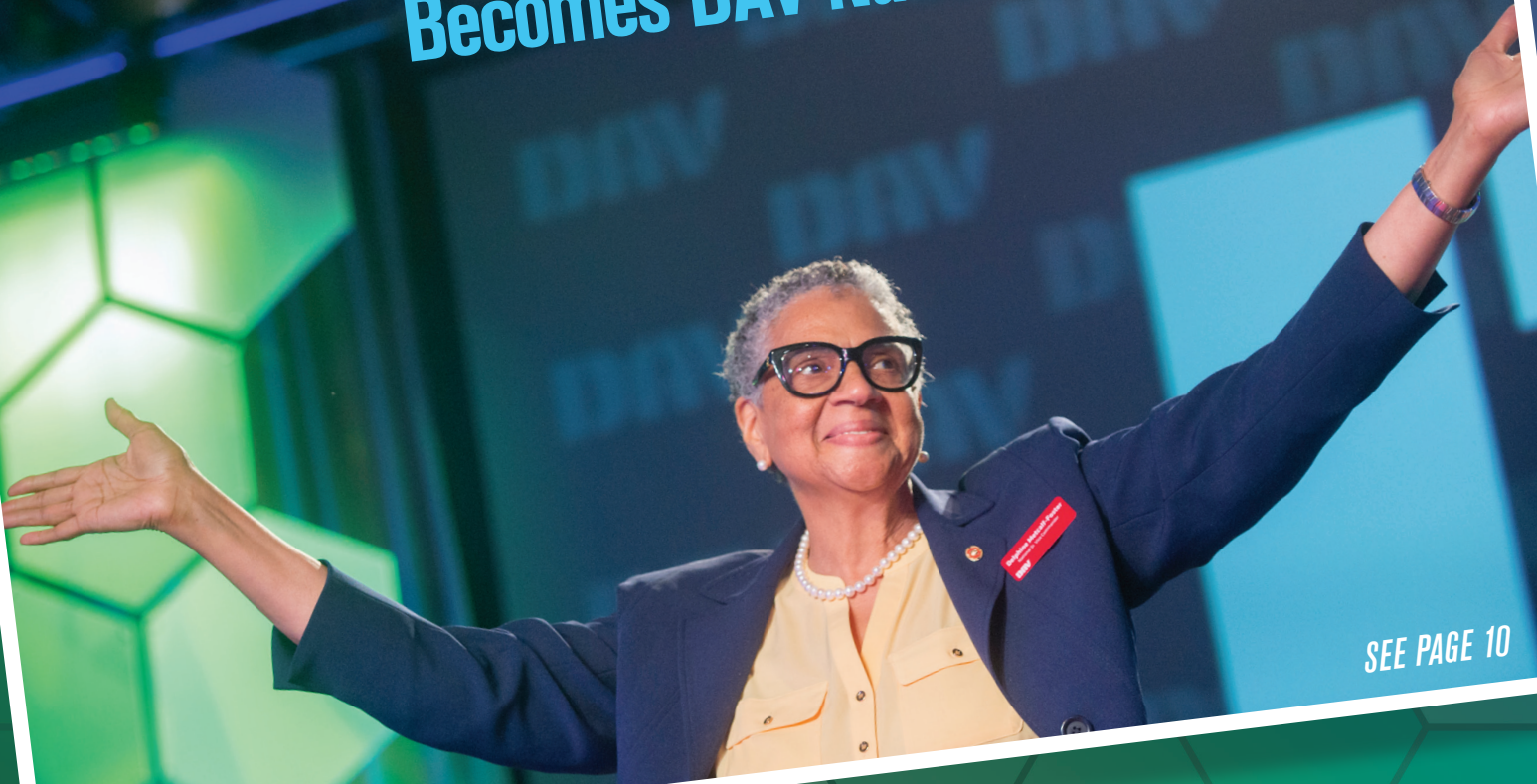




# Delphine Metcalf-Foster Becomes DAV National Commander!



SEE PAGE 10

Join DAV in Anaheim for  
**MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**  
January 19-20, 2018  
PAGE 8



# DAV DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NEWS

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## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

### DAV California 2018 Midwinter

January 19-20, 2018  
DoubleTree  
100 The City Dr. S.  
Orange, CA 92868  
(714) 634-4500  
\$125 Single/Double  
Reservation Cutoff Date:  
January 5, 2018

### DAV National 2018 Midwinter Conference

February 25-28, 2018 (Pending)  
Crystal Gateway Marriott  
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(800) 266-9432  
\$195 Single/Double

### DAV California 2018 Convention

June 6-9, 2018  
DoubleTree  
100 The City Dr.  
Orange, CA 92868  
(714) 634-4500  
\$135 Single/Double  
Reservation Cutoff Date:  
May 20, 2018

### DAV National 2018 Convention

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino  
2500 East Second St.  
Reno, NV 89595  
(800) 648-5080  
\$84 GSR Basic Room Single/Double  
\$104 Summit Room Single//Double

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## ARE YOU MOVING?

