delegate will approach the microphone and cast the vote for their respective state.

Then she will go unit-by-unit, which a unit delegate will then come up and step to the microphone, state their name and unit, and you can count all your votes for one candidate or the other or split your votes in whole numbers.

I'm just going to say, real quick, just an example, "Chris Easley, Unit 43, Pryor, Oklahoma, I vote three votes for Maddy; I vote three votes for Elaine." And then after that you step off.

She'll call the next unit, next unit; next unit will go until either a candidate resigns or withdraws or we have finished the roll call vote. Tellers, are you ready? Okay, tellers, you're ready. All right, Ann, take off. I'm right here. I've got your back.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, if Alabama could please line up first, starting with the state department and then the units in order, please, followed by Arizona and then Arkansas.

You'll have to come to the mic if you have a question, please. State your name.

MS. MARY ANN JENSEN: Mary Ann Jensen, Auxiliary commander for the state of South Carolina. I just have a question. From what I'm hearing is it's going to be by unit. Do you all have how many votes each unit has or does the person coming up need to know how many votes they have?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Everyone should have a vote report. You do not have the correct vote report. That's a DAV vote report. The vote report looks like this. It's stapled together. It was in your convention bag. Otherwise, yes, we will tell you. Correct, we will tell you.

Okay, Alabama. When you come to the podium, please state your, either your state or your unit so the State Department of Alabama, you have one vote

MR. WILLIAM "ART" LYLE: I'm the state commander for Alabama, Art Lyle –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, please keep it down. Thank you.

MR. LYLE: Okay, I'm the state commander, Art Lyle, I cast one vote for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Alabama, J. Paul Pitts, Unit 12.

MS. DELORES FRAZIER: Delores Frazier, J. Paul Pitts Unit 12, six votes, Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. E.J. Kirkpatrick Unit 21, three votes.

MS. BETTY JANE LYLE: My name is Betty Jane Lyle. I'm a delegate for Alabama and I cast our three unit votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Colonel Chas. Young Unit 70.

MS. LINDA STEADMAN: Linda Steadman, Bill Nichols Unit 13 –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, we don't have you on here. You'll have to step over to the table. Colonel Chas. Young Unit 70.

MR. DONALD R. HARRIS: Donald R. Harris for Colonel Charles Young Unit 70 casts two votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. SSG Travis L. Nelson Unit 101, two votes, Alabama. SSG Travis L. Nelson Unit 101, two votes.

State Department of Arizona, one vote.

MS. HOPE MULNIX: Hope Mulnix, Arizona state commander, sorry, Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Cactus Unit 2, Arizona, 11 votes.

MS. CAROL RUNDELL: Carol Rundell votes 11 for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Arizona East Valley Unit Number 8, four votes.

MS. HOLLY MULNIX: Holly Mulnix, commander, four votes for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Star Unit 24, Arizona.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA ADAMS: How about 20?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: You're in as a past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: I did not register that way. I'm a delegate for Unit 20, as well.

(Response of "Can't hear her.")

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: She's questioning her delegate status. So we don't have a way to change that now, Donna. Okay, so if everybody could please keep it down, they're not hearing the votes.

So Arizona Star Unit Number 24.

MS. JUDY McCLAFLIN: Judy McClaflin, commander, three votes – for Kim. I'm sorry.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Three votes for Kim. Three votes for Kim. State vote was one for Arizona for Kim. Cactus 2 was 11 votes for Kim. You ready for me to go on? Okay.

Arizona Unit 26, San Pedro Valley, you have two votes.

MS. JONNIE MOORE: Jonnie Moore, Unit 26, both votes for Kimberly.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: I'm sorry.

MS. MOORE: Two votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: For Kim Stake?

MS. MOORE: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Two votes for Kim Stake. Arkansas Unit 57, G.P. Houston Memorial. What unit are you in?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Unit 1, Phoenix.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: We don't have you registered as a unit delegate.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Do you want the State of Arkansas or the unit?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Unit, G.P. Houston Memorial Unit 57.

MS. RACHEL BLANTON: Rachel Blanton, Unit 57, G.P. Houston Memorial, all votes for Kim Stake so there's nine.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Nine votes for Kim.

MS. BLANTON: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: And you are both registered for the unit. Austin is also registered for the unit. Yes.

Okay, California is next, starting with the state department. Is California here? Okay. So California followed by Colorado can line up, followed by Florida and Georgia. Okay, so everybody keep it down, please.

State Department of California, you have one vote.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Our vote is for Kimberly.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: One vote for Kim?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, one vote for Kim Stake. Sacramento, California, Unit 6, you have eight votes.

MS. DEBORAH ADEMA: Debbie Adema, commander, Sacramento Unit 6, casts eight votes for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, eight votes for Kim Stake. Oakland Unit 7, California, you have six votes.

MS. JULIE WEISSMAN-STEINBAUGH: Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh Unit 7, six votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, six votes for Kim Stake. San Bernadino Unit 12, eight votes.

MS MARY ANN BACA: Mary Ann Baca from California Unit 12, eight votes for Kimberly.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. California Lakewood Unit 19, you have five votes.

MS. MARY LOU CALDWELL: Mary Lou Caldwell Unit 19, five votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Lynn, do you need – if you have a question you can go to the podium. Bill Kinnard Unit 92, you have six votes. Are they not here?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Not here.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. So they have no votes. They're not here. Old Adobe Unit 117, there is two votes.

MR. DAVID BAILEY: David Bailey, two votes to Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LYNN PROSSER: And we would just like for people to speak into the mic so we can hear because we cannot hear back there how the votes are going.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: So if you would just have them to lower the mic or whatever if they need to speak a little bit louder so everybody can hear the votes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Thank you.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Lynn, please say your name for the recorder.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: That was Lynn Helms Prosser.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Lynn Helms Prosser, South Carolina.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: California, Lillian Bushnell Unit 123.

MS. CAROLYN MORRIS: Carolyn Morris, Lillian Bushnell Unit 123, two votes each.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Two votes each, two for Kim; two for Jane. You guys okay?

Okay. On to Colorado, state department, you have one vote.

MR. JERRY MILLER: Jerry Miller, state commander, one vote for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, one vote for Kim. Harold Fae Tomlin Unit 6.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: No one is here.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: She went. Okay, she's sick. Okay, S.L. Brown Unit 11, you have three votes.

