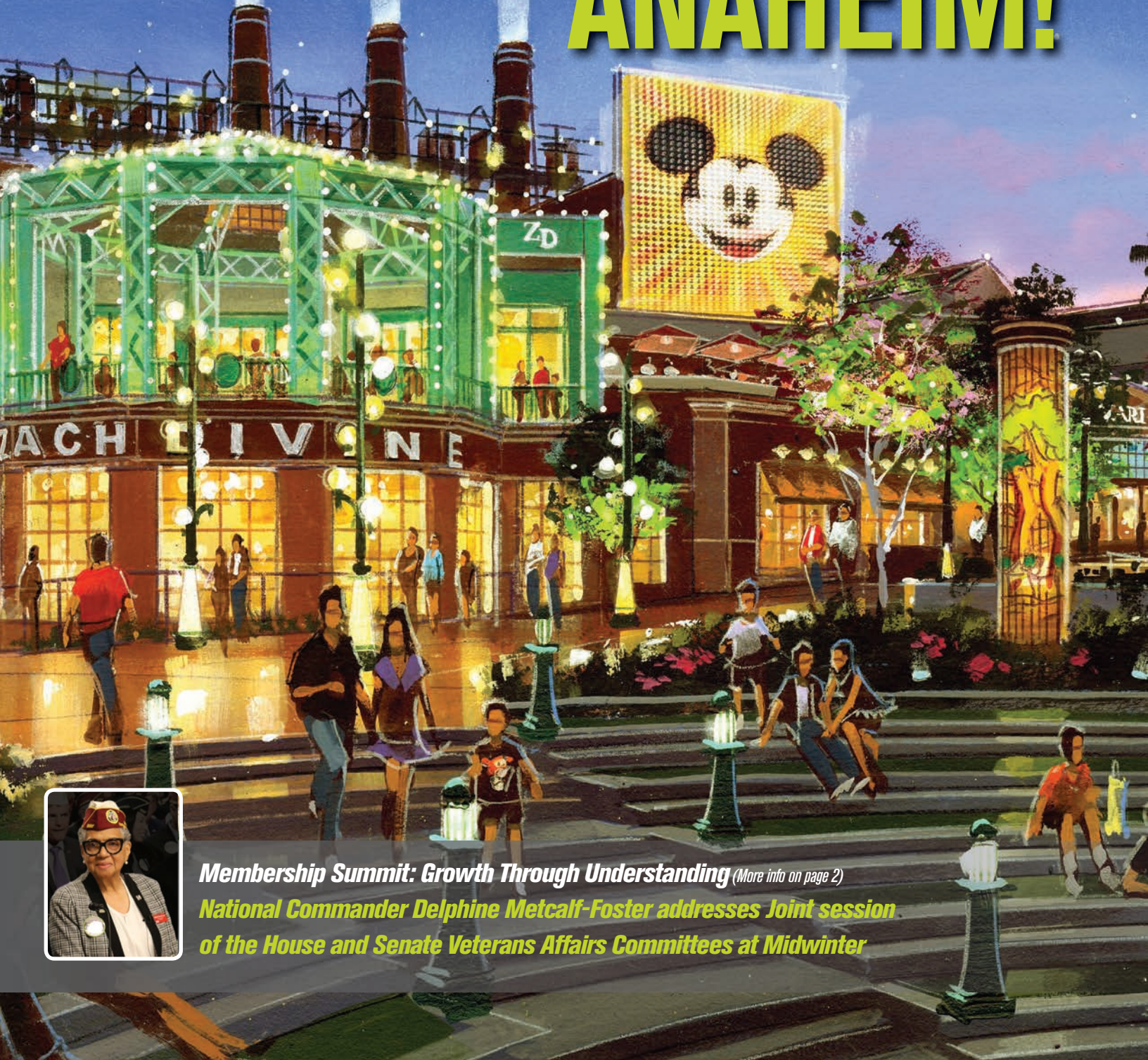




See You in

ANAHEIM!



Membership Summit: Growth Through Understanding *(More info on page 2)*

National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster addresses Joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees at Midwinter

DAV DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NEWS

USPS 157-620 | Third Class Postage Paid at Los Angeles, CA and Additional Mailing Offices

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>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</p>	<p>DAV National 2018 Convention July 14-17, 2018 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</p>
<p>DAV California 2019 Midwinter January 18-19, 2019 Hilton Sacramento Arden 2200 Harvard St. Sacramento, CA 95815 (800) 445-8667 \$109 Single/Double Reservation Cutoff Date: January 1, 2019</p>	<p>DAV National 2019 Midwinter Feb 24 – Feb 27, 2019 (Tentative) Crystal Gateway Marriott 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202 (800) 266-9432 or (703) 920-3230 Group Name “Disabled American Veterans” \$199 Single/Double</p>

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ARE YOU MOVING?