## NEW ADDRESS

Name  Membership Code #

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City  State  Zip

MAIL TO: DAV NEWS or EMAIL TO:HQ@davcal.org

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**ON THE COVER: Delphine Metcalf-Foster Becomes National Commander!**  
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## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

# Helping Through *Advocacy*



I'm honored to be elected as your Commander. It's the pinnacle of my 30 years with the DAV as a life member. So far, my schedule has had me crisscrossing around the state, visiting meetings, BBQ's, and dedications. Your enthusiasm is contagious, your passion for your fellow veterans is inspiring and I thank you for your service. We will work until every hero receives the benefits they've earned.

The following are our legislative goals for 2017, and I'm proud to say that #3 was already passed thanks to the tireless work of our legislative staff.

1) *Support Sufficient Funding for Veterans Benefits and Healthcare.* 2) *Strengthen, Reform and Sustain the VA Healthcare System.* 3) *Enact Legislation to Reform the Department of Veterans Affairs Appeals Process.* 4) *Enact Legislation to Ensure Support for Caregivers of Veterans of All Eras.* 5) *Women Veterans Deserve Improved Services and Recognition of Their Military Service.*

I want to encourage you to sign up for the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) to advocate for key legislative issues impacting the veteran community and directly voice your concerns with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Your personal involvement is critical to our mission.

On a recent trip to Sacramento with National Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, and Department Legislative Director, Richard Valdez, Richard found a sponsor and co-sponsors for a California version of the Caregivers Bill. We hope this bill will pass and send a clear message to Washington that it's time to act.

Also, membership recruitment remains vital to our community outreach. A simple way to check your chapter's monthly progress is to take your recruitment goal and divide it by twelve. Remember that new members are entitled to a member benefits package which gives them access to a variety of important programs, products and services, as well as a free subscription to DAV Magazine.

I started my travels as commander with a Segs4Vets event at the Delmar Racetrack where they gave segways

to two disabled veterans, and showed their appreciation to the DAV for our sponsorship. Along with National Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, and National DAVA 4th Jr. Vice Commander and DAVA California Adjutant, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, I attended Chapter #7's excellent BBQ for the veterans at the Martinez VA Community Living Center. While advocating for caregiver legislation

### *Save the Date!*

## Testimonial Dinner for DAV Department of California Commander, **Guy Anastasia**

**April 7, 2017**

**MORE INFO TO COME**

in Sacramento, I visited Chapter #93 in Antelope, and was impressed to see almost 50 members in attendance. Chapter #35 in Carmichael also had standing room only. These two chapters are doing a great job supporting their community. I also stopped in Fresno at the VAMC for a veteran BBQ with Chapter #1, and saw how well this chapter supports the VA and its patients. While there, I made our DSO, Mario Flores, an honorary sailor. I finished September with the Monterey Bay Veterans at their Rock Cod Derby and I'm proud to say I caught a fish bigger than James Bogan. Everyone needs to attend this event once to witness the support this group gives to the DAV and the veterans of Monterey.

I had a chance to visit with the Elizabeth Hospice and their veteran program, which supports our seasoned vets in community living centers, and witnessed the work they do for the children of our fallen heroes. I'm proud to support their efforts to enhance the lives of the veterans in southern California. As I travel, it's encouraging to see so many veterans helping veterans.

I wish you and your family a happy and festive holiday season!

*Guy Anastasia, COMMANDER*



## ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

# Streamlining Volunteerism



**A**s always, I'm excited to tackle a new year with you all. I couldn't ask for a more passionate and hard-working group of people. Last year, we encouraged our members to participate in the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) with a renewed effort and dedication, and we were impressed by your response. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the LVAP program, it is a flexible way to give back to veterans in your community. It is designed for individuals who want to help veterans, but may not live near a VA or who may have interests or talents that fit better outside of the VAVS or transportation program. The possibilities are nearly endless and can include doing yard work, grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, making repairs and more. Also, hours spent volunteering at chapter fundraising events, outreach events, stand downs, Golden Corral events, or as a chapter service officer would qualify as LVAP hours. So, those of you who are involved in such activities should make sure you're signed up and reporting your hours so we can extend our thanks!

We are proud of those of you who signed up for the LVAP program this past year, and grateful for those of you who have been involved for some time and continue to volunteer and report your hours. On the national level, the DAV is implementing a new program for reporting volunteer hours. The DAV360 is the DAV's new computer system. Over the next few years, all of their departments will be moved over to the new system but voluntary services is one of the first to implement it. It will make our organization more efficient by simplifying DAV's information so that all data is in one central location. If you are already signed up as a volunteer in DAV's system, LVAP or otherwise, your information will be automatically moved over to the new DAV360 system. If you become a new volunteer, you will need to create an account in the new system, which will replace any old

volunteer forms. Now, when you volunteer, hours of service for the Transportation Network, VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) and Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) can now be entered directly into the DAV360 system. For those who don't have access to the computer system, forms can still be mailed directly to the voluntary services department. Now, volunteer hours can be entered directly into DAV360 as well as applications and nominations for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship and the George H. Seal Award. More details on the system can be found at: <https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/VoluntaryServicesPresentation.pdf>. It

is now more convenient than ever to volunteer with the DAV and give back to veterans in your community. If you aren't already signed up for the LVAP program, or one of our other volunteer programs, we hope that you will consider offering

## I appreciate all of you who came out and participated

your time and talent to those who may need it.