MS. KATHY PHELPS: Three votes for Kim Stake. Kathy Phelps, Unit 11.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Three votes, Kim Stake. Knob Hill, Colorado, Unit 26, you have 11 votes.

MS. ELIZABETH ARIAS: Elizabeth Arias, Unit 26, 11 votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Eleven votes for Kim Stake. Okay, we're on to Florida and then Georgia. Idaho can line up and Illinois, please.

Florida, Unit 16. Florida state department, we did not receive a delegate form so we do not have a state vote. So Florida 16.

MS. SHEILA KROLL: Sheila Kroll, Unit 16, 10 votes for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, that was 10 votes for Kim Stake. Manatee County, Florida Unit 18, 77 votes.

MS. AMY RABER: Amy Raber, Manatee County Unit 18, 77 votes, Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Seventy-seven votes for Kim Stake. Please keep it down. Seminole County Florida – I'm sorry, Seminole Unit 30, Florida, 19 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's coming. She's back there.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: They're not here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She is.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's in the back.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joey, go forward.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: I'm sorry. Is she here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, she's here.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Joey, you have 19 votes.

MS. JOEY CAYWOOD: Joey Caywood, Florida's department commander, Unit 30 –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: How would you like to vote?

MS. CAYWOOD: Unit 40 –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: No, this is for Unit 30.

MS. CAYWOOD: Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Kimberly Stake, 19 votes?

MS. CAYWOOD: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay.

MS. CAYWOOD: Thank you.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: R.L. Cochran Junior Unit 82, Florida, you have two votes. Is anyone here from that unit?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's coming.

MS. AMANDA GRANT: Amanda Grant, Unit 82 commander, we vote for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. So two votes for Kim. Greater Daytona Florida Unit 84, three votes.

MS. MARIA HOLLOWAY: Maria Holloway, Greater Daytona, three votes for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Three votes for Kim. Titusville Unit 109, Florida, 11 votes.

MS. DEANNA DUNN: Deanna Dunn, commander, Unit 109, we cast 11 votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, 11 votes for Kim. Port St. Lucie Unit 113, Florida. Okay, no votes.

Georgia state department, you have one vote.

MS. LOLA MOSES: Lola Moses, State Department of Georgia vote for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: One vote for Kim. I'm sorry. William E. Tate Georgia Unit 1, you have three votes. Is there anyone here from that unit? Okay.

Ray Williams Georgia Unit 50, you have five votes. No one is here from that unit, either? Okay. Idaho.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have Unit 27?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Those are the only units we have for Georgia.

Idaho state department, you have one vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not here.

MS. DIANE MASON: Diane Mason, Unit 13.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Diane Mason Unit 13, how many – no, this is for the state department.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not present.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: He's not here. Okay, Nampa Unit 13.

MS. MASON: Okay, three votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Three votes for Kim. Okay, Diane Mason, Nampa Unit 13, three votes for Kim.

MS. MASON: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, thank you. Albert W. Jardine Unit 22, Idaho.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Not here. State Department of Illinois, you have one vote. Indiana, if you could please line up.

MS. SHARON CLAYBAUGH: Sharon Claybaugh, Illinois State Department, one vote for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Effingham Unit 7, Illinois, you have three votes.

MS. KAREN WENDT: Three votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Iowa please line up followed by Kentucky. I'm sorry, ma'am, what was your name?

MS. WENDT: Karen Wendt.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Karen Wendt. Decatur-Macon County Illinois Unit 17, you have six votes.

MS. EVELYN COUTURE: Evelyn Couture, Unit 17, six votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Six votes for Kim Stake. Franklin County Illinois Unit 51, two votes.

MS. REBECCA EDMONDSON: Rebecca Edmondson, two votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Jackson County Illinois Unit Number 69, two votes. Nobody here.

Williamson County Illinois Unit 71, two votes.

MS. SARAH WHITE: Sarah White, Unit 71, two votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Jack Graichen Memorial Illinois Unit Number 90, two votes.

MS. KAREN ECCLES: Karen Eccles, Unit 90, two votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Indiana State Department, one vote.

MS. LYNN SWANSON: Lynn Swanson, Department of Indiana, one vote for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Elkhart Unit 19, 34 votes, Indiana.

MS. TERRI YOUNG-CARNAGEY: Terri Young, Unit 19, 34?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thirty-four.

MS. YOUNG-CARNAGEY: Thirty-four for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thirty-four votes, Jane Casher. Danny Bruce Illinois – I'm sorry, Indiana, Unit 23, 30 votes.

MS. BARBARA FISHER: Barb Fisher, 30 for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thirty votes, Jane Casher. Kokomo Unit 28, Indiana, four votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Kokomo 28, four votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Marshall County Unit 42, Indiana, two votes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Marshall County 42, two votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Iowa State Department.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Unit.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, no state department vote? Okay, Des Moines Iowa Unit Number 20, six votes.

MR. DANNY PIERCE: Six for Jane. Dan Pierce.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Danny Pierce, six votes for Jane. Kentucky State Department, you have one vote. Kentucky State Department, Aundra. Sorry, are you voting for Radcliff?

MS. AUNDRA LETT-JACKSON: Radcliff 156.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay.

MS. LETT-JACKSON: My name is Aundra –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Hold on. We're not to you yet.

MS. LETT-JACKSON: Okay.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Frederick R. Bristol Memorial Unit 19, you have 11 votes. Jane, are you? We don't have you for three. We have you as a national officer.

MS. PAT KEMPER: Pat Kemper Unit 19, 11 votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. And then Radcliff Unit 56 Kentucky, nine votes.

MS. LETT-JACKSON: Aundra Jackson, immediate past state commander, nine votes for Jane Casher, Unit 1-5-6.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Louisiana, please step forward. Maine, Maryland, and Massachusetts.

Okay, first up will be the State Department of Louisiana with one vote.

MS. JANICE FELDER-CHAPMAN: The State Department of Louisiana vote for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Janice Felder.

MS. FELDER-CHAPMAN: Janice Felder.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Janice Felder-Chapman, one vote for Jane. Thank you. Lafayette, Louisiana, Unit Number 2, four votes.

MS. MARLENE COMEAUX: Marlene Comeaux, Unit 2, Louisiana, four votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Jack Redell Louisiana Unit Number 20, seven votes.

MS. SHEILA STEPHENS: Sheila Stephens, Jack Redell Unit 20, seven votes, Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Florida Parish, Louisiana Unit Number 50, three votes.

