

AWARDS TRAINING – 2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

1. Department Awards Program

- a. The Department Awards Program is designed to give Commanders the opportunity to recognize members of their Chapter who have made significant or noteworthy contribution to Chapter operations and the community during the year.
- b. There is no cost to the Chapter for any awards that are presented to their members by Department.
- c. Department Awards include:
 - i. Distinguished Service Award (Department's highest award. Once in a lifetime.)
 - ii. Disabled Veteran of the Year Award (Once in a lifetime)
 - iii. **Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) of the Year**
 - iv. **Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year**
 - v. Department Appreciation Award
 - vi. Small Business Award
 - vii. Large Business Award
 - viii. The Department Commander selects the Commander of the Year and Chapter of the Year awards.
- d. Department award nominations are normally due to Department Admin by April 15th.
- e. Award nominations must be submitted on the approved form.
- f. To date, only a few Chapters have been taking advantage of this opportunity to recognize and motivate Chapter members. It is important to let your members know that their contributions are recognized and appreciated—and it doesn't cost the Chapter a penny!

2. DAV National Awards Program

- a. DAV (Disabled American Veterans) presents the **DAV National Commander's Awards** to three devoted and accomplished Department of Veterans Affairs employees for their outstanding commitment to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and National Cemeteries Administration (NCA).
- b. **DAV's Disabled American Veteran of the Year** award recognizes one service-connected disabled veteran whose perseverance in overcoming a life-changing disability serves as inspiration for other veterans, and who demonstrates responsible citizenship through veterans advocacy and various other civic activities.
 - i. Whether a doctor, judge, government official, athlete, or even a chef, the recipient of this annual honor epitomizes veterans' continued commitment to their country, community and fellow veterans in their post-military life.
 - ii. The Department Disabled Veteran of the Year is submitted as the Department's candidate for the national award at the next year's National Convention.
- c. **DAV's Recruiter of the Year** award recognizes the member who recruited the most new members during the preceding fiscal year.