



A Moment of Reflection

#DAVAImpact250

From the Desk of National Commander Melissa Pierce

This year to help honor the 250th birthday of our nation, I challenged our members to make 250 positive impacts and share those impacts using #DAVAImpact250. As my year as your National Commander comes to an end, I want to take a moment and reflect on what a great year we, the Auxiliary, has had and share a few of our impacts.

We have grown. We have reopened a state department – congratulations, Nevada! We have added fifteen new units! Thirty-five states have made quota! We are working to build our membership, so we are here to take care of future generations of veterans and their families.

We have advocated for our veterans. DAV Commanders Action Network has sent out more than 25 CAN alerts this past year. The Auxiliary has stepped up and sent thousands of emails and letters to their representatives, making sure our voices were heard.

We have supported veterans and their families in our communities. From food drives and pantries to community meals. From yardwork to taking veterans to appointments and shopping. We have shown that we are there for those in need in our communities.

We have supported our VA Medical Centers. Whether it's events during National Salute Week, baby showers, popcorn and snack carts, donations for holiday presents and Easter events, and more. We are showing our VA Medical Centers that we support them and, more importantly, support the veterans that get care through the VA Medical Center.

At our Auxiliary National Fall Conference, we came together to collect undergarments and deodorants for the veterans attending the Stand Down at DAV National Headquarters in Erlanger. We have worked together, DAV and Auxiliary, on joint service projects – food collections, clothing and toiletry collections, puzzle and coloring book collections, and more. Proving that when we work together, our impact is so much greater!

We have encouraged our juniors to become active participants in activities and events. From Forget-Me-Not drives to Valentines during Salute week. From helping place flags to leading the pledge. We are growing our junior members and teaching them by example. They are our future and doing the Auxiliary proud.

We have demonstrated our commitment to veterans and their families through our national programs – DAVA 4 Kids, Family Assistance, Scholarship, Vocational Training and our newly launched DAVA Caring for Caregivers Program. These programs are a vital part of our mission and need to be shared and supported.

When I started my year, I encouraged everyone to serve with intention – don't just act passively, but think about why you are doing what you do and who you are doing it for. I believe we have succeeded. We have served with awareness. We have served with purpose. We have served with intention.

Thank you – thank you for everything you do. Continue serving with intention. Continue making an impact. Continue working to grow our organization.

Together, we are making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families, and I could not be prouder of all we have accomplished.

Supporting Veterans is a Rewarding Experience

by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

Volunteering at the VA Medical Center is one of the most rewarding ways we can support our Veterans. As members of the DAV Auxiliary, we have the opportunity to give back to the men and women who have given so much in service to our country. Whether we're helping with activities, visiting with Veterans, assisting staff, or simply sharing a smile and conversation, every act of kindness makes a difference.

Many Veterans spend long days at the medical center, and a friendly face or a few minutes of our time can brighten their day more than we realize. Sometimes it's not about doing something big—it's about being there, listening, and showing our appreciation. Those small moments remind our Veterans that they are valued, respected, and never forgotten.

Volunteering also strengthens our Auxiliary. It shows our commitment to the mission of supporting Veterans, their families, and caregivers. Every member has something to offer, and every hour donated helps improve the lives of those we serve.

Just as important as volunteering is keeping track of the time we give. Recording our volunteer hours allows our Auxiliary to accurately complete our annual reports. Those reports tell the story of the work we do throughout the year and demonstrate the impact our members have in our communities and at the VA Medical Center. They also help the Department and National organizations show the value of the DAV Auxiliary's volunteer service and can support future programs and recognition.

