

DAV EMPOWERS VETERANS

RESPECT
ADVOCACY
HONOR
SUPPORT
COMMITMENT





DAV History

DAV History



DAV History

WWI concluded in 1919 and the nation was ill prepared.

- ❖ More than 200,000 soldiers were wounded during the war.
- ❖ 2 Million were released from service.
- ❖ In 1918, 4 million Americans were jobless

DAV History

Recession and unemployment crippled the American economy. At this time, the VA had not been created.



Many disabled veterans were selling pencils on sidewalks to earn money.

DAV History

The few government agencies charged with the responsibility for veterans were under funded, often working at cross-purposes and required veterans seeking help to complete an abundance of paperwork, much to the dismay of veterans. Many gave up, finding themselves looking to each other for help.

It was in this environment that groups of disabled veterans gathered across the country, some for social purposes, others working to raise money and create jobs for their comrades.

DAV History

The Ohio Mechanics Institute (OMI), a training school for disabled veterans, asked for help from celebrated disabled veterans.



Enter Cincinnati-born U.S. Army Captain Robert S. Marx, a wounded veteran, who upon recovery returned to his law practice in Cincinnati, won a Superior Court judgeship, and became the champion of the disabled veterans cause.

DAV History

At a 1919 Christmas Eve celebration, Judge Marx and others discussed the need for an organization for disabled veterans.

In 1920 he was instrumental in the establishment of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW).

[Centennial - DAV](#)



DAV History

September 25, 1920, is the considered the birthday of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW). A caucus of 250 veterans met in Cincinnati, and the DAVWW was divided into state and local chapters.

Subsequently, Judge Marx traveled to 32 states to build local chapters.

The 1st DAV National Convention was held on June 27, 1921 in Detroit, MI.

- ❖ National Constitution and By-laws created.
- ❖ Judge Marx elected 1st National Commander.

DAV History



National Commander Marx stated:

“In war, all are eligible to be wounded, so all the sick and wounded would be eligible to join the DAVWW.”

DAV History

That is the early story of the DAV. To learn more, please read “Wars & Scars”. Other early notable facts:

- ❖ 1922 Saw the launch of fundraising of the “forget-me-not”
- ❖ Henry Ford provided 50 Model T’s for the 2nd National Convention, a partnership that endures.

DAV History

History Summary

In a time before the VA, Voc Rehab and the VA Healthcare system, disabled veterans joined together to advocate and fight for these programs.

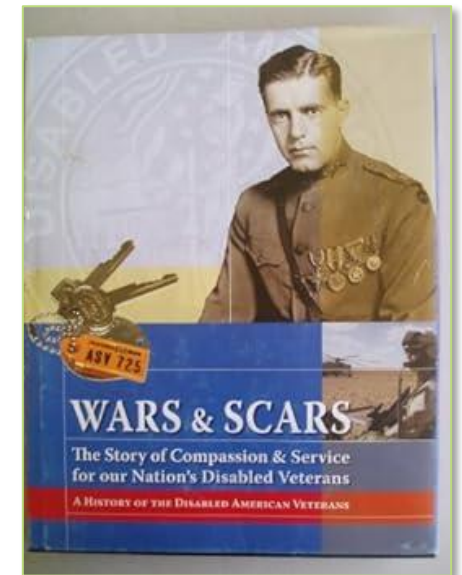
DAV was the 1st VSO to address the specific needs of disabled veterans.

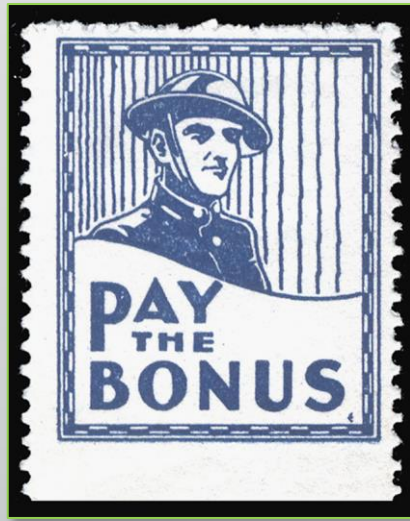
DAV History

A digital copy of “Wars & Scars” is available online.

