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DAV[®]

Spring 2016

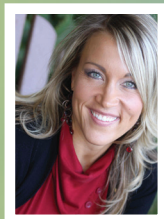
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For the 2016
Department Convention



DAV'S NATIONAL COMMANDER
VISITS NORTHERN CA



FIND OUT HOW TO LIVE YOUR LEGACY NOW WITH
AWARD-WINNING SPEAKER, AMANDA WIRTZ

DAV DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NEWS

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

DAV California 2016 Convention DAV National 2016 Convention

June 8-11, 2016
 DoubleTree
 100 The City Dr.
 Orange, CA 92868
 (714) 634-4500
 \$119 Single/Double
 Reservation Cutoff Date:
 May 20, 2016

July 31-August 3, 2016
 Hyatt Regency Atlanta
 265 Peachtree St. NE
 Atlanta, GA 30303
 (303) 893-3333
 \$125 Single/Double

DAV National 2017 Midwinter Conference

January 13-14, 2017
 Hilton Sacramento Arden
 2200 Harvard St.
 Sacramento, CA 95815
 (800) 445-8667
 \$109 Single/Double
 Reservation Cutoff Date:
 December 26, 2017

DAV National 2017 Midwinter Conference

February 26-March 1, 2017
 (Tentative)
 Crystal Gateway Marriott
 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy
 Arlington, VA 22202
 (800) 266-9432
 \$195 Single/Double

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Building Support

I've thoroughly enjoyed, and been grateful for my time as your commander. The time has been filled with meetings and collaborations. When we take the time to network in our communities, we build stronger structures of support for veterans. DAV is a powerful organization with passionate and dedicated members capable of accomplishing so much for the good of veterans. When we get to know our communities, and collaborate with others who are working hard for veterans and their families, we can make our network even stronger. Think of a spider's web. More strands and connecting points, won't weaken the web, but will only make it stronger, and make it more likely that the spider will achieve its goals of catching those flies. Also, that spider wants to make sure it's tied to something secure, so that it won't take all that time to build only to watch it fall apart. Keep your focus on DAV's mission and only collaborate in ways that strengthen and further that mission.

So, maybe we don't want to catch flies, but we do want to be the best we can be. By my own efforts to collaborate this year, I have been able to meet the leaders and staff of the businesses and organizations that help veterans and disabled veterans. On March 19th I attended a fundraiser organized by Operation Confidence in collaboration with The Restore Foundation. The founder and executive director, Dr. Michael R. Obeng, is a famous plastic surgeon in the entertainment business who travels and operates on children with injuries and disfigurement. He is looking to use this talent to perform similar reconstructive surgeries on veterans in need free of charge. I was able to speak at that event about the DAV and all we do for our veterans.

Another highlight was the groundbreaking ceremony for Heroes Hall, a veteran museum located at the Costa Mesa fairgrounds. Adults and children can take a tour of the museum and learn about veterans of all wars and what we did to preserve the freedoms of our country. I also attended a leadership summit in Sacramento, where the California Secretary of the VA spoke.

I've also been involved in the Orange County Stand Down, the Richard Nixon Library Spring Summit, Business relationship workshops, and Small Business resource workshops. By attending these functions and more, I let people know what the DAV is and how we help our veterans and their families. Additionally, the wheelchair program is in full swing, with a full cargo container scheduled to be delivered from the Knights of Columbus to the San Diego, Orange County and Sacramento areas.

Don't forget! The Department convention is June 8th through June 11th. You won't want to miss our Fun Night "Pirate Palooza." Also, we have our installation of Officers, and plenty of informational seminars and business sessions. Don't forget to finish strong when it comes to membership recruitment! And don't just stop with recruitment, we want to make sure our new members are getting active within the organization by going to meetings and events within their chapter's community. I would like to thank our headquarters staff for all of their help throughout my time as Commander. They are fantastic. Also would also like to thank my family for all of their support, especially my wife Deanna.

**Don't forget!
The Department
Convention is June 8th
through June 11th.**

James Torres, COMMANDER



ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Chapter Leadership *The DAV Way*



What do you think makes a great leader? A few years ago, Google set out to answer that very question. With their vast knowledge in research and data, they looked into what their employees valued the most out of their leadership. They came up with “eight good behaviors” and ranked them in order of importance. Here is what they found.

Number one on the list was the importance of being a good coach. According to their report “what employees valued most were even-keeled bosses who made time for one-on-one meetings, who helped people puzzle through problems by asking questions, not dictating answers, and who took an interest in employees’ lives and careers.”

