



DAV CALIFORNIA NEWS



Join us!

**For Our
Centennial
Convention &
Celebration!**

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ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

A LEGACY WORTH BUILDING

Daniel Contreras, PSC ★ DAV California Adjutant-CEO ★ National 2nd Jr. Vice Commander

This is an exciting time to be both a member of the national line as well as the adjutant here in California. We're preparing to celebrate our 100th year together, and that's 100 years of many highs and lows we've weathered together as veterans.

DAV was born out of necessity. Soldiers returned from the first World War, many wounded and ill. They faced poor economic conditions, and there was no VA, no programs in place designed to care for those returning from combat. Because of this, veterans adapted, and did what they could to care for themselves and each other. One such place where veterans were gathering for mutual support and job training was the Ohio Mechanics Institute in Cincinnati. Ill and wounded members formed the Ohio Mechanics Institute Disabled Soldiers, and recruited Colonel Peter Traub and Cincinnati Judge, Captain Robert S. Marx. This group would later become the DAV, and Judge Marx connected with veteran groups all around the country, realizing the more veterans could unite, the more powerful their voice would be.

This idea remains true today. While our nation has more resources and programs in place to care for our veterans than they did 100 years ago, thanks to the efforts of the veterans who came before us, there are still many changing needs our returning soldiers face. Our legacy hasn't changed. We are still a group of injured and ill veterans joining together to help one another.

The issues today's veterans' face are as varied and diverse as the veterans themselves. Just as the early DAV needed to gather numbers of veterans to

validate their cause, the greatest value in DAV membership today is still in our numbers, making our voices louder to policy-makers. Also, Covid has shown us that we will continue to adapt to better care for our fellow veterans when hard times come.

To ensure the longevity and strength of our organization, membership remains important. Members have the opportunity to submit resolutions, proposing important changes they would like to see. These resolutions have the potential to be voted on by our state and national membership, and if resolutions are adopted, they are brought before lawmakers and backed by the strength of our numbers.

// the more veterans could unite, the more powerful their voice would be //

There are other benefits to membership in the DAV. There's camaraderie with our fellow veterans, discounts from Ford and many other companies, and membership dues mainly go back into state and local services so that veterans can continue to receive DAV help for free! I would like to challenge all of you who are reading this (yes, you!) to approach one veteran you know, who is not yet a member of DAV yet, and invite them into the family. Making positive changes often requires connecting, networking and teambuilding, just as it did for our founders. With each new member, we bring more skills and ideas to the table. We make our voice stronger, and can help assure that our legacy will continue for future generations who need it.

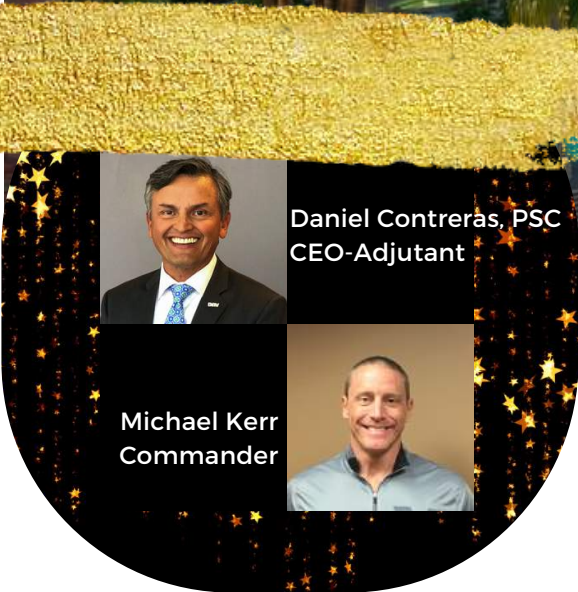


You're Invited!