We encourage you to read and learn even more.

www.dav.org/about-dav/history





March of the Bonus Army

March of the Bonus Army

- ❖ The practice of war-time military compensation readjustment (bonus) began in 1776,
- ❖ Breaking with tradition, veterans of the Spanish–American War did not receive a bonus and World War I veterans, received only a \$60 bonus.
- ❖ On May 15, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge vetoed a bill granting bonuses, saying: "**patriotism... bought and paid for is not patriotism.**"
- ❖ Congress overrode his veto a few days later, enacting the World War Adjusted Compensation Act.

March of the Bonus Army

- ❖ They were issued as Certificates of Service maturing in 20 years in 1945.
- ❖ In 1931, because of the Great Depression, there was congressional support for the immediate redemption of the military service certificates
- ❖ In 1932, the Bonus March began to get Congress to pass legislation to grant early cash payouts of the bonus.



March of the Bonus Army

- ❖ On June 15, 1932, the US House of Representatives passed a bill to grant veterans their cash bonus.
- ❖ On June 17 the U.S. Senate voted on the Bonus Bill. The bill was defeated by a vote of 62–18.
- ❖ After the bill's defeat, many of the veterans did not leave Washington DC. Most of the Bonus Army camped in "Hooverville" on the Anacostia Flats.
- ❖ Approximately 10,000 veterans, women and children lived in the shelters.

March of the Bonus Army

On July 28, 1932, when congress ended its session, President Hoover ordered the Secretary of War to disperse the protesters.



The 12th Infantry Regiment, commanded by General Douglas A. MacArthur and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, commanded by Maj. George S. Patton and supported by six M1917 light tanks formed on Pennsylvania Avenue.

March of the Bonus Army

After the cavalry charged, the infantry, with fixed bayonets and tear gas, entered the camps, evicting veterans, families, and camp followers.

The veterans fled across the Anacostia River to their largest camp, and Hoover ordered the assault stopped.

The troops injured more than one hundred (100) veterans under the orders from Hoover.

When the veterans moved back into camp in DC, police drew their revolvers and shot at the veterans, two of whom, died later.



March of the Bonus Army

During the presidential campaign of 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt had opposed the veterans' bonus demands.

When they organized a second demonstration in May 1933, he provided the marchers with a campsite in Virginia and provided them three meals a day.

Congress passed the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act in 1936, authorizing the immediate payment of the \$2 billion in World War I bonuses

President Roosevelt vetoed the bill. However, Congress overrode Roosevelt's veto of the measure.

March of the Bonus Army



The PBS documentary, “The March of the Bonus Army” provides more detail. The documentary was sponsored by DAV.

<https://youtu.be/Fw2xHk894sA?si=Lw9N5ypHqI9oQy4Y>





DAV Mission Statement and Core Values

DAV Mission Statement

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

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

DAV Mission Statement

- ❖ 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 government.
- ❖ 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 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.

DAV Mission Statement

- ❖ 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 government.
- ❖ 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.

DAV Core Values (SQIL)

Service:

To empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity and to keep the DAV mission first and foremost in all that we do.

Quality:

To provide the highest possible quality representation and advocacy services to ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors.

DAV Core Values (SQIL)

Integrity:

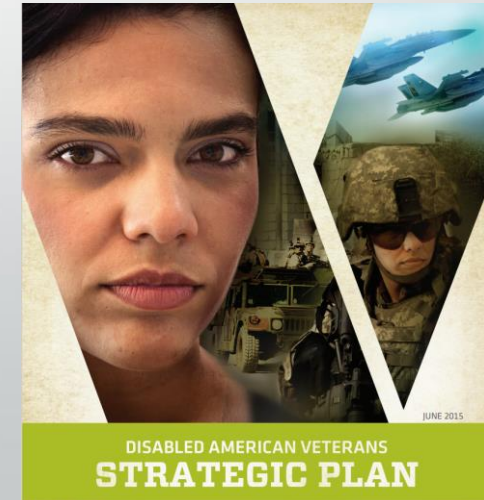
To maintain the highest ethical and moral standards as a charitable service organization accountable to those we serve as well as to those who support us.

Leadership:

To plan strategically and act to guarantee our future preeminence as a provider of advocacy and voluntary services to veterans.



DAV Strategic Plan



DAV Strategic Plan

Goal 1: SERVICE

Enhance DAV's position as the preeminent provider of professional services and advocacy for ill and injured veterans and their families.

The Service Department is responsible for all of DAV's Service Programs to include NSOs, Transition Service Officers (TSOs), Department and Chapter Service Officers (DSO/CSO). This is the largest Department in DAV.