I appreciate all of you who came out and participated in our convention in Reno this past June. I hope that those of you who were there had a fun time and brought back a wealth of information to your chapters and units. I'm proud to work with such a passionate bunch of veterans who are dedicated to getting involved, helping and supporting their fellow veterans, and advocating for the rights of all veterans and their families and caregivers. As we move into this next year, we have strong leadership, with one of our own, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, serving as national commander. I know that we can do great things when we educate ourselves, stay involved and connected, and help our brothers and sisters along the way. I hope to see your dedication to volunteerism continue to grow as the DAV360 system now makes it easier than ever.

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*Daniel Contreras, PSC, CEO/ADJUTANT*

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## SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

First of all, I would like to say thank you for electing me as your Senior Vice Commander this year. Even though I know we're just getting started, it feels like time is passing by fast. After attending national convention in New Orleans, it's time to get back to work. As your Senior

Vice Commander, it is my job to promote and focus on membership recruitment.

Growth is important, there is strength in numbers, and together, we can look out for each other. The work of membership recruitment needs to involve all of us, each and every member and chapter. I am available at any time if any of you have questions on how to build your chapter's membership.

Our goal for this year, for every chapter, is ambitious. But, I know with hard work and dedication from our department leadership and chapter officers, each chapter can achieve this. Last year, we were a little short of being number one in our division. But I am confident in our ability to be back on top again this year. It is my goal to see that we do. I want to be a resource

for all of you, and I hope to partner with you as you accomplish great things.

If we work together, we can achieve our membership goal. I hope that those of you in chapter leadership will reach out to your members to see if they need any assistance. We are all one big family, and family sticks together and helps

## Growth is important, there is strength in numbers...

each other. I'm looking forward to the Midwinter Conference in Anaheim, California. I hope to see a lot of you there, and I look forward to touching base with members and chapter leaders to see what we can do to make this year a great one for membership. It is an honor to serve the DAV members in California as your Senior Vice Commander.

Let's always keep our focus on our mission: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

*Ron Vogel, SR. VICE COMMANDER*



## AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

**W**hat a year 2017 has already been and we're not done yet! So many strides have already been made and there's still so much accomplish in 2018!

We had a fabulous turnout for our 2017 convention in Reno, NV. DAV went to great lengths to offer us the UCAP program and I hope that your unit took advantage of it. We accomplished a lot and so many of you stepped up to plate and got involved. I know that those of you who attended were able to bring back much-needed information, ideas and suggestions that will help your unit move forward in the coming year. If you didn't attend, start planning now for the next one because 2018 is sneaking up on us. I was proud to see our members elect such a dedicated line of officers that I'm excited to be working with. And, never do our conventions go by without a bit of fun! If you took part in the Sock Hop, you most likely won't forget our one and only Elvis, aka Dan Contreras!

This summer, national convention was held in New Orleans, and once again, attendance was over the top! And why? Because our DAV & DAVA member extraordinaire,

Delphine Metcalf-Foster took the reigns as our new national commander. If you don't know her, take the opportunity to meet her and learn more about her accomplishments. She will energize you to keep moving forward for our dedicated men & women, disabled as well as active, who protect us so dearly. I'm proud to say that, not only am I a member of the DAVA, but a member of the wonderful DAVA Department of California! Congratulations to you, Delphine! You're a role model to us all.

Speaking of Delphine, Unit #21 in Vallejo will be honoring her on November 18th with a spaghetti dinner and dance. Let's all show our support and make this an event to remember!

In closing, please keep spreading the word about the Commanders Action Network. The days of showing legislative support via snail mail is out and the Commanders Action Network is in. It's comprehensive, easy to use, and a great chance to make a difference by making your voice heard on Capitol Hill.

The DAV Auxiliary had a fabulous year for units reaching their membership quotas. I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to all! Let's do it again and make 2018 a stellar year in appreciation of our DAV! As always, I'm only a phone call away!

*Kimberly Stuhler, AUXILIARY COMMANDER*



## AUXILIARY ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

We are so proud that Delphine Metcalf-Foster was elected as DAV's National Commander at convention in August. Delphine is a member of both the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary. Our organizations recognize that often people play many roles at once. Someone who was disabled while serving our country, may also be related to another veteran with a disability. Within the DAV structure, he or she has the unique

people to lobby government officials to support important legislation, more members to lend us their time and talent, and much more. We saw evidence of this rise in membership at the State Convention in Reno. Not only did we have more attendees, but many new auxiliary members accepted leadership roles, chairing important committees. I am excited to see how the Auxiliary will grow as new members bring fresh perspective and ideas.

On a personal note, I would like to thank both the DAV Department of California, and our DAV Auxiliary, for your

## Together we recruited almost 5,000 new Auxiliary members!

opportunity to choose to be part of a veteran's community and a community of family members of disabled veterans. Members, like Delphine, who belong to both groups, make us stronger by uniting us to fulfill the promises made to the men and women who served.