to
DAV California's

*Centennial
Convention!*

at Miramonte
Indian Wells Resort & Spa!
May 11-14, 2022
45000 Indian Wells Lane
Indian Wells, CA 92210
(442) 305-4500
\$139/Night
Group Code: 7625404
Reservation Cutoff Date:
April 29, 2022



Daniel Contreras, PSC
CEO-Adjutant

Michael Kerr
Commander

We at DAV California have missed you all over the past couple of pandemic-filled years. It is fitting, though, that we will be reuniting with our DAV California family for our Centennial Convention and Celebration this May in Indian Wells! We will be honored this year to host our National Commander, Andrew Marshall, all the way from Florida. It will be a great time to fellowship and collaborate, and like all family reunions, there will be games, food and good times.

mc Daniel Contreras

ENJOY

This year's Friday Fun Night will be one you won't want to miss, and will include fun, games and food for all tastes. Wear your best sports attire and rep your favorite team!

We'll be closing out our time together with our traditional family dinner, the Commander's Reception. A time full of good company and wonderful food. We hope you will join your DAV California family. See you in May in Indian Wells!



CELEBRATE!

We're excited to celebrate our century of service with you. We hope you will be able to take a break with us and pat yourself on the back for the role you've played in our group successes.

SCHEDULE

may be subject to change

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

8 AM-12 PM	Registration	Lobby
9 AM-10:30 AM	Claims & Service	Mesquite 1-2
10:45 AM-12 PM	Finance Committee	Mesquite 1-2
1:30 PM-4 PM	State Exec. Committee	Mesquite 1-2

Thursday, May 12, 2022

8 AM-12 PM	Registration	Lobby
8:30 AM-10 AM	District #1	Mesquite 4
	District #2	Juniper 1
	District #3	Juniper 2
	District #4	Ironwood 1
10 AM-11:30	District #5	Juniper 1
	District #6	Juniper 2
	District #7	Mesquite 4
1 PM-4 PM	Joint Opening	Mesquite 1-2
5 PM-6 PM	Joint Memorial	Mesquite 1-2
6:30 PM-8:30 PM	Sr & Jr Vice Reception	TBA

Friday, May 13, 2022

8 AM-12 PM	Registration	Lobby
8 AM-9 AM	Employment Committee	Juniper 1
	Legislation & Vets' Rights	Mesquite 3
	Resolutions & Membership	Mesquite 4
9 AM- 10 AM	Constitution & Bylaws	Juniper 1
	Finance Committee	Mesquite 3
	Hospital & Volunteerism	Mesquite 4
10 AM-12 PM	Adaptive Sports Workshop	Mesquite 1-2
1 PM-4 PM	1st Gen. Business Session	Mesquite 1-2
6:30 PM-10 PM	Fun Night	Mesquite Lawn

Saturday, May 14, 2022

8 AM-12 PM	Registration	Lobby
9 AM-12 PM	Chapter Leadership Forum	Mesquite 1-2
1:30 PM-3 PM	2nd Gen. Business Session	Mesquite 1-2
6 PM-8 PM	Commander's Reception	Mesquite Lawn

Jose Mendoza
Commander,
Chapter #12
Convention Chair



I look forward to welcoming you to our Centennial Convention in the gorgeous Coachella Valley!

The Miramonte Indian Wells Resort & Spa is an exciting venue for our Centennial Reunion Celebration. Located near Palm Springs, the resort is an 11-acre oasis set against the picturesque backdrop of the Santa Rosa Mountains, and surrounded by world-class golfing opportunities.

Nearby attractions include;

- the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
- Palm Springs Air Museum
- the living Desert Zoo & Garden
- Village Fest (held every Thursday at 6:00 PM in Palm Springs)
- For more, go to visitpalmsprings.com

- Attendees will receive swag bag valued at over \$250
- Covid concerns? Each villa opens out to the fresh air with plenty of comfortable, outdoor seating

Join us May 13th at 6:30!

for a

Friday Fun Night that's sure to be all fun and games for the whole family!