Coming in at number two, employees wanted to be empowered, rather than micromanaged, and, in third place, a boss who knew their team members and expressed interest in their success and personal well-being was valued.

In the middle of the pack at fourth, Google team members wanted a leader who would be productive and results-oriented. In other words, a manager who would help the team prioritize tasks and overcome roadblocks. And, in fifth place, a leader should be a good communicator and listen to their team.

In sixth, seventh, and eighth, a manager needed to help employees with career development, have a clear vision and strategy for the team, and lastly, have key technical skills.

So what can we learn from Google’s extensive research, and how can we apply it to our chapters? First of all, it may be surprising, but knowledge comes in last place on this list. Notice that it makes the list and is undoubtedly

important, however, the people skills take precedence to pure head knowledge. So keep in mind that being the smartest person in the room or knowing the most about veterans’ issues does not necessarily make for a great leader. A great leader is someone who creates a great team environment. In order for this to happen, every member of the team needs to feel like an important part of the whole. With mentorship, and the investment of time and energy from more-experienced members, the less experienced members will become vital assets.

Another thing I noticed from this list is that the most important attributes are things anyone can do with commitment and the right attitude. When you break down Google’s list, the key elements of success as a leader are the willingness to commit time, ask



Number one on the list was the importance of being a good coach.

questions, show interest, empower, and have a helpful attitude. Some people may think they don’t have what it takes to be a leader, but it can be simpler than we might think.

This year, at convention, with our Chapter Leadership Forum, and a special presentation from Amanda Wirtz, which will focus on “Living Your Legacy Now,” we want to focus on creating a dynamic team environment within our chapters. We want our leadership to be mentors, and our new members to know that they matter. So, when you come out to convention this year, bring your ideas and success stories to share, and help us become overall better leaders as we move.

Daniel Contreras, PSC, CEO/ADJUTANT



SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As always it is my Honor to be your Sr. Vice Commander of the Great Disabled American Veterans Department of California.

What a great Midwinter in Anaheim this past January! Adjutant Contreras and his staff knocked it out of the park, as always.

More importantly, we as a department were able to obtain valuable information from a variety of workshops and legislative seminars.

We as veterans must work together to protect our benefits that we have earned through our military service. That is why every February we as members of the Disabled American Veterans gather in our Nation's Capital to speak with our elected officials. This year was no exception, and our National Commander, Moses Macintosh, delivered a powerful presentation when he spoke in front of Congress and the National staff, making us all proud. As a Department we rallied behind our own Legislative Director, and PSC, Richard Valdez, as we went around to our elected officials from California.

It is very important that we as disabled veterans become aware of the legislation that effects our community. One of the issues we focused on was Women Veterans Health Access. Only 60% of VA medical facilities have OBGYN services and this needs to change. These women are

veterans and deserve much better healthcare. Many times these women are single parents and are forced to travel many miles to receive medical treatment, which oftentimes means they have to seek out after-school care for their children. Veterans need to be able to have local healthcare in their communities. This is the reason why the Choice Program needs to be fixed as well. I was very pleased to learn from the DAV Facebook page that the payment system the VA uses to pay TriWest is being fixed. Often times the doctors were not being paid in a timely manner, and this in turn meant the veteran would be unfairly billed. Many doctors have chosen not to become a "community partner", which means less choice, or even no choice sometimes, for our veteran community.

Become active in your chapter and together we can create change on these issues that matter to us! Hope to see you all this June at the State Convention.

Many thanks to my family, the Department staff, and my fellow members for all the hard work and support.

J.R. Wilson, SR. VICE COMMANDER



AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

At the National Convention in Denver last year, our newly elected National Commander, Linda Stake, shared some interesting facts

about membership that I would like to share with you today. She said that if each and every Unit member got 7 new memberships, that we would be over 1 million members strong. Now that is a goal we would like to reach! The requirement for Auxiliary membership has changed recently. Anyone who has a family member, or extended family member that is a veteran, or injured active duty, can join the Auxiliary. That includes, in-laws, step children, aunts, uncles and even your long lost cousins! All memberships are LIFE memberships and can be started with a minimal down payment. If you or someone you know would like to join, or if you have any questions, please

ask any of our Auxiliary members.

So, why become an Auxiliary member you ask? Making sure every American remembers the sacrifices our veterans have made is critical. The DAV is a powerful voice in safeguarding the benefits the country has promised to our Nations heroes. The DAV Auxiliary is a strong and powerful advocate for our veteran's rights. We fight for those rights on Capitol Hill, promoting policies that ensure veterans and their families live with respect and dignity. As General George Washington once said: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Samantha Galliher, AUXILIARY COMMANDER



JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Being 1.3 million members strong opened many doors and allowed the California delegation to meet with our local legislators.