NEW ADDRESS

Name Membership Code #

Street

City State Zip

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

**DUE DATE FOR NEW DAV NEWS COPY
SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**

Published and Distributed by: Disabled American Veterans Department of California (A Non-Profit Corporation)
 13733 Rosecrans Ave. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • Phone: (562) 404-1266 • Fax: (562) 404-8044
 www.davcal.org

ON THE COVER: Downtown Disney

Publisher: *Daniel Contreras* | Layout: *Blue Z Studios* | Printing: *American Web*

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Service:

The Heart of Our Mission

T

hirty years ago, my wife Amy observed how proud I was to be a veteran. She saw the sincere concern I had for veterans' issues and on my birthday in 1988, Amy informed me that she paid for my life membership in the Disabled American Veterans. Amy laid the foundation for my 30 years of service which has allowed me to help countless veterans, and the pinnacle of that service was being elected your Commander.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Our National Commander and Past State Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, leads by example and has shown those serving under her how to serve others. Our service officers at all levels serve the veterans of California to ensure we receive our earned benefits and that our widows and orphans are not forgotten. Additionally, the chapter members in the field serve their local communities and spread the DAV's message of hope to all that served.

As an organization we serve veterans in many ways. Our legislative staff in DC works tirelessly to move bills through congress which will empower us to lead better lives. The service staff in DC works to ensure the staff out in the field have the tools to advocate for our members, and the staff at headquarters in Cold Spring provide funding support for our many programs.

Together as a team 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, by fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill, and by educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

My 30 years as a member has taught me that our job is never done. We need to stay vigilant and be prepared to voice our concern to legislators when they forget their promises to veterans. Our chapters

As an organization we serve veterans in many ways. Our legislative staff in DC works tirelessly to move bills through congress which will empower us to lead better lives.

have the important role of serving on the front lines and working closely with their local politicians, while keeping the public informed. This is an important role and I salute you.

In closing, I want you to know how proud I am serving as your Department Commander. Your hospitality during my chapter visits made me feel welcome. I made friends with many of you and those friendships will last a lifetime. So, keep the wind to your back and your course set on the goal.

Guy D. Anastasia, COMMANDER



ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Membership: *An Investment in Our Future*



One important value that we hold as DAV and Auxiliary members is that we are stronger and more efficient when we're working together. We value DAV as a community and as a family. Our chapter members are the lifeblood of the organization, providing veterans in our local communities with help, services and camaraderie. The value of showing up for your brothers and sisters in arms is still just as important after being discharged from service, and we believe that we all have something valuable to bring to the table.

On the state department level, the DAV service officers and transportation coordinators provide valuable services to veterans and their families; members stay in the loop about the issues impacting veterans around the state, and together, we make a powerful team to advocate for our own rights and the rights of our brothers and sisters in arms.

Being a member of the DAV puts you on this powerful team and connects you to a network of over 1 million like-minded, passionate veterans in nearly 1,300 chapters from all over the country. And this isn't just any network. It's a network of doers, men and women in their communities providing claims assistance, transportation to medical services, job fairs, disaster relief, and many other valuable resources.

If you're reading this article, you may already be familiar with the value of being a part of an excellent veteran service organization like the DAV. But we can't just get comfortable with the status quo. We need to

keep moving forward, keep growing and improving. Our goals are significant, and as such, our efforts must be significant as well.

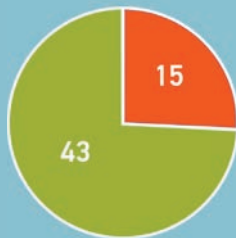
This brings me to the value of recruitment. When we recruit new members, we make an investment in the future of our organization and we strengthen our team. As members, you are the hands and feet of our organization and your recruitment efforts are important.

So, I want to know your ideas. What has worked for your chapter in your community? We want to hear from you. That is why we will be having a membership summit at our upcoming convention in Anaheim, and we hope you'll bring your best membership recruitment ideas with you. Our organization is powerful because

of connections. Because we're stronger together, and because, as veterans we share a common experience and goal. That's why the theme of this membership summit will be: "Growth through Understanding."

Congratulations to those chapters who have met their membership goals so far and I hope the rest of our chapters will finish strong. I look forward to brainstorming along with you. As DAV members and veterans, let's empower each other to be the best advocates, recruiters, volunteers and members of our community that we can be. And, throughout 2018, I hope you will be in your communities, reaching out to veterans, knowing that together, we're all stronger.