- Featuring!
- MC, Veteran GI of Comedy, Ralph Figueroa
- games
- door prizes
- stadium food & drinks
- & more!



DAV HITS DC

NATIONAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The DAV Department of California Benefits Protection Team (CABPT), led by our Legislative Director, J.R. Wilson, PSC, participated in this year's DAV National Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C. (Feb. 26-Mar. 4). DAV Benefit Protection Teams from around the country congregated at the Capitol to meet with their elected officials and share the DAV's Critical Policy Goals.

Each goal is very important to our war-time service-connected veterans and their families, it is for that reason the California Benefits Protection Team went to our nation's capitol well-prepared and eager to talk with our elected California congressional officials. California has 53 U.S. Representatives and 2 Senators for a total of 55. Commander Mike Kerr, Legislative Director, J.R. Wilson, PSC, and Director of Operations, Robert Graves, worked to overcome obstacles from Covid-19 restrictions, and were able to meet with 27 elected officials over 4 days via in-person and Zoom.

CRITICAL POLICY GOALS

- 1 Ensure benefits, healthcare and justice for veterans of ALL ERAS exposed to toxic substances
- 2 Enhance veterans' survivor benefits
- 3 Enhance access to long-term care for aging veterans and veterans with service-connected disabilities
- 4 Advance equity in health service, services, & benefits for women veterans, underserved and minority veteran populations
- 5 Improve mental health services and suicide prevention efforts to reduce veteran suicide
- 6 Strengthen the VA's capacity to deliver timely high-quality healthcare

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE!

1. H.R. 1972 and S.810, The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act, currently as of June 2021 in the subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs. Will add more conditions to the list of Disabilities due to exposure. 2 major ones will be Hypertension and Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS)

2. H.R. 2436 and S. 437, Veteran Burn Pits Exposure Recognition ACT, currently as of June 2021 in the subcommittee and Memorial Affairs. Will concede exposure to burn pits; eliminating the need to file for Direct Service connection making it Presumptive Service Connection.

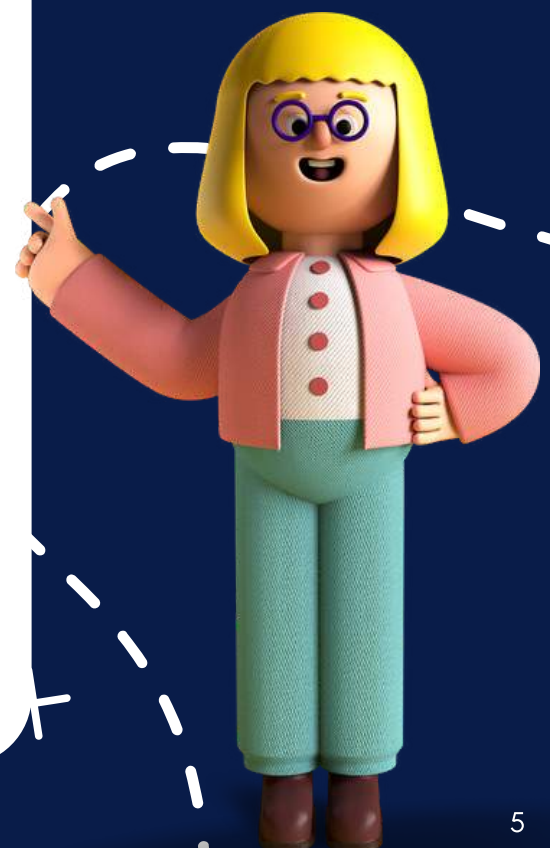
3. H.R 3967, Honoring our Pact Act, just passed the House on March 3rd and was read into the Senate on March 4th. A huge bill has parts of 15 different Bills currently under consideration. Honoring our Pact Act covers 3 different Era's (Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Post 9-11). Will fix the injustice to our Veterans that served in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll and so much more.