In addition to Delphine's election, DAV Auxiliary and DAV Department of California members have much to be proud of this year! Together we recruited almost 5,000 new Auxiliary members and in doing so, we reached our national quota. As impressive as this sounds, it's only a number. The real news lies in the fact that by adding to our ranks, we now have more potential volunteers to work at VA medical centers, more

support for my nomination and election as National 4th Junior Vice Commander. Although I did not serve, I have always felt welcome by members of both the DAV and the Auxiliary. I do not think my experience is unique. This comradeship has fostered a sense of mutual respect, responsibility and community. National guests continue to marvel at our ability to work as a team. I look forward to another year, with new and continued opportunities to serve our veterans and their families!

*Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, AUXILIARY ADJUTANT*



## JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Thank you for all that you do.

Our members and our chapters are the heart and soul of DAV. I sincerely thank all of you for the volunteer work you put into helping your veteran brothers and sisters. We can enact all kinds of programs to motivate our members to help our fellow veterans, but if we don't have compassion, love and concern for our brothers and sisters, our efforts become a job instead of a joy.

We all know what it's like to have a sense of duty, we learned this in the military and we continue to live it in our lives. In the military we worked as a unit and we accomplished much more than we could ever accomplish as individuals. We can accomplish much by working together as DAV chapters in helping our fellow veterans, and showing our communities why it's so important to support our efforts in caring for active duty service members, veterans and families. I encourage our chapter commanders to always read the DAV mission

statement to their chapter before each meeting, reminding everyone of our real purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

Military soldiers began our mission after coming back home from the battlefields during World War I. Today, DAV continues to fulfill its mission through providing service programs, and fighting legislative battles on behalf of our brothers and sisters who served so honorably in defending our great nation.

In conclusion, I feel extremely honored to represent the DAV Department of California as Junior Vice Commander, and I will do my best to support our chapters in any way possible. I also encourage all of our members to step up and get involved in your local chapters. You may not have to wake up to the sound of reveille, but your brothers and sisters who served still need you.

*Andrew Mojarras, JR. VICE COMMANDER*



# Save the Date!

**Come Celebrate California's  
Own National Commander,  
Delphine Metcalf-Foster!**

## Commander's Testimonial

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**Pullman San Francisco Bay**

**223 Twin Dolphin Drive**

**Redwood City, CA 94065**

**1-650-598-9000**

**Pullmanhotels.com**

*More Info to Come*



### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Lou Williams

G

reetings from Fresno, California on yet another day that God has made. May we rejoice in all the days we're given in this life.

No matter where we are in the world, it feels like destruction is all around us these days. In the midst of this, it's been wonderful to see and hear about so many good works and acts of kindness, about first responders and volunteers helping those in crisis and about acts of service and human kindness to lift spirits, restore faith and strengthen the resolve to rebuild.

May we always seek God and may he lead us and guide us through the times of devastation, tragedy and despair; through the good times as well as the sad. In short, thank God for everything.

Imagine being deployed and far away right now and knowing that your family back home is facing difficult times. Please remember those who are active duty in prayer as they serve and focus on their mission, and for their families who

watch and wait for their loved ones to return home safe. In God we hope and trust. As we search for peace, hope, laughter and love (our greatest gift), let us always remember that prayer is one of our greatest assets in this troubled world we live in.

Many of us in the DAV need constant prayer. Every day, as we see the needs of our service men and women and our fellow veterans, remember to pray for each other and let others pray for you. Prayer is something we can all do, anytime, anywhere, night or day, in peril or in peace.

Let's be grateful no matter what, no matter when, and may we always keep God in our thoughts, minds, homes and hearts as we take care of each other and as we look out for our loved ones and fellow veterans.

Chapter chaplains, please keep those sympathy and get-well cards going to those in need.

A small act of human kindness can be very reassuring to someone in crisis. Keep the faith, trust in God and always lean on his everlasting arms.

Let's be grateful no matter what, no matter when...

# Midwinter Conference

Join Us on January 19-20, 2018!



*Center Street Promenade*

**W**e hope you'll consider coming out to our Midwinter Conference in Anaheim this January. We will be returning to the fantastic DoubleTree. Come out and learn more about how the DAV Department of California helps veterans at the state and local levels. Learn more about the VA claims process at the chapter service officer training. Also, this year we will have a special seminar with a representative from Calvet who will provide helpful information about insurance and healthcare for veterans and their families. Midwinter is a good opportunity to learn more about how the DAV Department of California operates behind the scenes and how we conduct our business, and is a

great chance to take helpful information back to your chapters at home. Not only that, but Midwinter also fosters unity within our organization by providing a place for DAV members from around the state to connect with not only each other but also with our partners in the DAV Auxiliary in California.

Additionally, Anaheim provides plenty of entertainment opportunities as one of the most popular vacation destinations in the world. The DoubleTree is conveniently located nearby scenic beaches and breathtaking golf courses. While there, you can also check out Angel Stadium, see an Anaheim Ducks NHL game at the nearby Honda Center, or go to a concert at the City National Grove of Anaheim. And of course, you won't want to miss an opportunity to go to Disneyland, with its eight extravagantly themed lands, or Disney California Adventure Park, with its seven additional lands. These Disney attractions really live up to their reputation of being the happiest place on earth.