DAV has NSO Offices across the country, predominately located at every VA Regional Office. Information Seminars, DSO/CSO Training, and Transition Assistance are all under the Service Department.

National Service Director: Jim Marszalek
DAV National Service & Legislative HQ; Washington, DC

DAV Strategic Plan

Goal 2: EMPLOYMENT

Be the leader among veteran service organizations in connecting transitioning service members, ill and injured veterans and their spouses with meaningful employment opportunities.

DAV is committed to ensuring that the men and women who stood up for America have the tools, resources and opportunities they need to competitively enter the job market and secure meaningful employment.

DAV recognizes the value, talent, education and work ethics that veterans add to the workforce. Through our partnerships with Recruit Military and Veteran Recruiting, DAV is sponsoring career fairs including virtual events, to connect veterans with employers.

National Employment Director: Ryan Burgos
DAV National Headquarters; Erlanger, KY

DAV Strategic Plan

Goal 3: VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Recruit and retain volunteers to improve the quality of service to ill and injured veterans and their families.

DAV offers a wide range of opportunities for individuals who want to make good on the commitment we've given our nation's heroes.

The major programs of Voluntary Services are:

- ❖ DAV's Transportation Network
- ❖ Hospital Service Coordinators
- ❖ Voluntary Services at VA Medical Centers
- ❖ Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)
- ❖ Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship
- ❖ DAV and VA National Winter Sports Clinic
- ❖ DAV and VA Disabled Veterans Golf Classic

National Voluntary Services Director: John Kleindienst
DAV National Headquarters; Erlanger, KY

DAV Strategic Plan

Goal 4: LEGISLATION

Increase DAV's ability to influence public policy in furtherance of DAV's mission to advance the interests of all ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors.

DAV's multi-aspect legislative campaign provides this education and support in the nation's capitol and across the country.

The National Legislative Department is responsible for creating DAV's Legislative Agenda out of the resolutions passed at our National Convention each year.

National Legislative Director: Joy Ilem
DAV National Service & Legislative HQ; Washington, DC

DAV Strategic Plan

Goal 5: MEMBERSHIP

Increase DAV membership and provide opportunities for future generations of ill and injured veterans to become involved in DAV programs and activities.

DAV is an organization of veterans helping veterans. We receive no government funding and look out for our members 100% of the time because we have been in their shoes.

National Membership Director: Doug Wells
DAV National Headquarters; Erlanger, KY

DAV Strategic Plan

Goal 6: COMMUNICATIONS

Increase organizational awareness to educate the public and veterans about DAV's unique services and messages.

The Communications Department maintains DAV's website, publishes the DAV Magazine, create videos, maintain and monitor DAV's Social Media presence, and coordinate and direct presentations at both the National Mid-Winter Conference and the National Convention.

National Communications Director: Rob Lewis
DAV National Headquarters; Erlanger, KY

DAV Strategic Plan

To see the DAV Strategic Plan:

[Strategic-Plan.pdf \(dav.org\)](#)



DAV Organization & National Convention

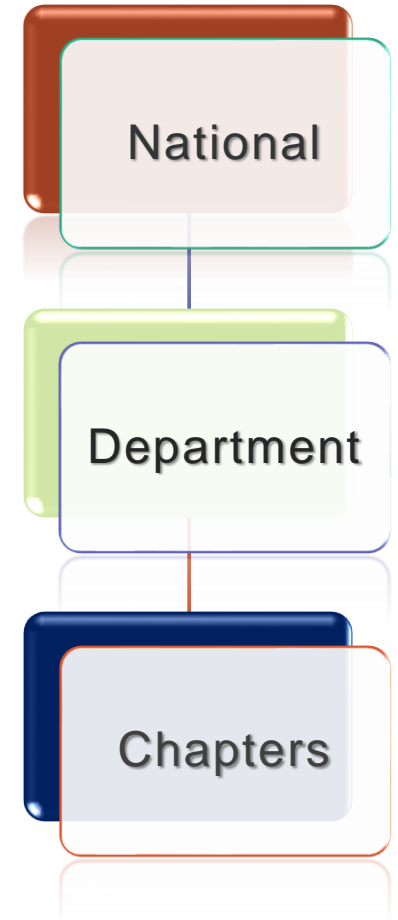
DAV National Constitution & Bylaws

The activities of the National DAV organization are governed by the National Constitution & Bylaws and NEC Regulations.

Each member of DAV should have access to, and be familiar with, the National C&B, as well as the Department C&B and Chapter C&B.