MS. CATHERINE DIXON: My name is Catherine Dixon, Florida Parish Unit 50, casting my vote for Jane Casher, all three votes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Three votes for Jane.

MS. DIXON: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. That's all we have for Louisiana.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Twenty-one?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: We do not have 21.
 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Okay.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Maine State Department.
 MS. JOAN CLARK FOURNIER: Joan Clark Fournier, State Department of Maine, we cast our one vote for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Emilien Hamann Unit 11, Maine, you have eight votes.
 MS. SYLVIA HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Unit 11, eight votes for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Thomas W. Bazemore Unit 19, Maine, you have three votes.
 MS. ERIN O'BRIEN: Erin O'Brien, Unit 19, Maine, for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, three votes for Kim.
 Maryland, you have no state votes so your first one is Omaha Beach Unit Number 7 with nine votes.
 MS. DIANE GAROFALO: Okay, I broke it.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: You need help?
 MS. GAROFALO: No. Diane Garofalo, Unit 7, Maryland, we cast nine votes for Kim.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Kim. Okay. Severn Unit 13, Maryland, you have four votes.
 MS. FRANCINA GARRY: Francina Garry, Unit 13, four votes for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you.
 MS. GARRY: Yes.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: General Melvin Maas Maryland Unit 17, you have six votes. Not here? Okay. Old Glory Maryland Unit 22, you have four votes.
 MS. BARBARA SATER: Barbara Sater, Unit 22, four votes for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Massachusetts, we do not have a state delegate so the first one is Silver Star JFK Memorial Unit 3.
 MS. ALLISON DEVINE: Allison Devine, Unit 3, we vote for Kim.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Kim. Six votes for Kim?
 MS. DEVINE: Yes.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, six votes for Kim. William S. Greene Unit Number 9, you have four votes.
 MS. PAMELA GLASS: Pamela Glass, Unit 9, and we have four votes for Kim.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Four votes for Kim. Westover Unit 11, Massachusetts, two votes. No one from Westover?
 (Response of "No.")
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: No? Okay. Somerville Unit 27, Massachusetts, 16 votes.
 MS. DIANE SULLIVAN: Diane Sullivan, Unit 27, 16 votes for Kim.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Braintree Unit 29, Massachusetts, 13 votes.
 MS. JANET PRATT: Braintree Unit 29, 13 votes for Kim Stake.
 (Response of "Name.")
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Janet Pratt.
 MS. PRATT: Oh, I'm sorry. Janet Pratt, Unit 29.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Scott Vetterling Unit 33, Massachusetts, three votes. Not here? Marshfield Memorial Unit 35, Massachusetts, seven votes.
 MS. ELIZABETH BUTTERS: Liz Butters, Marshfield 35, seven votes for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Billerica Unit 47, Massachusetts, two votes.
 MS. NANCY HOEY: Nancy Hoey, Billerica 47, two votes for Kim.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Cape Cod Massachusetts Unit 96. No? Not here.
 All right, next we'll have Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, and New Hampshire, please.
 Michigan, one vote, state department.
 MS. CHRISTINA ALEXANDER: Christina Alexander, one vote for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. William A. Smith Junior Unit Number 2, Michigan. Not here.
 Minnesota State Department, you have one vote.
 MS. SANDY MARTIN: Sandy Martin, state department, one vote towards Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Hutchinson Minnesota Unit 39 – I'm sorry, 37 – you have eight votes.
 MS. LENNA REMILY: Lenna Remily, Unit 37, we have eight votes for Kim Stake.
 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Eight votes for Kim Stake. Anoka Minnesota Unit 39, you have ten votes.
 MS. NANCY BERNDT: Nancy Berndt, ten votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Missouri State Department, you have one vote.

MS. VELMA STEINMAN: Velma Steinman, state commander, State Department of Missouri, one vote for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. E. Schumann Heink Unit 2, Missouri, you have eighteen votes.

MS. EARTHERLINE DOWNS: Eartherline Downs, commander, Unit 2, 18 votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Eighteen votes for Jane. Bolivar Memorial Unit 66, Missouri, you have six votes.

MS. THERESA GREENE: Theresa Greene, Auxiliary commander, 66 in Bolivar, Missouri, six votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Six votes for Jane. Montana State Department, you have one vote.

MS. PATSY MEDVED: Patsy Medved, state commander, Department of Montana, one vote for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. That's all the votes for Montana.

New Hampshire State Department, you have one vote.

MS. MONICA BOORE: Monica Boore, State Department New Hampshire, one vote for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Manchester Unit 1, New Hampshire, you have five votes.

MS. SUE BOORE: Sue Boore, Unit 1, five votes for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. New Jersey. Is anyone here from New Jersey? Come on up, please.

So we have New Jersey and then New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and North Dakota.

New Jersey is first, sorry. Okay, Ocean County Memorial Unit 24, New Jersey.

MS. LINDA APPLGATE: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Three votes.

MS. APPLGATE: Linda Applegate Unit 24, three votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Three votes for Kim. Thank you. State Department of New Mexico. Not here. Luperto Garcia New Mexico Unit 29, you have four votes.

MS. ELLEN TIMMERMAN: Ellen Timmerman, New Mexico 29, two votes for Kim and two votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Two and two. New York State Department does not have a vote. New York Monroe Powers Number 15, you have four votes.

MR. BRANDON MOTT: Brandon Mott, Unit 15, Monroe Powers New York, all four votes to Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Lieutenant V.O. Fryer New York Number 88, you have ten votes.

MS. DIANE WISNESKY: Diane Wisnesky, Unit 88, New York, ten votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you.

MS. WISNESKY: You're welcome.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Ten votes for Kim. Lieutenant Alfred Lucia Number 118, New York, you have ten votes.

MS. KAREN MULLEN: Karen Mullen, Unit 118, New York, ten votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Castle Point Number 144, New York, five votes – I'm sorry – yes, five votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Is anyone here? Okay. Edward G. Galian Memorial Unit 212, New York.

MR. RAY GRABOWSKI: Ray Grabowski, Unit 212, we've got four votes, right?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Four.

MR. GRABOWSKI: Four. We'll split them, two and two.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Two and two. Thank you. State Department of New – I'm sorry, State Department of North Carolina, you have one vote. You guys can step forward. Thank you. North Dakota is up there.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: North Carolina, one vote, Kimberly.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: One vote for Kim. And if Ohio wants to start making their way up and Oklahoma, that would be great.