4. H.R. 3402 and S. 976, The Caring for Survivors Act. currently as of October 2021 in the Subcommittee hearing held... Increases the Death Indemnity Compensation (DIC) rate, eliminate the 10 yr. rule regarding a 100% Permanent Total Veteran that passes away from a NON-Service Connected Disability. Current Law is Veteran must have the 100% P&T for 10 years before a NSC death for the spouse to be entitled to DIC this will lower the "10 YR. Rule" to 5 years. This bill also covers other great legislation for Survivors.

5. H.R. 2167 and H.R. 2327, Eliminate the "10 Yr. delaminating date rule" for Chapter 35 education benefits, Passed the House in May 2021 we need the Senate to pass... Current law says the Veterans Spouse has 10 years from the Veteran became entitled to receive 100% P&T rate.. Often times the spouse is the caregiver and does not have time to pursue their educational goals.

6. H.R. 5666, Service Member and Veteran Empowerment and Support Act, currently as of November 2021 Subcommittee on Health... This bill will codify evidentiary stands for the MST claims Process, enhance outreach to Veterans concerning the claims process and available resources and increase access to Mental Health care.

Based on our Critical Policy Goals, the California Benefits Protection Team advocated for these pieces of legislation currently working their way through the 117th Congress.



DAV HITS DC

NATIONAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE
& LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CONTINUED

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

While we were attending the DAV National Mid-Winter Conference, H.R. 3967 “Honor our Pact Act” passed the House of Representatives. Some of the “Yay” votes from California representative were directly related to our Advocating for the H.R 3967. We were able to keep in communication with some representatives that were on the fence and was very happy to see that they went to a YAY vs a NAY. If you ever question the impact of advocacy, look no further for proof that your voice matters!

And, making your voice heard is simpler than ever. Remember to sign up for the “DAV Commander Action Network” or C.A.N. at www.DAV.org under “ADVOCATE”, this will alert you on key National Legislative involving Veterans and their Dependents. You can also receive alerts for key Veteran legislation in California by clicking the badge below. Follow the link and sign up. It's that easy!

*Advocating for Veterans
in California is now
easier than ever!*



*Join our grassroots
efforts & be heard!*



REMINDER!

Resolutions are due April 12! Help us support legislation and advocate. Visit davcal.org/resolutions for more info!

Legislative info submitted by:

J.R. Wilson, PSC
Legislative Director
DAV Department of California



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

THE NEWNESS OF LIFE IN SPRING

Ron Ringo ★ DAV California Chaplain ★ Past National Chaplain & Trauma Specialist

Each year we have the blessing of witnessing the newness of life that comes with spring. While we rejoice in the beauty and the renewing of life during this time of year, we often remain cautious or even a bit reluctant to believe that old man winter won't rear his ugly head again with a late season storm.

I think that we sometimes do this in our everyday life as well. We have been taught the blessings of the Passover season and the promises of Easter, showing us that there is hope and life after death and loss. With the Covid pandemic, many of us have suffered seasons of loss. When we lose someone dear to us, we may wonder if we will ever see them again. Scriptures teach us about resurrection, redemption and walking "in the newness of life." As you see the blooms budding, remember the hope that life can spring from desolation.

What would we do differently or how would we live differently, if we knew we only had a short time left here on earth? Would we spend our time making sure everything at work was done or spend more of our time with loved ones? Would we spend our time worrying or enjoy the simple pleasures all around us? I believe that most of us would choose to live our lives to their fullest. We would take and make the time to enjoy life more completely.

This newness of life that we experience each spring can be a part of our attitude all year long if we seek to put it in our hearts and on our faces. It is what most people drop down and ask for in their prayers. It is what most of us say we



wish we had more of. The beauty of it is, we can have it throughout the year if we would look all around us for the joy of life, the precious, sweet, simple and most important things of life—those who share their lives with ours.