DAV DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA MEMBERSHIP STATUS



- **AS OF 3/26/2018**
- **58 CHAPTERS IN GOODSTANDING IN CALIFORNIA**
- **25.8% MET MEMBERSHIP GOAL**
- **CALIFORNIA IS IN 4TH PLACE IN DIVISION 1**

Daniel Contreras, PSC, CEO/ADJUTANT



SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Comrades, as your Sr. Vice Commander, I am responsible for membership, and the membership meeting at our Midwinter conference was well-attended and got me excited to work with you all on this.

I hope the message that I put out to you helped you in promoting your membership. While attending the midwinter conference in Washington DC, I learned about more exciting new changes that will be made to our membership program. These won't be put into place until next year, and, until then, each chapter still needs to stay focused on their membership goal.

We haven't reached our goal yet, so be sure to recruit those part-life members into full-life members. I encourage each chapter Adjutant and Sr. Vice to reach out to these people and see if there's a way that you can help them. Some of our part-life members may need help. If any of your chapters need support in this effort, you can reach out to me.

I hope you will also reach out to the younger veterans and invite them into your chapters. Younger veterans are our future

and will carry on our legacy. Let's show our communities that we serve veterans by providing support for their disabilities and needs.

As I have said before I am here to help you. If you have questions. I will assist you in any way that I can. We have our state convention in Anaheim, California. This year's will include a membership summit, so I hope to see all of you there, especially new members. I hope all chapters are taking full advantage of our Chapter Convention Attendance Program (CCAP). New members, this program is a great way to get a better understanding of what the DAV is and what we do. In closing, let's never forget our motto, "fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served."

Ron Vogel, SR. VICE COMMANDER

Let's show our communities that we serve veterans by providing support for their disabilities and needs.



AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Spring has sprung in California! And just in time for all of us to keep up the pace. In November, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend Delphine Metcalf-Foster's

honorary spaghetti dinner and dance. And, dance we did! It was a hoot!

If you missed our DAV/DAVA Midwinter Conference, I hope your fellow members who attended shared what they learned. We all went full force and it was packed with lots of valuable information. I'm hoping my follow-up email with the conference synopsis was helpful to your unit. Your comments are always welcomed and encouraged. Snail mail is getting phased out, so get your email access!

I want to give a huge heartfelt thank you to Sadie Stewart, Larry Wong, Shirley Bearden, Deborah Owens and all the staff at the LA, West LA and Sepulveda hospitals for giving myself and my colleagues phenomenal tours. You are awesome at what you do for our veterans! These tours wouldn't have

happened without the dedication, time and scheduling by our dear Alma Fowlkes, PSC and queen of hospitals! Many warm thanks as well to my friends, guests, volunteers and DAVA members Mary Lou Caldwell, PSC, Caroline Morris, DAVA Jr. Vice Commander & Mary! It was a day to remember!

I'm excited for April and hope to see you all at DAV National Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster's, Testimonial Dinner as well as at DAV CA Commander Guy Anastasia's Testimonial Dinner. June is just around the corner and we've got to hit the ground running for our upcoming convention in warm, sunny Anaheim! I can never say it enough- use your UCAP! Your participation and attendance is always encouraged, and this year's agenda won't disappoint! DAVA Sr. Vice Commander, Christine Castillo, will be rolling out her new membership challenge and Jr. Vice, Caroline Morris, has an Americanism poster essay contest that is sure to please all the children. So, let's make an extra effort to get the word out! As always, I'm only a phone call away! See you in Anaheim!

Kimberly Stuhler, AUXILIARY COMMANDER



JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all. During my travels as a line officer, I am always inspired and encouraged when I visit our DAV chapters. Many of our members are living with service-connected disabilities, yet the men and women of DAV do all they can to serve our veteran community. Many of our members are in the honor guard, are DAV van drivers, visit veterans at care facilities, and participate in so many other veteran services. We do all of this with a compassionate caring heart as we carry out the promise to our veteran community to “fulfill our promises to the men and women who served.”

I am excited about our upcoming convention in Anaheim. It's a time to assess how we are doing as an organization and to set objectives to meet our goals for the coming fiscal year. Keep in mind that this fiscal year isn't over yet, so let's make a major effort to meet our membership goals. During the convention we also have an opportunity to recognize

individuals, members and chapters for their hard work in service to our veteran community.

We are all excited about our National Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, for breaking down barriers as our first female National Commander. We just finished March, which is Women's' History month, and as such, we remember the accomplishments of women in the military. Our National DAV magazine has some great articles on women's accomplishments and I hope you'll take the time to read it. If you are a woman who served in the military, thank you for your service!