Also, the DoubleTree itself offers plenty of quality accommodations. This hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to the Disneyland Park, delicious DoubleTree chocolate chip cookies, and quality customer service. This hotel features building-wide Wi-Fi, a Starbucks, the delicious



*City National Grove*



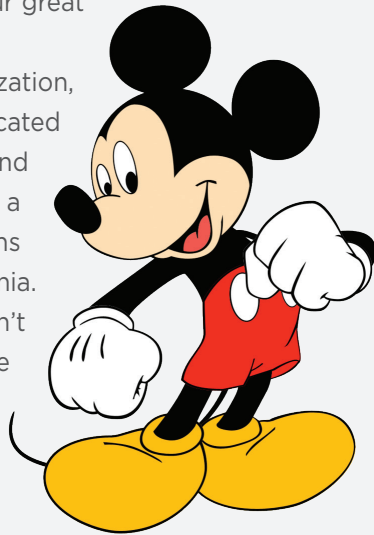


Huntington Beach Pier

Trofi Restaurant, a fitness center, outdoor tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, and a pool. The Outlets of Orange are within walking distance, which also feature several restaurants, bowling and an AMC Movie Theatre with IMAX.

There's no shortage of activities to keep you and your family busy in Anaheim, so come out and join us! This is a great way to learn more about how we help injured and ill veterans in California and how you can join us in impacting our great state.

Learn about our organization, connect with other dedicated and passionate people, and equip yourself to have a positive impact on veterans and their families in California. Without you, we couldn't fulfill our promises to the men and women who served. We look forward to seeing you there!



## DAV Department of California 2018 Midwinter Conference

### Friday, January 19th

8:00 AM	Membership Committee Meeting	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
9:00 AM	Claims & Service Commission Meeting	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
10:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
12:00 PM	Chapter Service Officer Training Level I	Laguna/Newport/Corridor

### Saturday, January 20th

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Chapter Service Officer Training Level II*	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Workshop	Atrium
1:00 PM	State Executive Committee Meeting	Atrium
5:00 PM	Commander's Reception	Huntington/Manhattan

\*by invitation only

Every year, at our Midwinter Conference, we provide a Chapter Service Officer Training and (Re)Certification Program. This year, the CSO training will be a two-part program. The first section will

be open to all who wish to attend and RSVP, however the second day of training will be held by invitation-only. Part I of CSO training will take place at 8:00 AM on January 19, 2018 and Part II will take place at 8:00 AM on January 20, 2018. Please note that only elected or appointed chapter service officers will be able to receive CSO certification. Attendance at Level 2 training is by invitation only.



These training sessions are designed to clarify the often-complicated system of VA claims. We deeply appreciate those of you who work hard in your communities helping your fellow veterans file claims. To register for Part I of training, please mail or fax your registration form to the address or fax number provided by December 22, 2017.

Fax: (562) 404-8044

Mail: 13733 Rosecrans Ave. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

## YES!

Please register me for the Chapter Service Officer Training/(Re)Certification Program!

Guest #1

Chapter

Elected Position

Email Address

Guest #2

Chapter

Elected Position

Email Address

CALIFORNIA'S OWN

# DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER

## BECOMES NATIONAL COMMANDER!

This year's national convention was a historic event. The DAV had the unique honor of electing the first woman veteran as national commander of a big three congressionally-chartered VSO. Not only that, but those of us that are a part of the DAV Department of California had the additional honor of electing one of our own, native-born Californian, Delphine Metcalf-Foster. We are proud of her and her many accomplishments, for paving the way for women veterans, for representing her home state well, and for being a fantastic leader.

Delphine has been involved with our department since getting medically evacuated from the Persian Gulf in 1991 while serving in Desert Shield/Desert storm. An NSO with the DAV assisted her while she was on medical hold and she joined Chapter #21 in Vallejo shortly after. During her time with her chapter, our department and as a national line officer, she has proven herself as a great leader.

She has served as an Adjutant of her chapter, a member of the Department Claims and Service Commission, commander of the department and has chaired the Resolutions Committee Chairman, VAVS Committee here in California. She also served on California's Secretary of Veterans Affairs Women's Advisory Board, and helped educate state and local officials on DAV's mission by working with them as an advocate for Stand Downs and Women's Summits.

As a woman in leadership, her perspective is both important and underrepresented. Delphine has made her voice heard as an advocate for the rights of all veterans. She has been active serving veterans in her community by volunteering at the local VA clinic, attending veterans' town hall meetings and getting involved in the Women Veterans Health Committee meetings at the VA Medical Center in San Francisco where she calls attention to the specific issues that women



veterans face. She's worked hard to educate state and local officials on DAV's mission by working with them as an advocate for Veterans Stand Downs and Women's Summits. Overall, she has been one of the most respected and approachable leaders in our department. She's been a mentor to many and exemplifies the spirit of "veterans helping veterans" that drives our organization.

As commander, we know that we can rest assured that she's going to work hard. As the leader of DAV, the emphasis of her effort this year will be on PTSD, an issue that negatively impacts a great number of veterans. She wants to work towards destigmatizing the illness and ensuring that veterans

have access to, and receive, the help they need for treating their PTSD. Additionally, she wants to see the DAV achieve the goal of expanding caregiver benefits to cover all veterans, not just post-9/11 veterans. Not only that, but as commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster also wants to work to guarantee that women who served have proper access to the care that they need and have earned. Here in California we know that Delphine will lead the way in ensuring that the DAV represents the needs of all veterans, and fights for the rights and benefits of all who served. While she serves as commander and represents millions of veterans in this country, she can rest assured that she has the full support and backing of our department behind her.