As we put away the fears of the unknown and the uncontrollable, we actually become a new person—a person of faith, joy and hope. God has promised this to each and every one of us. That doesn't mean there won't be difficult or hurtful times, but it does mean that there is a newness around the corner, if we can only remember that.

May we seek to look at the beauties of this life more clearly and more often; not waste our time, whatever that remains for us, on worldly cares and worries. Think and pray for those in harms way, dealing with the Ukraine situation. Let us, "Seize the day," renew our life and bless others along the way.

As always, it is my hope that this message will help you to, "mount up as on eagle's wings", and renew a little of your strength to keep moving forward and find joy...(Isaiah 40:31) Until next time, may God bless you and may God continue to bless our great nation.

SEMPER FI

SHOUT OUTS

CELEBRATE SOME GOOD NEWS WITH US!

DAV WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES!

Please take a moment to join us in welcoming some new team members into the DAV California family. We're joined by Alexis Arozco, Transportation Coordinator in Fresno, Brian Dodds, Department Service Officer in Escondido, Scott Cannon, Transportation Coordinator in LA, and Cody Hicks, Assistant Transportation Coordinator in La Jolla.



CHAPTER #60 STAYS BUSY WITH VETERAN OUTREACH



Chapter #60 representing DAV at the Twentynine Palms' Project Phoenix Kick-off, Saturday, March 12, 2022

Chapter #60 Service Officers provide veterans with claims assistance at Luckie Park Activity Center in Twentynine Palms, March 17, 2022



LEGISLATION PASSES, ALLOWING CALIFORNIA VETERANS FREE ACCESS TO STATE PARKS!



California State Parks are now free to veterans, and veterans in San Francisco took some time to celebrate this on February 12. Many thanks to those from our DAV family who worked to make this possible. Next time you see Delphine Metcalf-Foster, PNC/PSC, Legislative Director, J.R. Wilson, PSC, and Eduardo "Eddie" Ramirez, be sure to give them a hearty handshake for helping this become a reality! We also hope you'll take advantage of the park access and go check out some nature!



DRIVE *to help veterans*

- ✓ DO YOU HAVE A CURRENT VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE?
- ✓ DO YOU HAVE ONE DAY PER WEEK AVAILABLE?

INJURED & ILL VETERANS IN CALIFORNIA NEED YOUR HELP!

Volunteers use government vehicles to transport patients to & from their residences to VA appointments, and provide campus shuttle services. Volunteers will be required to pass a background check and physical, both provided at no cost.



**CALL 562-404-1266
TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER!**

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ALL OVER CALIFORNIA!



scan here to learn more!

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NEWS



**EMAIL NEWS@DAVCAL.ORG AND LET US KNOW
WHAT YOU AND YOUR CHAPTER ARE UP TO!**

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

In keeping the spirit of Women's History Month moving, James Brown said it best... that this world wouldn't be nothing, nothing without a woman or a girl; and the Headquarters staff of the DAV Department of California would say the same. Over the past 20 years, there have been a strong team of women working within the walls of DAV California, helping the organization move as fluidly as it has.

Tammy Hernandez, Antionette Sampson, Christina Silva, Charlotte Robertson, Desiree Munoz and Kaitlyn McGriff are names of our past; whom added immense value—in the areas of where they were asked to support, and beyond. Today is no different. DAV California still has its very own Charlie's Angels.



Behind the scenes, keeping the members of our organization informed on what's going on, and also playing an instrumental role in our recruiting efforts for not only membership, but for volunteerism as well. Renee Matthews's work can be seen all over anything you come across regarding this fantastic organization. Renee is the only one on staff who has worked for both National DAV as well as our Department, so we know she has skin in the game! From reminders, to newsletters, we have collectively gotten to see how Renee's vision and understanding of our organization comes together to help add life and value to our members.

"I grew up with injured veterans in my family, and while I worked in donor relations at national, I was excited to be able to use more of my creative skills for California. I'm always supported by great teammates. I hope my work can resonate with veterans of all kinds, and can help inform more veterans about the services and help available to them."