Onslow County Number 16, North Carolina, you have 11 votes.

MS. ARLETHA HUMPHREY: Arletha Humphrey, Unit 16, 11 votes for Kimberly Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Hickory County – I'm sorry, Hickory Unit – Hickory Number 34, North Carolina, you have two votes.

MS. KIMBERLY KNOWLTON: Kimberly Knowlton, Hickory Unit 34, two votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Craven County Unit 40, North Carolina, you have three votes.

MS. MELANIE RUST: Melanie Rust, Unit 40, three votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Rowan County Unit 96, North Carolina, you have three votes.

MS. CRYSTAL McNEELY: Crystal McNeely, Unit 96, three votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: State Department of North Dakota, you have one vote.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDY STEINHOUSE: Judy Steinhouse, State Department of North Dakota, one vote for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Andy Nomland Unit 2, North Dakota, you have six votes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANDRA DOBMEIER: Sandy Dobmeier, Unit 2, North Dakota, six votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. State Department of Ohio, you have one vote.

MS. DARLENE HANNEMAN: Darlene Hanneman from the Department of Ohio, one vote for Jane, please.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Ohio Capital City Number 3, you have two votes.

MS. BEA FOSTER: Bea Foster, Capital City Number 3, we cast two votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Dayton Unit 9, Ohio, you have five votes.

So, Oklahoma, you might want to step to the side. Ohio is first.

MS. SUZANNE WITTNEBEN: Suzanne Witneben, Unit 9, Ohio, we cast five votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Alliance Unit Number 50, Ohio, you have five votes.

MS. DEBORAH HALL: Deb Hall, Unit 50, Alliance, I vote five votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Van Wert Unit 54, Ohio, you have three votes.

MS. DIANA POLLOCK: Diana Pollock, Unit 54, three votes, Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Clermont County Unit 63, Ohio, you have seven votes.

MS. SHIRLEY PLACHOVINSK: Shirley Plachovinsk, Unit 63, seven votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Putnam County Ohio Unit 77, you have four votes.

MS. JUDY UTTERLING: Judy Utterling, Unit 77, four votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: All right, State Department of Oklahoma, you have one vote.

MS. MILLIE MOSELEY: State Department of Oklahoma, Millie Moseley, one vote for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Pittsburgh County Unit 20, Oklahoma, you have eight votes.

MS. CAROLYN ADAMS: Carolyn Adams, Unit 20, Oklahoma, eight votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Will Rogers Unit 29, Oklahoma, you have two votes. They're not here. James E. Bracy Unit 32, Oklahoma, you have five votes. Rogers County Unit 44, Oklahoma, you have four votes.

MS. DEBBIE MCGUIRE: Debbie McGuire Unit 44, four votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Wagoner County Unit 88, Oklahoma, you have seven votes.

MS. KRISTY CHISUM: Kristy Chisum, Unit 88, Wagoner County, Oklahoma, all seven for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. All right, so Pennsylvania can come on up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We've got Oregon.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Yes, I'm just calling people up. Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina.

Oregon State Department, you have one vote.

MS. KATHY CLAMPITT: Kathy Clampitt, State Department commander, one vote for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Portland Unit 1, you have four votes.

MS. CORINNE FORNEY: Corinne Forney, Oregon Unit 1, four votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Oregon City, Oregon Unit 4, you have two votes.

MR. ROY CLAMPITT: Roy Clampitt, Unit 4, Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Both votes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Both votes for Kim?

MR. CLAMPITT: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, thank you. Dewey Powell Unit 12, Oregon, you have two votes.

MS. ANDREA McDONALD: Andrea McDonald, two votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Pennsylvania, C.W.M. McCleary Unit 78, you have three votes.

MS. LAURIE STOPYRA: Laurie Stopyra, three votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Puerto Rico, State Department of Puerto Rico, you have one vote.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'm not department. I'm Unit 1.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, so we're looking for the State Department of Puerto Rico. Are they not here?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: No, not here.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, so we have Unit 6 and Unit 7.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Unit 1.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: No Unit 1. Mayaguez Unit 6.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Seven.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: So no Unit 6? Fajardo Unit 7.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: My name is (Inaudible, spoken in Spanish) cinco votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Cinco for Kim?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Si.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Gracias. So she said five votes for Kim. And that was Puerto Rico Unit 7.

Rhode Island State Department, you have one vote.

MS. DONNA FOLCARELLI: My sister had to leave so she's the state.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Giovanni Folcarelli Unit Number 1, four votes.

MS. FOLCARELLI: Donna Folcarelli, Unit 1, Rhode Island, four votes, Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Almeida Hines Rhode Island Unit 22, you have three votes.

MS. SALLY ANN CAMPAGNONE: Sally Ann Campagnone, Unit 22, three votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: All right, after South Carolina we have Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. And let's throw Vermont up there, too. You guys can start getting in line, please. Quietly. South Carolina State Department one vote.

MS. MARY ANN JENSEN: Mary Ann Jensen, state Auxiliary for the great State of South Carolina, I cast one vote for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay, thank you. One vote for Kim. Woodrow Wilson South Carolina Unit 4, you have five votes.

MS. JACQUELINE GRAY: Jacqueline Gray, unit commander, Woodrow Wilson, casts all five votes for Kimberly.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. John W. Crews Junior, South Carolina Unit 13, six votes.

MS. YVONNE CUNNINGHAM: Yvonne Cunningham, the commander of Unit 13, we give all six to Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Kim? Six to Kim.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: 92nd Buffalo Unit Number 20 in South Carolina, four votes.

MS. SHARON JOHNSON: Sharon Johnson, commander, Unit 20, all four votes to Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Clayton Durham Unit 28, South Carolina, six votes.

MS. VERONICA McDONALD: Veronica McDonald, South Carolina, Clayton Durham Number 28, all six votes for Kimberly.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Carroll E. Prosser Unit 30, eight votes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PROSSER: Carroll E. Prosser, Lynn Prosser, eight votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. L. Mendel Rivers Unit 44, four votes.

MS. ANN WILNER: Ann Wilner, Unit 44 commander, all four votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Tennessee, we have Unit 90 and Unit 116. There is no state vote.

MS. DOROTHY REESE: State commander, State of Tennessee, one vote cast for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: So they don't have you registered as a state.