When I travel to visit DAV chapters, I reflect on the importance of teamwork. Disabled American Veterans was started by veteran advocates to serve veterans. DAV chapters continue to advocate in their communities. Keep up the good work!

Thank you all. Semper fi and Aim high.

Andrew Mojarra, JR. VICE COMMANDER



AUXILIARY ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

High on the DAV's national legislative agenda this year is S. 2193–The Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017, which has passed through the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. It is a comprehensive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare bill,

which includes provisions to overhaul the agency's community care program and provide additional funds to improve the VA healthcare system. However, it also includes a critical provision that would extend comprehensive VA caregiver benefits to severely injured veterans with no arbitrary cutoff date. The provision would immediately expand eligibility to severely injured veterans on or before May 7, 1975, and mandate full expansion to veterans of all eras within a two-year window.

During her recent testimony to the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs, National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster spoke passionately about her struggle to care for her husband, Jimmy. Jimmy, also a veteran, suffered from Alzheimer's Disease. Delphine tried to care for her husband at home, but without any supports like specialized training or respite, she had no choice but to admit Jimmy to a nursing facility.

Delphine is not the only DAV member who has worn the hats

of both caregiver and veteran. This is one reason DAV Auxiliary membership is open to members of the DAV. Admittedly, it can be difficult for members of both organizations to include and be included. However, the comradeship that Auxiliary members who are not veterans find is equally as important to members who are veterans.

I believe that advocating for pro-veteran legislation is just one way to build Auxiliary membership with our DAV members. Another way is to encourage DAV and DAV Auxiliary members to participate fully in their units. Article III, Section 7, of the DAV Auxiliary National Constitution, states that a person who currently holds a DAV elected or appointed office and/or chairmanship in the DAV may not hold an elected or appointed office/position in the DAV Auxiliary. However, a person who has held a position in the parent organization in the past, but does not presently hold a DAV position, may certainly be elected or appointed to an Auxiliary position.

Our state convention in June offers a great opportunity for DAV and DAV Auxiliary members to become more involved. I invite all DAV Auxiliary members to come to our meetings and allow us to show you why being a member of this organization is so important.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, AUXILIARY ADJUTANT



Join Us as we support our very own!

WHEN: Saturday, July 14 – Tuesday, July 17, 2018

WHERE: Grand Sierra Resort and Casino

2500 East Second Street

Reno, Nevada 89595

1-800-648-5080

GROUP CODE: Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

\$84 GSR Basic Room Single/Double

\$104 Summit Room Rate Single/Double

Bring your California pride and support one of our own at this upcoming National Convention! Delphine Metcalf-Foster is National Commander and we here at the Department of California are excited to show up for her this July in nearby Reno, Nevada!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Lou Williams



G

reetings and salutations to all. Time never gets tired or weary, it just keeps on moving ever forward. As the famous song says, “keep on truckin.” Keep your eyes forward and your arms reaching upwards. Call upon

God for leadership and guidance as we walk through the pages of our lives here on earth.

Our state has weathered many natural disasters during my time as chaplain. However, through all the fires and the floods, God is good and His mercy endures forever. There’s an old saying that “if God brings you to it, He’ll see you through it.” This thought has been a helpful reminder to myself and others that we need God in our lives, our homes, our nation and around the world. There’s many in our midst who are going through hard times, but also many who have come forward to help. In the wake of disasters, it’s amazing to see so many awesome volunteers and first responders. There is always a veteran in need, and many in our community are homeless, and in need of education, employment, counseling and other

care. Let’s work to ensure that none of these homeless heroes are left to go it alone.

There is much work ahead for all of us, but to be a helper and not a hindrance in the face of adversity is an honorable action. I want to thank all of you helpers out there. Keep up the good work and keep moving forward, individually, and as an organization.

May God help us as we help others, and may we be worthy of their service and sacrifice. We may feel worn down at times, but we’re free to carry on because of the contributions of those who fought for our nation. So, as an organization, let’s keep bringing solace, reassurance and help to those who sacrificed so much and their families.

“if God brings you to it, He’ll see you through it.”

See you at the ...

2018 DAV Convention



The DoubleTree in Anaheim

We can't wait to see you back at the DoubleTree in Anaheim this upcoming June 6-9 for our convention. It's going to be a good one, and we're going to make sure that together we all face the rest of 2018 head-on, united and strong.

Anaheim is a wonderful place to bring the family, and this year the DoubleTree will be allowing convention attendees to book three extra days, either pre- or post-convention for the same special DAV room rate. So, get away from the day-to-day and make a vacation of it with the family. Anaheim has much to explore and the DoubleTree offers excellent accommodations (including delicious cookies!).