Comrades, as I returned from the National Midwinter Conference in Washington DC, I was reminded about the importance of advocacy. I witnessed the National Commander's Presentation to the Joint House & Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, was able to speak to VA Secretary McDonald, and sat in on meetings with Sloan Gibson, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Danny Pummill, Acting Undersecretary of Benefits. Due to the relationships forged by the DAV Legislative Staff, the DAV has the attention of these individuals, and of our legislators.

The DAV talking points included reforming the healthcare system, caregiver support, the appeals pilot program, policies for women veterans, and funding for benefits and programs. Being 1.3 million members strong opened many doors and allowed the California delegation to meet with our local legislators. How can we all get involved? Join the Commander's Action Network at Dav.org/can. Sign up today and stay involved with DAV's current legislative priorities.

I'm excited about the upcoming convention in Anaheim, CA. The Department has prepared an informative and fun-filled convention for the membership. I hope every chapter takes advantage of the CCAP program and sends at least two members. I'll be visiting more chapters this spring and look forward to hearing about your local outreach programs. These programs serve veterans in your communities and are the catalyst for your membership drives.

As a life member of the National Order of The Trench Rats and the DAV Auxiliary I've also attended those functions and meetings. A special thanks to Commander Samantha Galliher for her leadership in building a stronger Auxiliary in Southern California.

Get Involved! Be Involved! Stay Involved!

Guy Anastasia, JR. VICE COMMANDER



AUXILIARY ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Getting Involved

This year will mark my tenth State Convention. Like many Auxiliary members, I started attending because I wanted to spend time with my husband. Although I was active in my Unit, I walked into my first SEC meeting having no idea what was happening. Luckily, older members took me under their wings and I unexpectedly found a kinship with Auxiliary members from around the state.

This year's Convention offers an amazing opportunity for unit members to get more involved with the DAV Auxiliary on a state level. The DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation has generously introduced a new and exciting program that is available to our Unit members. It is called the Unit Convention Attendance Program, or UCAP. Like the very successful CCAP program for DAV members, the UCAP program is designed

to encourage DAV Auxiliary Units to attend the yearly State Convention and to help offset the costs of attending. Prior to convention, I encourage you to invite eligible Auxiliary members to take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

There is a saying, "many hands make light work". In order for the DAV Auxiliary to continue to support America's disabled veterans and their families, the number of active members

I ask that when we meet these members, we think about our first time.

must grow. It is therefore vital that our UCAP attendees have a positive experience at this year's convention.

I ask that when we meet these members, we think about our first time. How were we welcomed? What confused us? How did we begin to feel like a part of the group? Most importantly, why did we attend our second convention? By answering each of these questions and welcoming new attendees, we can all be responsible for our Department's success.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Marilyn Nosaka



Our Department was saddened to hear about the loss of one of our own Transportation Coordinators this February, 2016, following a battle with pneumonia. Ms. Nosaka served our organization well for twelve years out of the San Francisco VA Medical Center. She was an intelligent person, witty, and an avid reader. She loved her job, and did it well. She cared a lot about her drivers and really thought the world of them. She told those that knew her that her position as Transportation Coordinator was the best job she had ever had. We greatly appreciated all of her hard work and dedication as a longtime employee. We know that her efforts made a great difference to injured and ill veterans in the Bay Area. We are deeply grateful for her years of service with us and she will be missed.

She loved her job, and did it well. She cared a lot about her drivers and really thought the world of them. She told those that knew her that her position as Transportation Coordinator was the best job she had ever had.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Linda Sundberg



“F

eed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.”

Spring always reminds us of new beginnings. Everything is a little bit more alive around us, and it can be a good time for us to take a look at ourselves and consider our own awakenings. It can be easy to live a complacent life, never looking past our own jobs, families or personal needs. Don't get me wrong, these are important things and wonderful uses of our time! There are seasons in life where our own survival may be all we can handle. If you've gone through those seasons, think of how much it mattered to you when a friend, stranger, or acquaintance, someone who could have easily kept to themselves, looked past their own sphere and did something kind for you. If you haven't experienced this, imagine the

difference it could have made.

Now think about this in terms of our own veteran community. Here at DAV, we are veterans helping veterans. We've experienced specific struggles, and as such, have a special ability to empathize with those from similar situations. This spring, consider starting something new and volunteering to help injured and ill veterans, and their families, in need. Contact your local VA hospital, consider driving a transportation van to help veterans without vehicles, or the ability to drive, get to VA appointments, or just help the veteran down the street get some groceries or do yard work.