MS. REESE: Right.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: They have Unit 90 and Unit 116 registered.

MS. REESE: Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: So are you voting for Coffee County Unit 90?

MS. REESE: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. So you have two votes.

MS. REESE: Okay. Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: So two votes for Jane Casher?

MS. REESE: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Millington Unit 116, Tennessee, seven votes.

MS. DOROTHY ROBINSON: Dorothy Robinson, Millington 116, casts votes, all seven votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Kim?

MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. State Department of Texas, you have one vote.

MR. DOUG JONES: Doug Jones, state commander, State Department of Texas, one vote to Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Heart of Texas Unit Number 3, five votes.

MS. MAXINE NIXON: Maxine Nixon, Unit 3, Texas, five votes, Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Alamo Unit Number 5, Texas, 11 votes.

MS. MARY BERGERON: Mary Bergeron, Alamo 5, 11 votes to Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Percy A. Spence III, Unit 17, Texas, six votes.

MS. ELAINE MORELAND: Elaine Moreland, five votes for Kim, one vote for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you.

MS. MORELAND: Unit 17, Texas.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Blue Bonnet Unit 20, Texas, nine votes.

MS. CHERIE HANSARD: Five votes for Kim – this is Cherie Hansard, Unit 20, sorry – and four votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Grand Prairie 42, Texas, seven votes. Not here? R.L. Ferguson Memorial Unit 44. Not here. Hunt County Unit 81, Texas. Not present. KEL-LAC Unit 114, Texas, five votes.

MS. SHARON THORNTON: Sharon Thornton, Kel-Lac 114, San Antonio, cast five votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Victoria County Number 169, Texas, six votes.

MS. ELAINE PHILLIPS: Elaine Phillips, Texas, Victoria, Texas 169, all six votes goes to Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Cedar Hill Number 240, Texas, two votes.

Not present.

State Department of Utah, one vote.

MS. SASHA WILDE: Sasha Wilde, Department of Utah, to Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. One vote, Kim Stake.

Vermont Unit 3, seven votes. They only have you registered as a unit delegate, as well.

MS. AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: I sent the paperwork in for state, too.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Yes, they have her registered as a state delegate – I'm sorry, as a unit delegate.

MS. NICODEMUS: Okay. Byron Morris Unit 3, we cast all seven votes for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Okay. Got it. Thank you. Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming and then we'll move on to individual votes, please.

MS. TONYIA COURTEMANCHE: Tonyia Courtemanche –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Oh, hold on one second. Virginia State Department, one vote. I just had to make it official. I'm sorry.

MS. COURTEMANCHE: Yes, ma'am. Tonyia Courtemanche, State Department of the great State of Virginia, one vote for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Lester S. Gordon Unit Number 2, Virginia, five votes.

MS. BRENDA BAKER: Brenda Baker –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Ma'am, you'll have to go up to the mic a little closer.

MS. BAKER: Oh, I'm sorry.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you.

MS. BAKER: Brenda Baker, Unit 2, five votes to Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Murray Rhea Peninsula Unit 6, Virginia, two votes.

Not present? York County Victory Number 13, Virginia, two votes. Not present? Prince William County Number 15, Virginia, three votes.

MS. ARIA TAYLOR: Aria Taylor, commander, Prince William County Unit 15, three votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Portsmouth Federal Unit 22, Virginia, six votes.

MS. ANNETTE FAIRCLOTH: Annette Faircloth, Unit 22, six votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Northeastern Virginia Unit 48, three votes.

MS. AMY BOWSER: Amy Bowser, Unit 48, three votes for Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Al Bartraw Junior Unit 50, Virginia.

State Department – oh, I'm sorry. State Department of Wisconsin, one vote.

MS. RENEE CARSTENSEN: Renee Carstensen, State Department of Wisconsin, commander, one vote for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Waukesha Unit 5, Wisconsin, three votes.

MS. LISA CARSTENSEN: Lisa Carstensen, Unit Number 5, Wisconsin, three votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Ray H. Fuller Winnebago County Number 17, Wisconsin, four votes.

MS. JULIE HERT: Julie Hert, Unit 17, Wisconsin, four votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Milwaukee Number 19, Wisconsin, six votes.

MS. PATTY DAVIS: Patty Davis, Milwaukee 19, six votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Schumann Heink Unit 30, Wisconsin, five votes.

MS. ROSE WILLIAMS: Rose Williams, Unit 30, five votes for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Rusk County Unit 33, Wisconsin, six votes.

MS. BONNIE PETERSEN: Bonnie Petersen, Unit 33, Wisconsin, six votes for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Wyoming State Department, one vote.

MS. NANCY COFFEY: Nancy Coffey, State of Wyoming, one vote to Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. We'll now do national officers, starting with Chris, followed by Melissa, Kathy, Terry, Carolyn, Jane.

Chris Easley, one vote.

COMMANDER EASLEY: Chris Easley, national commander, I abstain.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Quiet down, please. He is not voting. Melissa Pierce, one vote.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER MELISSA PIERCE: Melissa Pierce, senior vice-commander, Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Kathleen Wenthe, national first junior vice-commander, one vote.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER KATHLEEN WENTHE: Kathleen Wenthe, first junior vice, one vote, Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Terry Grabowski, national second junior vice-commander, one vote.

SECOND JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER TERRY GRABOWSKI: Terry Grabowski, second junior vice, I abstain from voting.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Carolyn Harris, national third junior vice-commander, one vote.

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER CAROLYN HARRIS: Carolyn Harris, third junior vice, vote for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Jane Casher, national fourth junior vice-commander, one vote.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER JANE CASHER: I vote for Jane. (Laughter)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: And AnnMarie is not here. Past national commanders starting with Donna Adams, so if the past national commanders could please step forward.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA M. ADAMS: Donna Adams, past national commander, one vote for Jane Casher.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Susan Miller – I'm sorry, Susan Henry, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN MARIE HENRY: Past National Commander Susan Henry, one vote, Kim.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. LeeAnn Karg, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LEEANN B. KARG: LeeAnn Karg, past national commander, Minnesota, one vote for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Susan Miller, oh, you're back, okay, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: Susan Miller, PNC, one vote for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Paula Raymond, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AND NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAULA K. RAYMOND: Paula Raymond, past national commander abstains.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Darlene Spence, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DARLENE SPENCE: Darlene Spence, I forgot her name –

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Kim or –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SPENCE: Kim. Kim, yes.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Ellen Timmerman.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LINDA TRULIO: Do you have mine?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: I do. I'm getting there.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: Oh.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ELLEN L. TIMMERMAN: I'm coming. Ellen Timmerman, past national commander, one vote for Jane.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Linda Trulio, past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: Linda Trulio, past national commander, one vote for Kim Stake.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Thank you. Okay, if everybody could just keep it down for a few minutes while the tellers and the judges, I'm sorry, the tellers and the judge finishes the votes, we will be with you in just a moment.