We're excited to provide our attendees with the wonderful amenities and entertainment opportunities offered by the DoubleTree in Anaheim. This venue is

just a mile away from Angel stadium, and right next door to the Outlets at Orange. These outlets are full of entertainment possibilities including bowling, a spa, lots of restaurants and bars, an AMC movie theatre with IMAX, and a skate park. There are all kinds of interesting things located nearby, like the Crystal Cathedral, Knott's Berry Farm, Downtown Disney, and much much more. Perhaps most importantly, this hotel is very near to Disneyland, with its eight extravagantly themed lands, or Disney California Adventure Park, with its seven additional lands. These Disney attractions really live up



Angel Stadium



California Adventure

to their reputation of being the happiest place on earth, and the DoubleTree provides a complimentary shuttle to this neighboring attraction. Also, if you're willing to venture further north to Los Angeles, the possibilities are nearly endless. The hotel itself offers its tasty Trofi Restaurant, an outdoor pool, a 24/7 modern fitness center, and outdoor tennis, basketball and volleyball courts. It won't be difficult to find plenty of things to keep you entertained.

But we won't just be there for a vacation. The convention itself will be packed full of helpful information. There are always so many opportunities to connect, learn and make your voice heard within this organization. We hold our usual business meetings, wherein our members can stay informed on the inner workings of the department. Stay connected with your district at our district meetings, honor those we've lost this year at our Joint Memorial Service and hear from special guests and speakers at our seminars and business sessions.

This year, we will be featuring a membership summit with the theme of "Growth Through Understanding." We're excited to both share valuable information and learn from all of you. We know that many of you are experienced membership recruiters in your communities and we want to hear your ideas for new membership recruitment initiatives and build increased understanding within our chapters and



Knott's Berry Farm

***Calling all Ring Leaders,
Lion Tamers, and Clowns!***

DAV
UNDER THE
BIG TOP
Friday, June 8, 2018
at 5:30
at the
Doubletree
100 The City Dr.
Orange, CA 92868

**Put on your best circus costume!
Come hear live music from the 74th Street Band!
Come play carnival games!**

veterans in our community.

This year, we will be joined by the National Director of Voluntary Services as our National Guest, John Kleindienst. As national voluntary services director, Kleindienst is responsible for a corps of DAV volunteers who, along with DAV Auxiliary volunteers, perform nearly two million hours a year of volunteer work. He also directs the nationwide DAV Transportation Network, which provides hundreds of thousands of rides for veterans across the country each year. We are excited to be able to learn from his experience and expertise! I hope you will all take the opportunity to give him a friendly greeting here to California.

Our Chapter Leadership Forum is sure to be a helpful and informative one this year. The theme will be "Roles and Responsibilities for Chapter Leadership." If you are in chapter leadership or interested in becoming a leader in your chapter, this will certainly be a helpful session. This will be sure to clear up any potential confusion and help

2018 Conference Schedule

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Claims & Service Commission	Laguna Newport Corridor
10:45 AM-12:00 PM	Finance Committee	Laguna Newport Corridor
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	State Executive Committee	Laguna Newport Corridor

Thursday, June 7, 2018

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:30 AM-10:00 AM	District #1	Yosemite
	District #2	Tahoe
	District #3	Redwood
	District #4	Malibu
	District #5	Sunset
	District #6	Lassen
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	District #7	Yosemite
	District #8	Tahoe
	District #9	Redwood
	District #10	Malibu
	District #11	Sunset
1:00 PM-4:00 PM	Joint Opening Ceremonies	Laguna Newport Corridor
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Joint Memorial Service	Laguna Newport Corridor
6:30 PM-8:30 PM	Jr. & Sr. Vice Reception	TBA

Friday, June 8, 2018

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Employment Committee	Sunset
	Legislation & Veterans Rights	Redondo
	Gen. Resolutions & Membership	Malibu
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Constitution & Bylaws	Malibu
	Finance Committee	Sunset
	Hospital & Voluntary Services	Tahoe
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Membership Summit	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
1:00 PM-4:00 PM	1st General Business Session	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
5:30 PM-10:00 PM	Fun Night	Hermosa/Huntington/Manhattan

Saturday, June 9, 2018

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Chapter Leadership Forum	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	2nd General Business Session	Laguna/Newport/Corridor
	Election of Officers	
	Installation of Officers	
	Convention Adjournment	
6:00 PM-8:00 PM	Commander's Reception	Hermosa/Huntington/Manhattan



Crystal Cathedral

our chapters finish 2018 with clear eyes and efficiency. A machine can't work properly until each part is playing its role correctly and we want to operate smoothly so we can help as many injured and ill veterans as possible.