One of the key sayings in our office, is to treat every veteran as if we're they're last phone call. Kristine Douglas has done just that. Three years ago, "KD" hand-walked her resume into our HQ office, but the position had just been taken. As the universe would have it—that position opened up once again, and this eager and zealous individual has been on our team ever since. Because of a shift forced from COVID-19, Kristine has also taken on the role of our Department's Event Coordinator; and looks forward to this 100-year Anniversary to be her home-warming event.



"I was a stay-at-home mom and wife most of my adult life with many ups and downs. These experiences shaped me into the woman I am today and through my hardships, I am blessed and humbled beyond measure. I love to help others and I wanted to do something that would make a difference. I am so happy that DAV took a chance and welcomed me to the team. When I started this position, I assumed I would just handle basic office duties. I didn't realize this job would have such an meaningful impact. I've learned so much about the organization from my amazing coworkers and they really value my input. I'm very proud to have an important role in helping veterans and their families. I hope to encourage others to help continue the legacy of DAV for many years to come."



And last, but never least... our newest addition to the team—Maurine Kirkland. Maurine was asked to fill the big shoes that Tammy Hernandez left behind; and boy has she hit the ground running. Within her shot time here with us, "Mo" has added immense value to our team. As she came in, she was thrown into, and excelled through our annual audit. The leadership here feels absolutely confident in Maurine's ability to continue to add value to not only our process here in HQ, but also the mission of the organization as it pertains to you—the chapter members. In fact, we are incredibly grateful for our own Charlies Angels; because with all that is consistently asked of them, this team adds incredible value to our organization—and DAV California is better because of them.

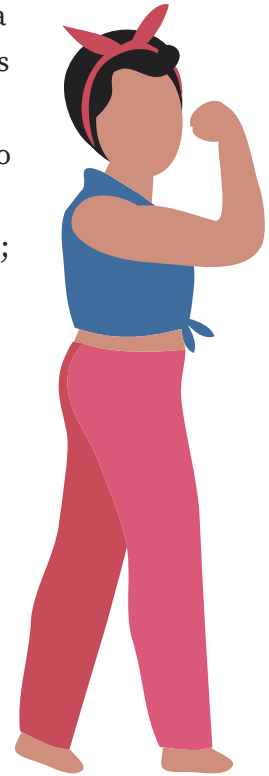
"My oldest son--now an enlisted Air Force member himself--has pulled me into the world of veteran advocacy, which in coming into this role, I had no idea what to expect. There was an understanding that two aspects of our community would have to be served; the operations of a Headquarters process, but also equally as important, the Chapter and members that we serve daily at Headquarters."

DAV CELEBRATES WOMEN VETERANS IN LEADERSHIP

As March, Women's History Month, comes to a close, let's take a moment to shout out the great women who are the backbone of this organization.

Join us in recognizing and showing gratitude for the women who lead here at DAV California. Our organization would certainly not be the same without them and many other women around the state; Our first female national commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, PSC, our Jr. Vice Commander, Nancy Casey, Women Veterans Advisor, Penni Lo'Vette Brown, SEC for District #2, Shirrell McCarey, SEC for District #5, CeeCee Hibbs, Advisor for our General Resolutions & Membership Committee, Joann Martinez, and National Service Officers, Dianna Camac and Jasmine Bravo.

We know there are many more women out there, in your chapters and communities. At DAV we are fighting for more equity for you at the VAs, and more inclusivity for you in the veteran community. Tell us about the great women of DAV California that you know and how they fight for veterans. Email us at news@davcal.org! We want to appreciate them and their efforts.