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, ladies and gentlemen, while we're waiting for them to tally the votes if you want to take about a ten-minute recess, please keep the room quiet so that way they can do their work.

Like I said before, if you have any outside conversations, please step out into the hallway just so that we don't – we're taking a ten-minute recess while they count votes if you can please keep the noise to a very minimum. If you wish to have conversations, please step to the hall.

I will have someone call people in the hall when the ten minutes is up.

(Whereupon, there was a recess was observed beginning at 10:26 o'clock a.m.; the meeting reconvened at 10:45 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, we have the results. If everybody can please keep it down and avoid celebrations or outbursts, for the office of national third junior vice the result of the roll call vote is Kim Stake. (Applause) Thank you.

So that everybody, just for full transparency, we have a total of 756 votes. Sorry. For transparency we had a total of 756 votes cast; Kim, 531; Jane, 225. A total of 756 votes were cast; for Jane, 225; for Kim, 531.

All right – give me a second. Ann Wilner has been nominated by the Committee for the office of national fourth junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national fourth junior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Ann Wilner for the office of national fourth junior vice-commander signify by saying aye; any opposed. Ann Wilner has been elected to the office of national fourth junior vice-commander. (Applause)

Paula Raymond has been nominated by the Committee for the office of national judge advocate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national judge advocate.

All those in favor of Paula Raymond for the office of national judge advocate please signify by saying aye; any opposed. The ayes have it and Paula Raymond has been elected to the office of national judge advocate. (Applause)

All right, so your 2025-2026 slate of officers: National Commander Miss Melissa Pierce; (Applause) Senior Vice-Commander Miss Kathleen Wenthe; (Applause) First Junior Vice-Commander Miss Terry Grabowski; (Applause)

Second Junior Vice-Commander Miss Carolyn Harris; (Applause) Third Junior Vice-Commander Miss Kimberly Stake; (Applause) Fourth Junior Vice-Commander Miss Ann Wilner; (Applause) and our Judge Advocate Miss Paula Raymond. (Applause)

I will now dismiss the tellers. Thank you for your hard work. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the tellers returned to their seats.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Will the current national officers please return to your seats at the head table.

(Whereupon, the national officers returned to their stations.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: I'd like to thank National Sergeant-at-Arms Ann Wilner for doing a commendable job. All pages are now dismissed.

I'd like to thank the juniors, the pages, the NECs for all of their hard work in escorting people and making sure that everything is going good. And I have one announcement that I want to make before I turn it over to Ann to make her announcements.

For those of you all that do not know, Miss Ann is going for her master's degree and she had a class that she was very worried about because there was a group project and we all know how group projects go. She needed an 88 to get an A. She got a 93 so she got an A for her class. (Applause) We're proud of you, Ann.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: Well, I have exciting news to share. We have a baby. (Applause) The baby boy is here. He was just born. He is seven pounds. Sorry, I lost the text. (Laughter)

What the heck? He is a little over seven pounds. His name is Xavier Anthony. And as far as I know everybody is happy and healthy. (Applause)

Okay, announcements. As a reminder, the external portal is open to all state and unit elected officers and the directions are online.

Officer reports, currently known as the OER, can now be processed electronically. We will be providing a presentation at Fall Conference on how to perform this task.

Please remember to track your volunteer hours. We went over how important this is Saturday evening.

Don't forget to start thinking about nominations for the volunteer for, the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Outstanding Member of the Year Award.

Don't forget about the DAV Scholarship. It is now \$140,000 annually. Those who are applying need a minimum of 100 volunteer hours through DAV or Auxiliary.

As you know, in October of 2024 DAV launched their DAV Caregiver Support Program. It is tailored to support friends, family members and loved ones who provide care to those who served.

Caregivers can access online resources, risk screening, digital tools, personalized care plans, and one-on-one support from trained caregiver specialists with experience supporting veterans. These services are free. There should have been a brochure in your bag.

Please remember to utilize your resources. This includes your bylaws, your Program and Procedure Manual, your Fall Conference booklet, and to utilize your chain of command.

We encourage everyone to attend our National Fall Conference in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, September 25th through the 27th. Hotel information can be found on the information sheet in your convention bags.

We will be holding presentations and seminars that will benefit your unit and state department on Thursday so it will be very similar to last year. We did this last year and had a lot of requests to continue. Please watch for announcements coming soon.

If you have not made your room reservations for Fall Conference, we encourage you to do so sooner rather than later. We anticipate a sell-out. We believe we only have king rooms left.

If we have your correct email address on file you should be receiving our monthly newsletter. Please open it and read it. This will keep you updated on our hot topics, announcements, and articles from our national chairmen.

If you have not "liked" our Facebook page, please do so. We keep you well informed. We provide you with all the information you need to know.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for the DAV Commander's Action Network. Stay informed and take action to support federal legislation and policies affecting veterans, their families and survivors.

Be sure to utilize your own recruitment link through "Sponsor a Supporter." If you need assistance, let us know.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of our Member Advantages. Get discounts on tickets to restaurants, theme parks, movies, et cetera. There are thousands of options of discounts. And that can be found online.

Bunny would like to thank and acknowledge a few people. In addition to an exceptional year, thank you – well, we would, but these are Bunny's notes. In addition to an exceptional year, thank you, once again, Chris Easley, for a Facebook livestream. Also, thank you to Brandon and Rory for assisting.

Thank you to those who volunteered to help in our convention headquarters and who just are always willing to volunteer any time. Just thank you so much.

To our delegates, thank you for serving on committees.

Thank you to Karen for being our right-hand woman.

Thank you, Tracy, for always helping us.

And that's all I have. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: All right, Jane Casher.

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and Ms. Casher advanced to the lectern.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER CASHER: Many of you know I passed these here little cards around and asked you to share a memory or inspiration. If you have then, could you please bring them up so that you can put them in Chris' box.

Chris, on behalf of my husband and I, I wanted to give you your memories.