We also have an exciting Fun Night planned for this year. The theme is "DAV Under the Big Top" and it will include live music and carnival games. We want to see all of you ring leaders, clowns and lion tamers. Bring out the family and the kids, put on your circus gear and get ready to have a great time.

Also, don't forget about the importance of resolutions, or miss out on our committee meetings where resolutions will be reviewed. It's important to be connected with this process, which impacts the goals and actions of our organization. Also, you won't want to miss out on our annual elections. Learn valuable information to bring home to your fellow chapter members. Be refreshed by meeting comrades from around the state, connect and

build community and greater understanding. Learn more, get excited, explore Anaheim with your family, and then go home and use that knowledge and renewed energy to impact your local veterans.

Reserve your room with the DoubleTree by May 20, 2018. See you there!

There are always so many opportunities to connect, learn and make your voice heard within this organization.

THE 2018

NATIONAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

DAV made history at the 2018 National Midwinter Conference. On February 27, 2018, California's own, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, became the first woman veteran to address a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee as the Commander of a major congressionally-chartered Veterans Service Organization.

However, as momentous as this year's Midwinter Conference was, it doesn't end there. On the contrary, we members of the DAV Department of California have a collective responsibility to ensure our representatives in congress hear not only from our National Commander, but also from us.

While Delphine Metcalf-Foster brought our concerns before the joint veterans affairs committees, a dedicated team from California, comprised of our State Commander, Past State Commanders, National Service Officers and the Department Benefits Protection Team Leader, brought veterans' concerns to California's legislators throughout the halls of congress: covering the Rayburn, Canon, Longworth, Dirksen, Russell and Hart buildings.

It was the team's goal to meet with as many of California's 54 congressional representatives as possible in the span of three days, which were also interspersed with insightful meetings and seminars held during the conference. On average, over the last three years, we've met with 18-22 members and/or their veteran legislative assistant every midwinter. That is a feat that no other department has come close to matching.

Our mission when conducting these visits is to discuss the importance of the legislation that's before them and is spelled out in DAV's Critical Policy Goals. During these meetings we're there to advocate for our fellow disabled veterans by providing them with real data and the positive affects the legislation we



Delphine Metcalf-Foster, PSC, addresses Joint Session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

support will have on the men and women who served, their families and dependents. We also point out potential negative affects should no action be taken. To drive our point home we provide them with the information they need to make an informed decision, such as our Independent Budget, The Unsung Heroes Report on Caregivers, the DAV 2017-2018 Legislative Program and the Critical Policy Goals for 2018.

This year, the highlights of our Critical Policy Goals were: 1) Expand Comprehensive Support for Caregivers to Veterans of All Eras; 2) Strengthen and Modernize the VA Health Care System; 3) Defend Our Benefits and Protect Our Future; 4) Improve Services and Recognition for Women Veterans; and 5) Provide Sufficient Funding for Veterans Healthcare and Benefits. To learn more about our legislative agenda and how you can become a more affective voice in your community, go to www.dav.org/grassroots or check out our department webpage.

Our National Legislative Director, Joy Ilem and the legislative staff have developed the tools necessary to help guide you through the process of advocacy, from how to contact your Representative to set up a meeting to how to construct a properly written Resolution, which is the hallmark of our legislative priorities.

It's important to understand, if we're to gain new, or preserve existing, benefits, we all need to get involved in the process. No one is going to do it for us, no matter how often we're referred to as heroes. What really counts is how our lawmakers vote. That's why we need to pay attention, and if they know we're paying attention to how they vote, we may succeed in getting the benefits we've earned.



Advocates in Action



DEPARTMENT MIDWINTER



Thank you to all of you who showed up to our department midwinter conference this past January in Anaheim. Especially those of you who participated in our two-part Chapter Service Officer Training. Our department midwinter conference is shorter and more compact than our convention but offers lots of opportunities to learn, connect with other members, and touch base on what is going on behind the scenes here at the department of California. I hope that those of you who attended were able to provide helpful information to your fellow chapter members when you returned.

As usual, we were able to conduct very important business that allows our operations to persist and thrive. Our department budget and finances remain strong, our service operations continue to touch the lives of large numbers of veterans in California, and our chapters continue to act as the hands and feet of our organization, reaching out to existing members, future members and veterans in need, and our State Executive Committee continues to do a fantastic job of keeping our chapters on track.