# NATIONAL CONVENTION

**W**ith the election of our Past State Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, as commander, national convention was very exciting for those of us here at the DAV Department of California and we look forward to the year ahead with anticipation.

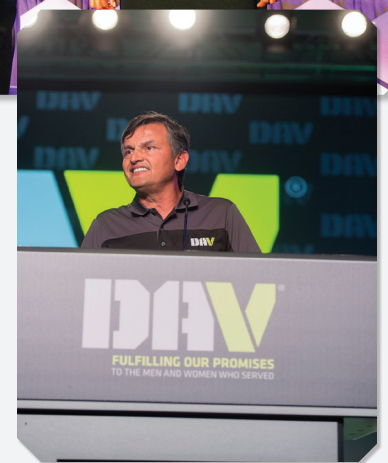
Those of us in attendance also had a fun time in the always-festive and exciting New Orleans. However, we did so knowing that there is much to accomplish and we have a lot of work ahead of us.

National convention is always an opportunity to hear from the top government and DAV leadership making the choices that impact veterans in our country. There's no better opportunity to learn such a vast amount of information, connect with other veterans and educate yourself on the issues that matter yourself and your family.

This year was no different. We heard from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David Shulkin who outlined his top priorities, as well as the Acting VA Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Poonam Alaigh, who spoke about her goals for improving the VHA. Also, as always, the National Legislative Seminar was insightful. At this year's, we heard DAV's National Legislative Director, Joy Ilem, and National Service Director, Jim Marszalek, converse with the ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the Deputy Secretary for Disability Assistance at VBA.

National convention also included a seminar on the Benefits Protection Team and a reminder to keep up our efforts when it comes to resolutions. The Benefits Protection Team initiative is designed to get members more involved with the legislative process and resolutions are a key component of that. The DAV National Legislative staff, led by Joy Ilem, rely heavily on the resolutions that are approved by the various national committees. When our national legislative staff members provide testimony before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committee each year, they reference resolutions passed by our national membership to justify their testimony and advocate for specific legislation.

Since the Benefits Protection Team Leader program was reconstituted at the National Midwinter Conference last February there's been resurgence in our commitment to civic involvement and to the resolutions process. This



is evident by our own department membership, which has gone from submitting very few resolutions to 21 this year (17 of which were approved). If we're going to succeed in protecting our benefits, each and every one of us needs to get involved. You've all been doing a great job, and we hope you can keep that momentum going.

If you'd like to learn more information from the education and training seminars offered at convention, they can be accessed online at: [youtube.com/users/DisabledVeterans/](https://youtube.com/users/DisabledVeterans/) featured. Also, when you learn helpful information, remember to share that knowledge with the other members of your chapters. It's important to stay informed and educated about the issues that affect you and your family. Chapter Commanders and Chapter Benefits Protection Team Leaders will receive helpful updates throughout the year from our State Legislative Director, Richard Valdez, as well as from our national legislative team.

Not only was Delphine Metcalf-Foster the first woman elected to lead the DAV, the DAV Auxiliary also had a historic election. Craig Johniken became the first man to become commander of the national DAV Auxiliary. Also, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, isn't the only one proudly representing our state nationally. Our DAV Auxiliary Adjutant, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, entered the line at this past national convention as the national DAV Auxiliary's Fourth Jr. Vice Commander. Those of us in California have a lot to be proud of and I hope you will congratulate and support these women!

# 2017 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION



**T**he DAV travelled to Reno once again this past June, and it was a productive, informative and fun time. We were happy to see so many of you show up and get involved!

At our Joint Opening Session, we were joined by Reno's Vice Mayor, Neoma Jardon, California's Deputy Secretary of Veteran Services, Keith Boylan, our National Guest, National Fourth Jr. Vice Commander, Andrew Marshall and the DAVA's national guest, the Auxiliary's National 2nd Jr. Vice Commander, Diane Franz. I hope you got a chance to meet our fabulous national guests.

Our conventions also provide an opportunity for our various boards and committees to meet. These meetings ensure that we stay connected, informed on what's going on in our chapters and districts, and that our organization stays healthy and functional while serving veterans. Our members did a great job developing and submitting several resolutions this year.

Resolutions are an important part of our advocacy as DAV members and we hope to see this momentum continue!

It was our pleasure to recognize a few individuals and groups who demonstrated a special dedication to our mission and to California's veterans. Calpine Energy Solutions, a small employer in San Diego received a special recognition for their service to local veterans, Alexandria Simmons was awarded the 2017 Outstanding Member of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Lisa Lagorio was recognized as the 2017 Outstanding Member of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and Strategic Threat Management was awarded the 2017 Small Employer of the Year.

Congratulations to Robert Graves, our 2017 Veteran of the Year! Also, Transportation Coordinator, Steven Salazar, was awarded

Employee of the Year, Michael Baca was recognized as Top LVAP Volunteer for 2017, and in recognition of his service as a VAVS Volunteer, Jean White was awarded the DAV Department of California George H. Seal award.