For a copy of the National C&B:

[Constitution Bylaws 2023.pdf \(dav.org\)](#)



DAV Organization

DAV is a membership-based organization. Our members make up our 1300 Chapters across the country.

Each Chapter falls under the jurisdiction of their state leadership which is called a Department.

All Chapters in Minnesota fall under the Department of Minnesota.



DAV Organization

Each Department is assigned to a National District. The Department of Minnesota is in the 14th District with the Departments of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

Each District elects a National Executive Committee-member (NEC) every two years (even districts in even numbered years, odd districts in odd numbered years) .

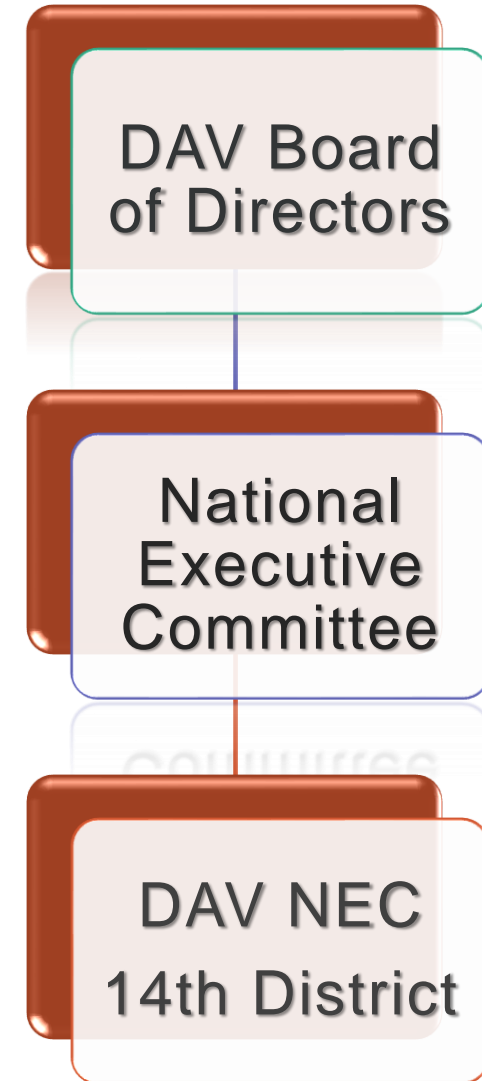


DAV Organization

Each NEC has a seat on the National Executive Committee with the National Line Officers.

DAV also has a Board of Directors made of up NEC's and DAV's National Line Officers.

This hierarchy is found in the DAV National Constitution and Bylaws.



DAV Organization

National Convention

Two of the major features of the National Convention:

1. Election of National Leadership
2. DAV's Legislative Authority lies with the National Convention.

Election of National Leadership

National Commander
Senior Vice Commander
1st Junior Vice Commander
2nd Junior Vice Commander
3rd Junior Vice Commander
4th Junior Vice Commander
National Chaplain
National Judge Advocate

DAV Organization

National Convention

DAV's Legislative Authority lies with the National Convention.

DAV's legislative agenda for the upcoming year is established at our National Convention.

All resolutions from each Department are discussed at Committee Meetings and then brought to the floor for a vote.

DAV Organization

National Convention

These resolutions come from National Committees but most importantly they come from each Department. At each Department Convention, they vote on resolutions for national issues.

Each Department receives their resolutions from Chapters.

DAV's National Legislative Agenda comes from resolutions. This is why it is so important for Chapters to continue writing and submitting resolutions.



DAV Chapters

Chapter Constitution & Bylaws (C&B)

Each Chapter must have an approved, up to date Constitution & Bylaws at each meeting of the Chapter, with a copy affixed to the rear of the framed Chapter Charter.

The activities of the Chapter are governed by the National, Department, and Chapter Constitution & Bylaws.

The C&B must not conflict with either the Department or National C&B. Any changes to the C&B must be approved by the membership of the Chapter after a reading at two meetings, then sent to the National Judge Advocate for final approval.

Chapter Operations

Each Chapter must elect, annually, officers for the Chapter, and the results of that election must be sent to both the Department and National organizations.

A separate seminar on Effective Chapter Operations is available from the Department and is highly recommended for each Chapter to present not only to the leadership, but to each member.



Resources

Resources

National Website: www.DAV.org

resources for Chapter members and leaders

MyDAV: www.myDAV.org

a portal that is made for each individual DAV member

Department Website: www.davmn.org



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS