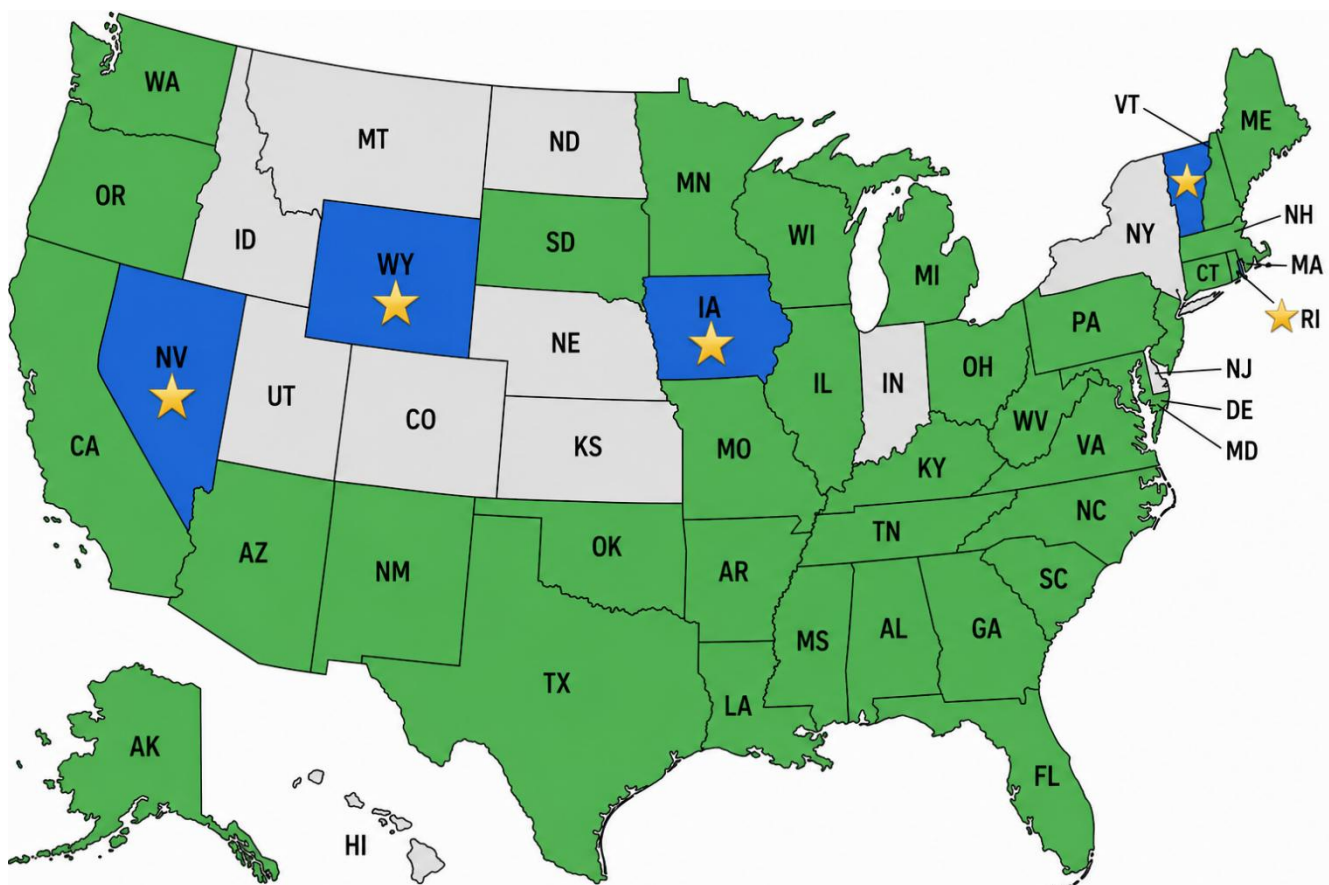
No amount of time is too small to count. Whether you volunteer for one hour, one afternoon, or several days each month, every hour matters. By keeping an accurate record of our service, we ensure that every member's contribution is recognized and that our Auxiliary receives credit for the difference we are making.

Together, through our time, compassion, and dedication, we continue to honor our promise to America's Veterans. Every visit, every helping hand, and every volunteer hour is another way we say, "Thank you for your service."

Earlier this month the membership incentive drawings took place live on Facebook. Please join us in congratulating the following recruiters and new members:

\$2,000 Carnival Cruise Gift Card – Diane Sullivan, Massachusetts

We are only stronger if we work together! Keep up the amazing work, and stay tuned for some amazing incentives in 2026-2027.



Additional information can be found online at: <https://www.dav.org/events/2026-national-convention/>