(Whereupon, the commander was presented with the gift.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: Thank you.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER CASHER: You're welcome, dear. (Applause) Love you.

(Whereupon, Ms. Casher withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: I have another update.

COMMANDER EASLEY: We have another update from Ann.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's twins. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EASLEY: It's triplets. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the commander withdrew from and the adjutant advanced to the lectern.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GLENDE: I guess I might have lied a little. Baby Xavier is here, 7 pounds 14 ounces. He is currently in the NICU with Dad because he still has some fluid on his lungs that just take a while to come out but he's perfectly fine and healthy. Okay, I didn't lie.

Bunny is with mom in recovery. I'm not going to read that. (Laughter) "I'm not happy about being able to see my baby for an hour or so but will keep you all updated if anything new arises." (Applause)

(Whereupon, the adjutant withdrew from and the commander returned to the lectern.)

COMMANDER EASLEY: And for those of you all wondering, I gave Bunny some money but now the child will – it will be once mom or dad because it has to be a parent or guardian that signs the application, will be a full paid life member as soon as Bunny returns to the office. (Applause)

I told her that that baby is all of our grandbabies, too, so, you know. But I'm very happy for her.

Is there any further business to come before this Convention? I just want to thank everybody for all of their help and support. It's been a great year.

Hearing none, I now declare the 102nd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hereby adjourned.

We will immediately go into the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting which I will now call to order.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 o'clock, a.m., on Tuesday, August 12, 2025.)

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and
for the Year Ended December 31, 2024, and
Independent Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the National Finance Committee of
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (the "Auxiliary"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Auxiliary as of December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Auxiliary and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Auxiliary's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always

detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Auxiliary's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Auxiliary's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Deloitte + Touche LLP

April 8, 2025

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024**

ASSETS	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CASH	\$ 95,935	LIABILITIES:	\$ 398,934
LOANS RECEIVABLE	2,314	Accounts payable and other liabilities	2,320,030
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHERS	29,232	Payable to Life Membership Fund	369,058
INVESTMENTS	13,649,004	Contributions distributable to state departments	6,324,762
		Life Membership-reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	9,412,784
		Total liabilities	
ACCRUED INTEREST RECEIVABLE	13,290	NET ASSETS:	9,170,742
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:		Without donor restrictions	
Cash	184,539	With donor restrictions:	402,277
Investments	3,811,398	Service program	147,873
Accrued interest receivable	8,775	Disaster relief program	980,841
Receivable from general fund	2,320,030	Education loan/scholarship program	
		Total net assets	10,701,733
TOTAL	<u>\$20,114,517</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$20,114,517</u>

See notes to the financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions			Total
		Service Program	Disaster Relief/Other Programs	Education Loan/ Scholarship Program	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Membership fees and mandates	\$ -	\$ 1,085	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,085
Life membership distributions	333,192	-	-	-	333,192
Contributions	88,137	10,600	67,815	19,939	186,491
Contributed facilities	20,659	-	-	-	20,659
National convention/conference	51,638	-	-	-	51,638
Net investment return	1,398,678	-	-	-	1,398,678
Net assets released from restrictions	105,453	(19,303)	(49,500)	(36,650)	-
Other	425	-	-	-	425
	<u>1,998,182</u>	<u>(7,618)</u>	<u>18,315</u>	<u>(16,711)</u>	<u>1,992,168</u>
Total support and revenue					
EXPENSES:					
Program services	642,652	-	-	-	642,652
Fundraising costs	62,160	-	-	-	62,160
General and administrative	248,131	-	-	-	248,131
	<u>952,943</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>952,943</u>
Total expenses					
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,045,239	(7,618)	18,315	(16,711)	1,039,225
NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	<u>8,125,503</u>	<u>409,895</u>	<u>129,558</u>	<u>997,552</u>	<u>9,662,508</u>
NET ASSETS—End of year	<u>\$9,170,742</u>	<u>\$402,277</u>	<u>\$147,873</u>	<u>\$980,841</u>	<u>\$10,701,733</u>

See notes to the financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Salaries and wages	\$ 151,831	\$ 17,528	\$ 88,025	\$ 257,384
Employee benefits	62,039	7,162	35,968	105,169
Distributions to state departments	54,316	-	-	54,316
Professional fees	1,566	-	46,820	48,386
Scholarship program benefits	36,650	-	-	36,650
Printing, stationery, and office supplies	10,866	2,104	11,993	24,963
Conferences and meetings	30,244	-	-	30,244
Fundraising expenses	29,934	30,065	300	60,299
Payroll taxes	11,172	1,287	6,443	18,902
Expenses of national convention	61,072	-	-	61,072
Contributed facilities	13,296	2,539	4,824	20,659
Disaster program benefits	33,000	-	-	33,000
Service program Benefits	35,803	-	-	35,803
Expenses of national commander and officers	46,795	-	-	46,795
Postage	-	-	1,348	1,348
Travel	13,030	-	67	13,097
Other	51,038	1,475	52,343	104,856
Total	<u>\$ 642,652</u>	<u>\$ 62,160</u>	<u>\$ 248,131</u>	<u>\$ 952,943</u>

See notes to the financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Change in net assets	\$ 1,039,225
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Net change in appreciation of investments	(1,025,789)
Net loss on sale of investments	68,236
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Accrued interest receivable	5,495
Inventory	(22,382)
Receivable from general fund	(87,623)
Accounts payable and other liabilities	109,833
Payable to Life Membership Fund	87,623
Contributions distributable to state departments	6,682
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	<u>167,316</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>348,616</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Purchases of investments	(4,221,637)
Proceeds from sale of investments	3,832,871
Collections from repayment of education loans	<u>2,295</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(386,471)</u>
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(37,855)
CASH:	
Beginning of year	<u>318,329</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 280,474</u>

See notes to the financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (DAVA) is a not-for-profit membership and service organization formed under the provisions of the National Constitution of Disabled American Veterans (DAV). DAVA and its membership are organized for the betterment and improvement of the nation's disabled veterans and their families and for cooperation with all patriotic organizations and public agencies devoted to this purpose through volunteer work at veterans' hospitals, community service, educational assistance, legislative action, and encouraging good citizenship and patriotism.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Investments—Investments are carried at fair value, and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected within net investment return, in the statement of activities. The fair value of DAVA's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected in net investment return. DAVA's policy is to report its cash and cash equivalents within its investment trust accounts, which include money market funds, within investments on the statement of financial positions.