We are lucky in this organization to have so many members who want to learn more about the VA claims process in order to help their fellow veterans navigate the complicated system as Chapter Service Officers.



As always, Anaheim provided nearly endless options for family entertainment and the DoubleTree provided excellent accommodations.

The conference concluded with a delicious surf and turf meal at the Commander's Reception. We here at the DAV Department of California are a big family, and there's nothing quite like sitting down to a big family dinner with all of you.

Thank you to all of you who are invested in this organization, and to all of you who attended this conference. Thanks for caring enough about California's veterans and the DAV to learn more, educate yourself and to educate others. And, if you missed out on this year's conference, we hope that you will be able to attend the next one!

OPERATION GRATITUDE



DAV Chapter #73 and DAVA Unit #73 work together to make care packages for the troops. Members are pictured here with their two millionth care package! Pictured: Brenda Polzin, DAVA Sr. Vice Commander, Larry Polzin, DAV PNC/PSC, Patricia Valdizan, DAVA Jr. Vice Commander, Regina Seabrook, DAV member, Shannon Heard, DAVA Commander, Alissa Heard, Tiana Barreto, DAVA member, Nathaniel Miller, DAVA member, Paula Ferrero, DAVA member

JOSEPH MOSELEY

Announces his Candidacy for Junior Vice Commander!

My name is Joe Moseley, and I am a combat-wounded Army veteran. I served ten years in the military, including a tour in Korea and in Iraq. I was a recipient of the Purple Heart in 2006.

I became a DAV member in 2011, not because of a desire to help other veterans, but because I needed help myself. In my chapter, Vietnam veterans came to my aid and guided me through my return home from the military and from combat. They told me that I was not alone and that they understood how I was feeling. They told me not to self-destruct but rebuild and strengthen my life.



They taught me ways to cope with PTSD as well as getting me off of addictive pain medicines from my shrapnel injury.

I now have a master's in management from Redlands University and am married with two children. I've ultimately learned that veterans have always been taking care of other veterans and that DAV was one of the first organizations created for this purpose. I have been fortunate and want to be a part of this great cause. I want to give back to other veterans the way Chapter #12 did for me. I am Joe Moseley and I am running for Junior Vice Commander of the DAV Department of California.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *Duke Medeiros*

Duke Medeiros served our country in the US Air Force and the US Marine Corps from 1966 to 1979, serving in Vietnam, Korea and Thailand as an air traffic controller, forward air controller and radio operator. Department Service Officer at Long Beach, Duke Medeiros, has been helping his fellow veterans for a long time. He started volunteering as a post service officer for the VFW in 1982 and acted as a volunteer service officer out of Oakland, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Long Beach. He found that helping other veterans was the best therapy for his PTSD. He was hired as a Department Service

Officer in Long Beach in 2017 after volunteering alongside Joel Plante, Sr. and Joe Palmares and becoming very familiar with the DAV's operations and commitment to the veteran community. He loves being in a position to help his brothers and sisters and their dependents every day. He enjoys working alongside DAV's NSOs, who he considers the best in the business and feels privileged to work with both the Los Angeles and the San Diego crews. He recently played an important role in a very successful Mobile Service Office to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. We're happy to have him on our team!

“ It has been a pleasure working with Duke at the Long Beach facility. Since coming on board, he has been an added feature, a seasoned and skilled Department Service Officer who prides himself on putting the needs of the veterans' first. The experiences he brings to the table not only come from the DAV, but also from a previous VSO, the Veterans of Foreign Wars. That, coupled with the quarterly and annual certification from the DAV, means that Duke provides our clients, and non-clients alike, with not only a service officer, but an advocate whose sole motivation is to assist all veterans and their families with obtaining their VA entitlements they so rightfully earned and deserved. ”

-Anthony Simpson, NSO Supervisor Los Angeles



Duke Medeiros

Veteran Women's Issues

Our women veterans are important, but at times, their needs can be overlooked. We at the DAV Department of California are working to ensure that no veteran gets left behind. Here are some highlights and accomplishments regarding women veterans issues here in California and around the country.

From the National Interim Women Veterans Committee:

- In March, a bill known as the Deborah Sampson Act was introduced, a comprehensive measure aiming to address gender disparities and improve and expand programs and services for women veterans provided by the VA. Visit davcan.org to learn about more about the bill and voice your support to your lawmakers.

- This spring, we will be issuing an update to our groundbreaking 2014 report, *Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home*. We're very excited about this upcoming report and the critical boost it will give to some very important issues, so please watch for its release later this year.