Also, congratulations to our chapters and individuals who won this year's membership awards. The Harry E. Wentworth award went to Old Adobe Chapter #117 for the largest percentage gain in membership for the year. They also had the largest numerical gain for chapters with 50-300 members. Ray Clark Chapter #35 won the award for the largest numerical gains for chapters with 301-1,000 members, San Bernardino Chapter #12 had the largest numerical gain for chapters with

1,001-2,000 members, and Sacramento Chapter #6 had the greatest

numerical increase for chapters with 2,001 or more members.

Leigh Polzin won the membership recruitment award for the DSOs and the San Diego NSO office won the NSO membership recruitment award. Also, we would like to congratulate all our

chapters who made their membership recruitment goals!

DAV's National Communications Director, Dan Clare, shared his vast knowledge with us at our Chapter Leadership Forum. I hope those of you who were there took the information he shared back to your chapters. As always, Reno provided numerous opportunities for fun and entertainment, and our Fifties-themed bowling Fun Night was one to remember. It was great to see so many of you in your fifties duds.

Guy Anastasia was elected Commander of the DAV Department of California, and Ron Vogel elected as Sr. Vice Commander and Andrew Mojarras as Jr. Vice Commander. On the Auxiliary side, Kimberly Stuhler became the Commander, and Christine Castillo became the Sr. Vice Commander and Caroline Morris the Jr. Vice Commander. We know we are in good hands this year!

It was our pleasure to recognize a few individuals and groups who demonstrated a special dedication to our mission

# MESSAGE FROM WOMEN VETERANS ADVISOR, PENNI L. BROWN

I am pleased to have been selected as the new Women Veterans Advisor for the Department of California. As you probably know, we now have the first woman as national commander of the DAV, and I know that I have personally benefitted from her mentorship. Also, Eldra Jackson from California is now serving as an advisor on women veterans' issues on a national level. As I grow into my new position, I ask for prayers as we continue our journey to making ALL women count in the DAV.

The DAV Department of California has provided an understanding and compassionate home for women veterans, committed to improving the quality of life for our sisters in arms. In the upcoming months, I will be working to address issues that affect women who served, such as military sexual trauma, PTSD, access to medical care, homelessness and many more.

I want to say to those of you who are my sisters in military service, you are not alone. It takes a special person to dedicate their lives to our country, and after service is complete, the DAV is here to assist you with obtaining what you need to transition into post-military life. The following are helpful steps on how to go about obtaining quality care in post-military life and also pertains to spouses, children and/or caregivers of service members.

- If you are still in the military and you are about to ETS or take a medical board because your injuries are too severe to continue your service contract, you will want to participate in the TAP program on the post or base in your area. Some of these classes are done by DAV and will give you a wealth of information on how to navigate the VA.
- Go to <https://www.va.gov/> so that you can get new information from the Veterans Administration and sign up for an account with ebenefits at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov> to follow your claim from start to finish. You can also get printed proofs of service, benefits and awards.

- If you have not gotten a California Veterans Resource Book, you can pick one up at your local veterans hospital, clinic or DAV office. Or, you can find the PDF version online at: <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/>
- Your DD214 is your lifeline to benefits and care, so make multiple copies and put the original in a safe place. If you do not have a copy you can go to the nearest DAV office for help or go to <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records> to get a certified copy or other military records.
- If you are already separated from the military then you will want to start by going to your local Veterans Administration hospital or clinic.



**We at the DAV Department of California care about your quality of life first and foremost and we will assist you with getting the medical attention that you deserve.**

There, you can get enrolled in their business office and get a Veterans Administration ID card. Be sure to bring along the DD214 I mentioned earlier.

We at the DAV Department of California care about your quality of life first and foremost and we will assist you with getting the medical attention that you deserve. Also, if you seek to give back to the veteran community and their families, find your Local DAV chapter and attend a monthly meeting. Get involved, volunteer and experience the benefits that can only come from helping others. There is always a lot of work to do. We as veterans, especially women veterans, need to look out for one another. Just as a candle was once placed in a window in anticipation of a soldier's homecoming, so a light of hope burns in our hearts until every service member returns home.



**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:** *Tammy Hernandez*

Tammy Hernandez first applied for the administrative assistant position with DAV Headquarters in 2006 after coming across a job ad in the Long Beach Press Telegram. With her nearly twenty years of bookkeeping experience, she knew that she would be a good fit for the job. She first learned about the DAV when she researched the organization before her interview, and was excited for the opportunity to be of service to veterans. In her role as administrative assistant, Tammy coordinates administrative tasks, helps at midwinter conference and state conventions, pays expenses and pro-

cesses the payroll, budgets and taxes. During her time with the organization, Tammy has enjoyed being a part of the DAV's supportive, loving family environment and working with chapters, other DAV employees, committees and members. Shortly after starting her job at the headquarters, she joined the DAV Auxiliary Unit #19 and has served as the unit adjutant for a couple years and now holds the position of treasurer. Tammy has found her time at the DAV Headquarters to be full of opportunities for growth and solid teamwork.