DAV DEPT OF CALIFORNIA HOLDS VIRTUAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE



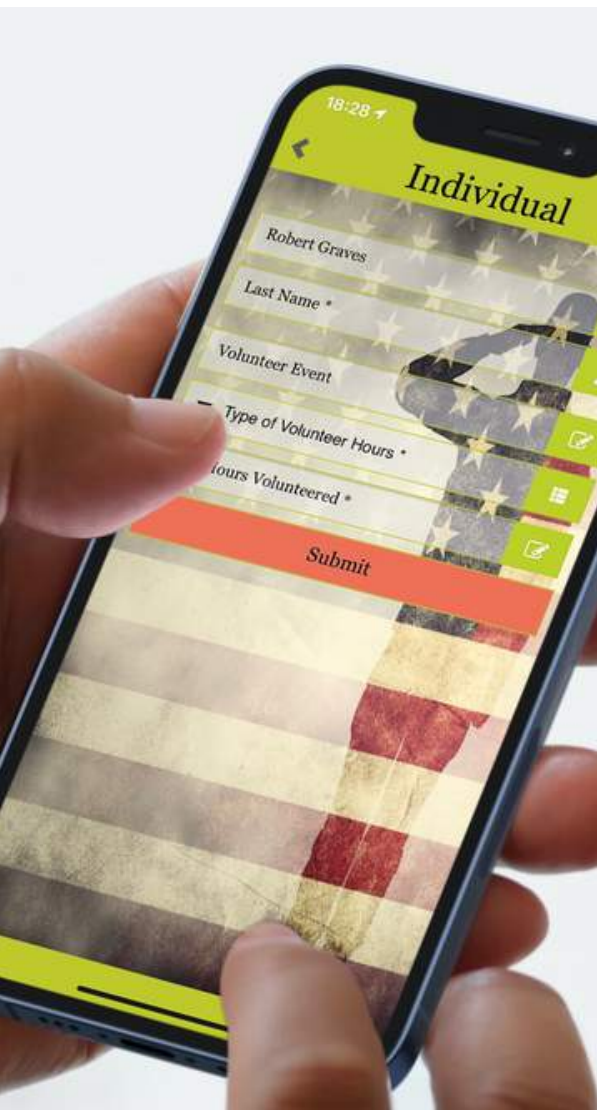
Thank you to all of our members who joined us for our second virtual Midwinter Conference this past January 28th-29th. Our department has worked hard to stay connected during these complicated pandemic times, and we're excited to begin meeting each other in person again soon!

It was a great opportunity to conduct business, catch up with some of you, and, now that we've got a few virtual events under our belt, we've worked out some bugs and events flowed smoothly. Thank you to our department officers and staff, presenters and committee members.

We know that some of you out there are less comfortable with technology, and we greatly appreciate the effort and learning some of you have put in. Thank you for staying with us.

We can accomplish a lot when we work together, so thank you for connecting with us and staying engaged with the work of veterans helping veterans.

VOLUNTEER EASILY WITH OUR DAV CALIFORNIA APP



Staying connected is easier than ever, with the DAV California app. Within the app, users can sign up to become a volunteer, or log your volunteer hours. Search the Apple Store or Google Play for "DAV California." We encourage everyone to download, use and share this app, as it helps us to streamline our volunteer and legislative process and become more efficient in our service to veterans in California!

And, thank you so much to those of you who have already been successfully logging their volunteer hours using the DAV California App. These volunteers have helped us to fine tune the app's process. Also, the more volunteer hours we report, the more we can show those on Capital Hill, that veterans need support and assistance not just at the VA, but more importantly, in the communities they live in.

**SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD APP!**



Donate Your Car!

Have an old or extra car?
Donate it to DAV & help
Veterans in California!

Call 833-227-4328
or visit dav.careasy.org



SUPPORT DAV'S THRIFT STORES!

It's Spring Cleaning Season! Do you have clothing or household goods to donate?
Reach out to your nearest DAV thrift operation and set up a pick up today!

Your donations help provide injured and ill veterans with rehabilitative services & financial support through the DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation.

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



The DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation presenting Adaptive Sports Organization, Break the Barriers, Inc. with a grant.