Contributions—Contributions received are recorded at their fair value and are classified as without donor restrictions or with donor restrictions for purpose. All contributions are considered without donor restrictions, unless specifically restricted by the donor. Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions.

Contributed Nonfinancial Assets—For the year ended December 31, 2024, there were no contributed nonfinancial assets received, beyond the contributed facilities, which are separately presented in the statement of activities as being utilized in the reporting period. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated based on square footage utilized by DAVA and cost of building maintenance per square foot. See Note 8—Related-Party Transactions for additional details. Based on the nature of these contributions, there is no donor-imposed restriction. Should additional nonfinancial assets be received, they would be separately recognized within the statement of activities and disclosed within the notes to the financial statements.

Accounts Receivable—Amounts recorded as accounts receivable are reduced to their net realizable value, as appropriate.

Allocation of Expenses—The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to one or more program or supporting services of the DAVA. Those expenses include salaries and wages, employee benefits, professional fees, printing, stationery, and office supplies, fundraising expenses, payroll taxes, contributed facilities, postage and other. These expenses are allocated between program, fundraising, and administrative based on the percentage of time spent by DAVA staff members on tasks related to each function.

Income Taxes—As a not-for-profit service organization, DAVA has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income taxes as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to DAVA are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Under the bylaws of DAVA, any eligible person may become a life member. Amounts paid for membership are placed in separate life membership accounts and invested; the only withdrawals permitted from these accounts are amounts required to pay local units, state departments, and National Headquarters (DAVA) per capita dues for services to be provided to the life members. Generally, life membership assets for National Headquarters per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of DAVA at the beginning of the membership year (July 1) and recognized as revenue in the statement of activities. The per capita chapter and department dues are distributed at the beginning of the membership year. The reserve for future distribution of membership dues represents the liability for the future life membership distributions to DAVA, departments, and units to assist with providing member services.

The changes during 2024 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are as follows:

Balance—January 1, 2024	<u>\$ 6,157,447</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	<u>379,437</u>
Total additions	<u>379,437</u>
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	333,192
Dues to local units	52,813
Dues to state departments	112
Other expenses	<u>8,109</u>
Total deductions	<u>394,226</u>
Net investment return	<u>182,104</u>
Balance—December 31, 2024	<u><u>\$ 6,324,762</u></u>

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Accounting Standards Codification 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The DAVA did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2024.

The DAVA's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 during 2024.

Asset Valuation Techniques—Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There has been no change in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents DAVA's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
General fund—cash equivalents	\$ 114,012	\$ -	\$ 114,012
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed income funds	3,906,983	-	3,906,983
International fixed income funds	760,992	-	760,992
Domestic equity funds	6,708,499	-	6,708,499
International equity funds	2,158,518	-	2,158,518
Total mutual funds/ETFs	13,534,992	-	13,534,992
Total	\$13,649,004	\$ -	\$13,649,004
Life membership—cash equivalents	\$ 88,669	\$ -	\$ 88,669
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed income funds	2,638,625	-	2,638,625
International fixed-income funds	503,955	-	503,955
Domestic equity funds	580,149	-	580,149
Total mutual funds/ETFs	3,722,729	-	3,722,729
Total	\$ 3,811,398	\$ -	\$ 3,811,398

5. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of the passage of time or other events specified by donors. The net assets released from restrictions are as follows:

	2024
Subject to expenditure for specified purpose:	
Disaster relief program	\$ 49,500
Service program	19,303
Education loan/scholarship program	36,650
	<u>\$ 105,453</u>

Disaster Relief/Other Programs—Donations from units and individuals for disaster relief are recorded as net assets with donor restrictions, which are used for members of DAV and DAVA who are in need of temporary financial assistance due to natural disaster, such as flood or earthquake. Donations from this fund are made to DAV and benefits are paid by DAV directly to the individual. Additionally, included in the net assets with donor restrictions are donations from units and individuals that are to be used for the DAVA Caregiver Initiative, as well as Camp Corral and Winter Sports Clinic.

Service Program—Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for the service program are recorded as net assets with donor restrictions, which are used for persons eligible for DAVA who are in need of temporary financial assistance in accordance with the bylaws of DAVA. The total amount of assistance is limited to \$1,000 per individual and in the aggregate is limited to total net assets with purpose restrictions. Benefits are paid directly to the service provider and not to the individual.

Scholarship Program—Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for scholarships are recorded as net assets with donor restrictions from which scholarships are awarded to students in accordance with the bylaws of DAVA. Scholarships are paid directly to the educational institution and not to the student. In 2024, there were 16 scholarships in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 issued to selected DAVA member applicants for a total of \$36,650

6. LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The DAVA’s working capital and cash flows are attributable to the contributions received from general donations throughout the year.

The following reflects DAVA’s financial assets at December 31, 2024, reduced by the amount not available for general use within one year of the statement of financial position date due to donor restrictions.

Total assets, excluding nonfinancial assets (prepaid expenses and others)	\$ 20,085,285
Subtract: Life Membership Fund	(6,324,762)
Subtract: with donor restrictions for specific purposes	<u>(1,530,991)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 12,229,532</u>

The DAVA has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due. In addition, as part of its liquidity management, the DAVA invests cash in excess of daily requirements in various long-term investments. The DAVA’s long-term investments, such as common stocks, index funds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), and actively managed mutual funds, are invested with the intent on providing a safe return on investments for the general fund use.

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Certain employees of DAVA are covered by the Disabled American Veterans Retirement Plan, a defined benefit pension plan. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee’s compensation. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to-date, but also for those expected in the future. In 2024, DAV charged DAVA \$105,169 for its share of the retirement plan costs, as well as other benefits for employees, including health and life insurance and contributions to a defined contribution plan.

DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees and their spouses. All employees of DAVA may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for DAVA. In 2024, DAV did not charge DAVA for these benefits as such amounts are immaterial.

8. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

DAV provides services to the DAVA, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of DAVA.

DAVA occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters’ building and also uses certain office equipment owned by DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be \$20,659 in 2024 and is included as revenue and expense in the accompanying statement of activities.

Certain costs are paid by DAV National Headquarters on behalf of DAVA. Such costs are reimbursed by DAVA. As of December 31, 2024, DAVA owed approximately \$189,682 for such costs.

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2024, but before April 8, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

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