Ms. Hernandez finds that each day brings along new challenges that have required her to utilize strength and courage in order to rise to the occasion. In the future, she hopes to further her education and get a master's degree in accounting and advance her skills in guidance and leadership.



**Tammy Hernandez**

Tammy Hernandez's contribution to the headquarters team has been immeasurable. Her dedication and her talents have been an integral part of our overall success.

**-DAV Department of California CEO/Adjutant, Daniel Contreras, PSC**

**DAV Department of California  
UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
June 30, 2017**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Cash	\$216,418	\$543,586
Due from Auxiliary	2,406	2,440
Deposit		9,091
Long-Term Investment	4,280,283	3,858,128
Property & Equipment	245,555	263,013
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,744,662</b>	<b>4,676,258</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$111,842	\$68,327
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	4,632,820	4,607,931
Undesignated	-	-
Temporarily restricted	-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,632,820</b>	<b>4,607,931</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,744,662</b>	<b>\$4,676,258</b>

# Department Service Offices & Transportation Coordinators

## A. SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER

4150 Clement Street, Bldg. 7 Room 120  
San Francisco, CA 94121  
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Gary P. Curtaz- Transportation Coordinator  
(415) 379-5612

## B. MATHER VA MEDICAL CENTER

10535 Hospital Way  
Mather, CA 95655  
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Bob Bilyeu- Dept. Service Officer  
Bldg. 650, Room 1B070  
(916) 843-7002  
Pam Goto- Transportation Coordinator  
Bldg. 650, Room 1B052  
(916) 843-7001

## C. FRESNO VA MEDICAL CENTER

2615 E. Clinton Room E-108A  
Fresno, CA 93703  
Hours: 7:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Mario Flores- Dept. Service Officer  
(559) 241-6418  
Cristina Vaxter- Dept. Service Officer  
(559) 241-6401  
Susan Bertolani- Transportation Coordinator  
Room W110  
(559) 241-6424

## D. SEPULVEDA VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

16111 Plummer  
Sepulveda, CA 91343  
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Leigh Polzin- Dept. Service Officer  
Bldg. 22, Room 213  
(818) 891-7711 Ext. 36176  
Marie Pounds- Transportation Coordinator  
Bldg. 22, Room 215  
(818) 895-9408  
H. VA ESCONDIDO CLINIC  
230 E. Park Ave.  
Escondido, CA 92025  
Hours: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM Mon.-Fri.  
(Closes at 1:00 PM Friday)  
Carlos Gallardo- Dept. Service Officer  
(760) 741-1746

## E. LOS ANGELES VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

351 E. Temple St. Room B-306  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Audie Reyno- Dept. Service Officer  
(213) 253-2677 Ext. 24604

## F. LOMA LINDA VA MEDICAL CENTER

11201 Benton St. Room IF-41  
Loma Linda, CA 92357  
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Eric Porche- Dept. Service Officer  
Ambulatory Care Center (ACC)  
26001 Redlands Blvd.  
Redlands, CA 92373  
(909) 583-6016 or (909) 894-7857  
Steven Salazar- Transportation Coordinator  
(909) 583-6014



## G. WEST LA VA MEDICAL CENTER

11301 Wilshire Blvd.  
Bldg. 500, Room 1613  
West Los Angeles, CA 90073  
Hours: 5:00 AM-2:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Blas Barragan, Sr.- Transportation Coordinator  
(310) 268-3344

## H. LONG BEACH VA MEDICAL CENTER

5901 E. 7th St. Bldg. 8, Room 107  
Long Beach, CA 90822  
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Duke Medeiros- Dept. Service Officer  
(562) 826-5711  
Liza Thornton-Transportation Coordinator  
Bldg. 8, Room 101A  
(562) 826-5796

## I. VA ESCONDIDO CLINIC

230 E. Park Ave.  
Escondido, CA 92025  
Hours: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM Mon.-Fri.  
(Closes at 1:00 PM Friday)  
Carlos Gallardo- Dept. Service Officer  
(760) 741-1746

## J. SAN DIEGO MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR

MCAS Miramar, PO Box 452005  
Area 5, MCCS Bldg. 5305,  
"The Hub" Miramar Way Room 120  
San Diego, CA 92145  
Hours: 7:30 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.

Bruce Hillman-Dept. Service Officer  
(Fridays Only)  
Tomoko Ferguson-Dept. Support Staff  
(858) 689-9637

## K. LA JOLLA VA MEDICAL CENTER

3350 La Jolla Village Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92161  
Hours: 8:15 AM-3:15 PM Mon.-Fri.  
Richard Randolph-Dept. Service Officer  
Room 1598  
(858) 642-6454  
David Strobehn-Transportation Coordinator  
Nancy Casey-Transportation Coordinator  
Room 1592  
(858) 552-7470

## L. SPRING VALLEY - DAV INDUSTRIES

1049 Elkelton Blvd.  
Spring Valley, CA 91977  
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Thurs.  
Bruce Hillman- Dept. Service Officer  
(619) 337-9257



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| <b>Fresno Area:</b>         | 559-237-0273 | Davcharities.com           |
| <b>Pomona Area:</b>         | 800-237-8387 | Donatedav.org              |
| <b>San Diego Area:</b>      | 800-894-2486 | Davveteransthiftstores.com |