- DAV has sponsored a number of retreat experiences for veterans with disabilities, in partnership with the Boulder Crest Retreat in Virginia. We are proud to have sponsored the very first all-women veterans retreat this past December, which brought together six women veterans from across the country to share their experiences in a comfortable, peer-support environment. The 7-day retreat echoed recommendations made in our 2014 report "*Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home*", calling for the VA and DoD to develop a pilot program for structured women's transition support groups to address issues with marriage, deployment, changing roles, child care and living as a dual military family.

From California:

-Women Veterans are the fastest growing demographic of homeless veterans. The DAV Department of California and Chapter 7 in Oakland were instrumental in the push for the inclusion of feminine hygiene kits in disaster relief kits nationwide. Over the years, the lack of gender-specific products have created a service gap for women veterans at Stand Downs. Past State Commander, JR Wilson, was instrumental at the Stand Down on the Delta last year, which brought in 24 women veterans for the 4-day event. Also last year, at the Santa Barbara County Stand Down, US Army Veteran and DAV Department of California Women Veteran Chair, Penni Brown provided free haircuts.

- Department Women Veterans Chair, Penni Brown, will help hold a roundtable discussion on women veterans issues at our state convention. We want to hear from you on what challenges women face and what we can do to address them.

- Past department events have included a "Women Veterans Think Tank", a screening of the documentary, "*Service: When Women Come Marching Home*", women veterans conferences in Sacramento and continued legislative efforts to improve women veterans' access to healthcare.

-Chapter 6 in Sacramento, home to Past Chapter Commanders Dr. Mariana M. Raba, Patricia Wheeler, and Anna Sutton, hosts women veterans events at their chapter. Chapter 6 Treasurer and National Interim Women Veteran Committee member, Eldra Jackson, initiated this effort to provide women veterans with a platform to voice their concerns. He has played a vital role in advocating with and for women veterans to champion their inclusion, and as such, has provided great value to our organization. It's critical for us to have the support of our male counterparts, and it's an issue near to his heart as his mother, wife, and daughter all served in the US Army.

—Jo Ann Martinez, Chair for DAV National Interim Women Veterans Committee



Department Service Offices & Transportation Coordinators

A. MATHER VA MEDICAL CENTER

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

B. 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

C. 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

D. 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

E. LOMA LINDA VA MEDICAL CENTER

Ambulatory Care Center (ACC)
26001 Redlands Blvd.
Redlands, CA 92373
Eric Porche'-Dept. Service Officer
909-894-7857
Steven Salazar- Transportation Coordinator
909-583-6014

F. 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

G. 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

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)
Enrique Ramos- Dept. Service Officer
(760) 741-1746

I. SAN DIEGO MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR

MCAS Miramar, PO Box 452005
Area 5, MCCA 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

J. 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
Andrea Butler-Transportation Coordinator
Room 1592
(858) 552-7470

K. 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



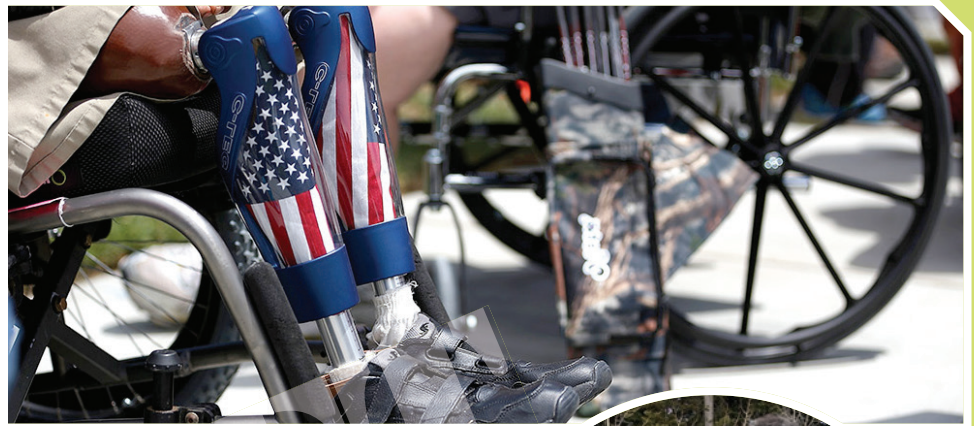


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**★★★THRIFT
OPERATIONS**

Help DAV help veterans! California has nearly 22 million veterans. When you donate to one of these thrift operations, you better the lives of injured and ill veterans in California by supporting our program operations.

- Northern California:** 800-238-8387 Donatedav.org
- Fresno Area:** 559-237-0273 Davcharities.com
- Pomona Area:** 800-238-8387 Donatedav.org
- San Diego Area:** 800-894-2486 Davveteransthiftstores.com

