



August Newsletter

Commanders update

Hello everyone! Thank you to everyone who was able to make it out to state convention 6/10-6/13. We have a full slate of new and returning officers who are eager to make this a wonderful year. As a recap and for those who were unable to attend - our national guest Kathy Wenthe was present from Louisiana and provided great information about updates we can make to our convention and put our best foot forward for the coming year.

Giving back

We spent a few hours making bears (and a few bunnies!) out of wash clothes to be donated at your local care centers and hospitals. This was a great activity that allowed us to work together. If you'd like to share this with your unit, I've linked the instructions [here](#):



Moving forward



Upcoming events:
 Williams Stand down: 9/11
 Unit 2 POW/MIA Event 9/18
 Fall Conference: 9/24-9/26
 MidTerms: 1/16/2027

Meet your officers:

RHIANNON SIEGEL

It is an absolute honor to have been elected as your Commander for 2026-2027! Thank you for entrusting me with such a great responsibility. I promise to do everything I can to make this the best year for all of us.

I have been a member of DAVA for 21 years (counting my time as a junior). starting with unit 22 until we merged with unit 1. I am eligible through my mother (Desert Storm), My Grandfather (WWII, Vietnam) and almost every other family family who are still serving on active duty today.

I look forward to spending this year dedicated to service and building on the foundation we've created. I am available everyday after 3pm. You can reach me by text, call, or email

Cell: 480-600-9998

Email: Siegel.rhi@icloud.com

Thank you,

Rhiannon Siegel
 Commander



SHANNON SANDERS

Dear Members,

It is a true honor to have been elected as your Senior Vice Commander for the 2026-2027 year. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, and participated in our state convention.

I joined the DAVA and became a member of Glendale Unit 20 in 2012, eligible through a long family history of military service. My grandmother and grandfather both served in WWII, my father and uncle served in Vietnam, and my husband served in Desert Storm.

Reflecting on my past 14 years of service with the Auxiliary, I am incredibly proud to witness the continued dedication of our Units and their members. We are united by our shared principles of comradeship, loyalty, devotion, and service. I look forward to a prosperous year ahead as we continue our mission to serve Arizona veterans and their families.

Best regards,

Shannon Sanders
Senior Vice Commander



SUSAN MURPHY

Susan Murphy proudly serves as the Junior Vice Commander of the Arizona Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Auxiliary, where she is dedicated to supporting disabled veterans, their families, and the mission of the DAV Auxiliary throughout Arizona. In this leadership role, she will work alongside state officers and local auxiliary units to strengthen membership, encourage volunteerism, and promote programs that improve the lives of those who have served our nation.

Her commitment to the veteran community is deeply personal. She is the proud wife of a retired Vietnam veteran, the mother of a medically retired U.S. Air Force veteran, and the mother of a son currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. These experiences have given her a firsthand understanding of the sacrifices made by military families and inspire her continued service and advocacy.

Professionally, Susan has dedicated more than 20 years to healthcare as a Respiratory Therapist, including over 15 years in supervisory leadership. Throughout her career, she has been committed to delivering compassionate patient care, mentoring healthcare professionals, and fostering teamwork while maintaining high standards of clinical excellence. Her leadership experience, combined with her passion for service, provides a strong foundation for her work within the DAV Auxiliary. Known for her compassion, integrity, and collaborative leadership style,

Susan is committed to strengthening Arizona's DAV Auxiliary, supporting local units, and ensuring that veterans and their families receive the respect, resources, and recognition they deserve. She is honored to serve those who have sacrificed so much for our country and looks forward to continuing the Auxiliary's mission of service and advocacy.



Nancy Hairston

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 21, 1951, and grew up as a proud city girl in a middle-class family with German, French, and Cherokee heritage—although my husband insists I must really be an alien from another planet! After graduating from Business College, I began my career in accounting before discovering my passion for skincare and makeup, eventually owning my own store in a major Phoenix mall. My connection to the military began when I became a USO girl, where I met my first husband, and after several years of military life—including time stationed in Italy and at Luke Air Force Base—I eventually settled in Arizona. After my second husband passed away in 2004, I joined the DAV Auxiliary Cactus Unit 2 in Tucson, where I quickly found my calling in serving Veterans and their families. Over the years, I have served as Unit Chaplain, Treasurer, and Commander, as well as Department of Arizona Treasurer, while volunteering at the Arizona State Home, Fisher House, Esperanza at Escalante, Veteran events, POW/MIA programs, and helping Veteran families with transportation and other needs. Alongside my husband Dallas, also a Veteran, I continue to dedicate my time to the DAV Auxiliary, while cherishing every moment with my six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, because serving Veterans and their families is truly near and dear to my heart.



Sharon Linton

Past State Commander Sharon Linton has been a life Member of the DAV Auxiliary Phoenix Unit One, since 1992. Her eligibility is through her father a World War 2 veteran and husband Tom who has been a DAV Life Member of Chapter One since 1974. Retiring after 35 years of management with the telephone company, Sharon has dedicated her time and talents to the Auxiliary and currently serves as senior Vice commander of Unit One. She has the support of her husband and extended family in her endeavors to aid our Disabled Veterans.

"It has been my privilege to serve as Past State Commander for the Arizona DAVA from 2007-2010. Past State Adjutant for over 10 years and NEC for National DAV Auxiliary. I am very thankful to the Foundation for Service Dog Support for Charlie. He made a big difference in our lives. We now have Ruby as our service dog. As a cancer survivor, it has given me a deeper concern for our disabled veterans experience and whenever possible I try to help in any way I can."

