



Duties and Responsibilities of the Benefits Protection Team Leader

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There are **TWO** general responsibilities of a BPTL:

Advance DAV's message in your community

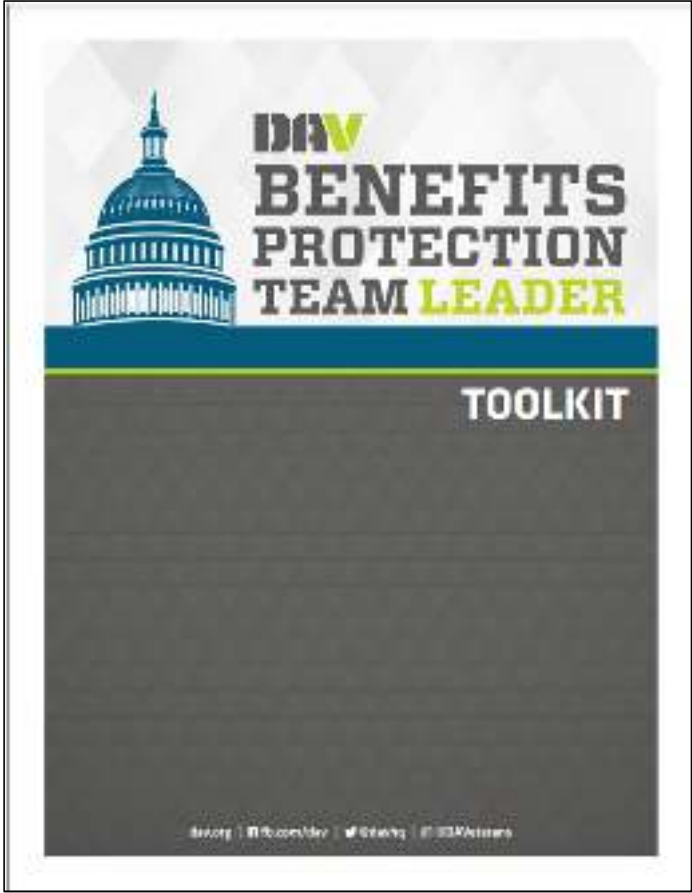
Advance DAV's message in Congress

There are **TWO** general responsibilities of a BPTL:

Advance DAV's message in your community

Advance DAV's message in Congress

- Build and maintain a grassroots network
- Develop relationships with your elected representatives
- Increase the number of DAV CAN subscribers
- Train Chapter BPTLs
- Help develop resolutions for DAV National Convention
- Help educate DAV members and Congress
- Advocate for state/local veteran issues





V

Reserve Clause of this specific regulation, the necessary action to be taken and the resolution to be implemented. Be specific about the action to be taken.

It is also important to avoid the temptation of not linking to give relevant justifications in the Reserve Clause. Keep your Reserve Clause short and specific.

One final point, use the “AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED” language sparingly. Most commonly used in legislative parties (the president, members of the House and Senate, etc.) but it can be the subject of the resolution, the content of this clause is commonly stated by inserting necessary information in further justifications (Whom Clause). It is done

even when using the “ENACTED” language. Remember, there is a rule of thumb, do not use it.

Remember the legislative staffs available to assist you with any questions. You can also visit the DRV website at <http://www.drv.org> or contact the legislative staffs directly to review current resolutions and determine if your idea is currently a resolution or to see how other resolutions were written.

These guidelines should prove useful to those at various stages of the drafting resolution for DRV legislative and administrative goals. If followed, you should find yourself with a strong, well-drafted, explicit resolution – one that will prove to be an effective vehicle and will greatly improve the legislative effort here in Washington, D.C.

EXAMPLE OF A PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED RESOLUTION

<p>Title Describe, in brief, the purpose and the objective of the bill.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SENATOR LEGISLATION TO DEMAND THE PROTECTION AGAINST DISABILITY RIGHTS AS MILITARY VETERAN PAY AND VETERAN'S DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR ALL LOW-INCOME RETIRED VETERANS</p>
<p>Whereas Clause Use this clause to establish the facts, conditions, and circumstances.</p>	<p>WHEREAS, certain low-income retired veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in lengths of service do not receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to full military retired pay; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, those disabled veterans who do not receive military pay in an amount equal to the disability compensation they receive; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the effect of such a scenario who have served the ability to military service, and such of those veterans have actually spent pay by those of their long service in the United States and actually spent from disability due to military service (VA);</p>
<p>Resolved Clause Describe specifically the course of action to be taken to achieve the goal.</p>	<p>THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DO HEREBY DEMAND that the United States Congress, in August 19-21, 2015, support legislation to equal the value between military long pay and VA disability compensation.</p>





V Section A

BUILDING A NETWORK OF NETWORKS FOR DAV

Generally speaking, individuals are more sympathetic to ideas disseminated by the small group of people who are closest to them (immediate family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.). Also, a message can be spread easily when group members of one group are connected to members of other groups. Establishing a network of networks can be a highly effective way of reaching your message to disseminated to large numbers of individuals, both within your local circle of family, friends and acquaintances and outside your sphere of influence.

TELEPHONE TIPS: One of the most effective ways to reach individuals that important messages are widely disseminated is the telephone. It is best to assign someone other than those to face calls to make individual calls. In this way, each individual will spend less time on an individual call and more calls will be placed and more leaders.



For example, the Department Benefits Protection Team Leader (DBPTL) might assign to himself or herself, the department commander and two Chapter Benefits Protection Team Leaders (CBPTL). The commander could be assigned to call the adjuster and two line officers, each of whom could be assigned to

call other CBPTLs or department officers. The CBPTL could be assigned two other department officers to call the other command officers, who could be given responsibility for calling the chapter adjuster and chapter line officers. As you can see, a telephone tree, usually requires gathering names and phone numbers of individuals and having it documented to help track of each individual's responsibilities in case someone is not available for involvement purposes.

EMAIL: Establish a contact list with all the email addresses of your Benefits Protection Team Members, including your commander, adjuster and line officers. When you receive an alert from DAV, you can quickly forward the message to your benefit protection team contacts and personal contacts, asking them to get the message out to their contacts.

In order to distribute communications through email to multiple recipients, a good idea is to establish email groups. The best of creating a group with one address is usually done in Outlook, Gmail, and Yahoo Mail. It provides an address that can be "blasted" to groups of people privately and prevent the participants address in your network from being used for purposes outside the point for which you create your list. By placing your email contacts in the "BCC" or blind carbon copy address field, you could avoid complications that come with everyone on the distribution receiving "copy all" messages that could derail the purpose of your communication. If you have difficulty establishing a group address list as described, someone who is more savvy with technology. You can also contact the Legislative or Communications staff at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters for assistance.

NEWSLETTERS: If you are not the editor of a benefit newsletter, then DAV offers, and distributes DAV's "Benefits" page on their website. If you benefit already, check to "like" the DAV Facebook page to be sure you receive all DAV's Facebook posts.

Facebook is also a great way to send out private messages to individuals in a group.

• Don't forget, forward DAV's message to your Twitter followers.

• If you are a bigger copy DAV CAN (Congressional Action Network) alert to your site and post them.





V Section C

GUIDELINES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING



SCHEDULE THE MEETING

- Call to set or fix your legislator's office to schedule the meeting.
- If you share the specific issues in the office hours, it may not matter if the issues are from across your legislative team's jurisdiction (local and regional) or from their legislative district.

PREPARING FOR THE MEETING

- Plan to discuss no more than two or three issues. Meetings usually last 15 to 25 minutes, depending on the member's schedule.
- Learn everything you can about your legislator (to your capacity), and be ready to defend your position. (No relevant issues, the legislator may only refer you back to your legislative program or benefit.)
- Bring talking points or IDAV's legislative practice.
- If you are attending the meeting as a group, pick a spokesperson to lead the discussion.

BY THE MEETING

- Arrive about 15 minutes before the appointment time. It's best to call your legislator's office and confirm the appointment and request a time to meet.
- Don't be upset if you end up meeting with the legislator's staff. They are often more knowledgeable of individual issues than the legislator themselves, and they will inform the legislator of your views and requests.
- Introduce yourself and all members of your group to the legislative staff members (if there are other people) and where possible, bring a minute or two

- of "word of mouth" state your position (or if in a staff you have to discuss).
- Be concise, factual, brief and respectful, and be sure to listen carefully.
- Be ready to answer questions and discuss your issue in detail. If you cannot answer the question, let them know that someone from the IDAV National Legislative Department will be in touch with them. Make sure you inform the IDAV legislative staff of the question and the person to contact in the legislator's office.
- If the legislator disagrees with you, you can respectfully debate the issues, if you feel comfortable, but do not become over-argumentative. Highlight the positives of your campaign, and sharpen the conversation on applicable issues.
- Remain respectful throughout the meeting.

AFTER THE MEETING

- If there are any follow-up letters or email that bring your legislator or staff members. Also include any additional information you may have offered to provide in support of your issue. The follow-up message is important, because it confirms your commitment to your cause and helps build a valuable relationship between you and your legislator.
- Stay in touch with congressional staff throughout the year.

BPTL Toolkit



DAV COMMANDER'S ACTION NETWORK

- Keeps you informed
- Catalyst to action



[Find An Office](#) [Member Resources](#)

Search DAV

VETERANS
Need Claims Help?

MEMBERSHIP
Join, Shop

LEARN MORE
Learn About Our Mission

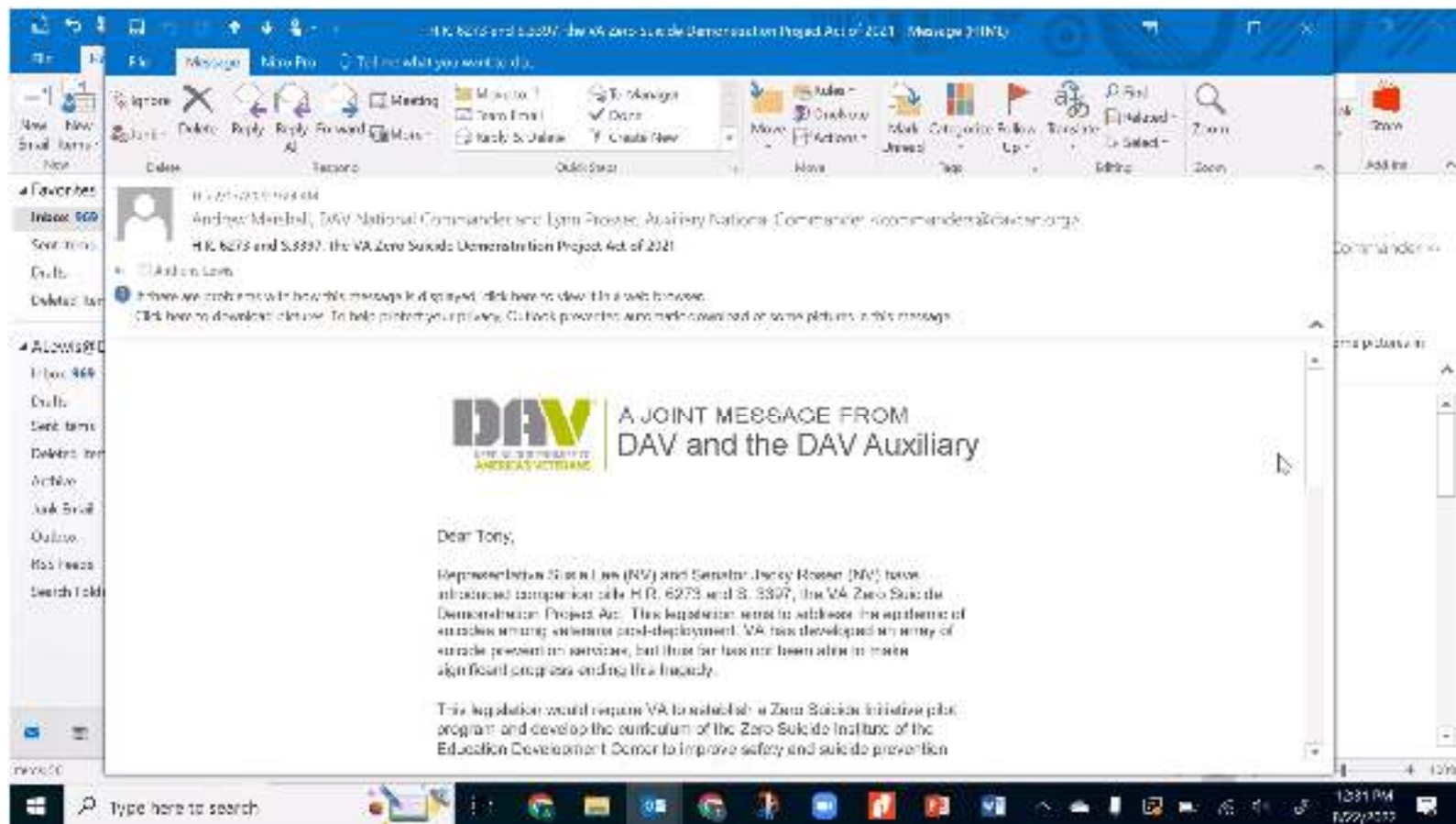
HELP DAV
Support, Volunteer, Advocate

DONATE NOW

DAV helps veterans get the benefits they've earned.

OUR MISSION





YOU RECEIVED AN ALERT FROM DAV CAN WHAT NOW?

- Forward the email to your network (Bcc)
- Share on social media
- Inform members at Chapter meetings



YOU RECEIVED AN ALERT FROM DAV CAN WHAT NOW?

Next level:

- Lobbying your elected representative
- Coordinating a campaign with local VSO coalition
- Contacting local news media

IMPORTANT: SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM DAV LEGISLATIVE or COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

ADVOCATE FOR STATE/LOCAL VETERAN ISSUES

- DAV's national legislative team advocates for FEDERAL veteran policy
- STATE/LOCAL veteran policy is the responsibility of your Department's Benefit Protection Team



ADVOCATE FOR STATE/LOCAL VETERAN ISSUES



ADVOCATE FOR STATE/LOCAL VETERAN ISSUES

A BILL to allow the state National Guard to pay a death benefit to Guard members' next of kin if the member was on active service for the state at time of death.

STATE ISSUE



ADVOCATE FOR STATE/LOCAL VETERAN ISSUES

There are efforts to revoke entitlement to a \$5,000 property tax exemption for veterans with a service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater.

STATE/LOCAL ISSUE



ADVOCATE FOR STATE/LOCAL VETERAN ISSUES

There is a proposal to expand eligibility for a program that provides tuition assistance at any of the state's public colleges and universities to spouses and children of veterans who have been rated as totally and permanently disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

STATE ISSUE



ADVOCATE FOR STATE/LOCAL VETERAN ISSUES

Legislation has been introduced that, if enacted, would expand eligibility for State Veterans Homes to Gold Star parents.

STATE ISSUE



ADVOCATE FOR STATE/LOCAL VETERAN ISSUES

City council members have expressed a desire to have the local post office renamed in honor of a local veteran who died while participating in disaster relief on state National Guard duty.

FEDERAL ISSUE



CONTACT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

It is **IMPORTANT** to establish a relationship with your elected representative's office.

- office visits
- telephone calls

CONTACT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Provide an agenda or talking points ahead of time
- Know your issues; stay on message
- Be friendly and **NON-PARTISAN**

CONTACT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES:

- Encourage them to introduce bills based on a DAV Resolutions
- Encourage staff to reach out to DAV national legislative staff
- Give DAV national legislative staff a heads up if your member plans to introduce an important bill

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? IDEAS?

Contact us:

(202) 554-3501

Shane: sliermann@dav.org

(benefits, claims, appeals)

Marquis: mbarefield@dav.org

(healthcare policy)

Naomi: nmathis@dav.org

(women veterans)

Tony: alewis@dav.org

(healthcare policy)



Thank You!

Questions?