We may not have harsh winters here in California, but winter can be a reminder of the hard things in life. Plants die and the world gets a little darker. But it's spring now, and a good time to ask yourself, "how can I make my corner of the world a little brighter this year"?

2016 DAV Convention



Anaheim Convention Center

You won't want to miss out on our upcoming convention in Anaheim on June 8-11, 2016! 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. Perhaps most importantly, this hotel is very near to Disneyland, and the DoubleTree provides a complimentary shuttle to this neighboring attraction. The hotel itself offers tasty dining at their Trofi Restaurant, an outdoor pool, a 24/7 modern fitness center, and outdoor tennis, basketball and volleyball courts. When booking your room for convention, consider lengthening your stay and make a family vacation out of it!

We also have a lot of exciting plans for the convention itself this year. We are happy to welcome Deputy National Legislative Director, Joy Ilem, as our National Guest. She'll be bringing along her vast knowledge of DAV's legislative

initiatives. Convention is a great place to come for those of you who may be members of DAV and are looking to get involved. We hold our business meetings, which help our members stay informed on the inner workings of the

Stay connected with your district at our district meetings...

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 Opening Ceremonies. Help form beneficial resolutions on issues you care about at our committee meetings, participate in the election of our department line officers, and learn how to be more effective at our Chapter Leadership Forum. This year, we will be discussing DAV's new Benefits Protection Team Initiative, VAVS (VA Voluntary Service), and recruitment of volunteers and members. We also have a special presentation planned. Veteran, Musician, and speaker, Amanda Wirtz, will give a seminar on Leaving your Legacy by Living it Now. And, as always, you won't want to miss out on Fun Night! This year's will be a Pirate Palooza. We hope you'll put on your best pirate gear and join us in Anaheim for our 95th Annual Convention!



2016 Convention Schedule

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Claims & Service Commission
10:45 AM-12:00 PM	Finance Committee
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	State Executive Committee

Thursday, June 9, 2016

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration
8:30 AM-10:00 AM	District Meetings - Districts 1-6
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	District Meetings - Districts 7-11
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	Joint Opening Ceremonies
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Joint Memorial Service
6:30 PM-8:30 PM	Sr. & Jr. Vice Reception

Friday, June 10, 2016

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Committee Meetings - Employment

Friday, June 10, 2016 (continued)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM	- Legislation & Veterans Rights - General Resolutions & Membership
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Committee Meetings - Constitution & Bylaws - Finance - Hospital & Voluntary Services
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Leave Your Legacy by Living it Now!
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	First General Business Session
6:30 PM-10:00 PM	Fun Night

Saturday, June 11, 2016

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Registration
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Chapter Leadership Forum
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	Second General Business Session - Election of Officers - Installation of Officers - Convention Adjournment
6:00 PM-8:00 PM	Commander's Reception



Are you asking The Right Question? Find out how to live your legacy now!

Come to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Anaheim on 100 The City Drive on Friday, June 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM!

Join DAV Dept. of California's 2016 Veteran of the Year, award-winning and nationally renowned speaker, and violinist Amanda Wirtz on an exploration of story and music investigating life's decisions, personal values and the shocking truth behind a question that has the power to transform your life and the world.

Department 2016 Midwinter Conference

Thank you to all of you who came out to our Department Midwinter Conference at the DoubleTree in Anaheim! We were excited this year to be able to make our Chapter Service Officer training even stronger by making it a two day training session. Thanks to those of you who went through it. We hope that you will be able to better assist veterans in need as a result! We here at the DAV Department of California are veterans who want to help our fellow veterans, and at our conferences and conventions, we both attend to the business necessary to keep our organization functioning and thriving, as well as seek to equip our members with the knowledge and resources they need to best help the veterans in their communities. We are always seeking to grow our programs and continue to provide our attendees with increasingly helpful information. Our State Executive Committee updated us on what's going on with chapters in different districts. We continue to be impressed with our members' commitment to their communities, and we would like to encourage you to keep getting out there. Help us raise awareness for this great organization, recruit new members, and be active agents for positive change in your communities. We were also happy to hear from our Past State



Commander, Richard Valdez, on the issue of Legislation and Resolutions. For those of you who missed it, the presentation is on our website (davcal.org) under the heading "Membership Resources". This is an issue that we hope all of our members will invest some time and energy into. Visit dav.org/grassroots to learn more about our national organization's latest legislative efforts, their new Benefits Protection Team, and how you can become an effective part of advocating for positive legislative change.

Once again, it is always fantastic to see all the faces of our wonderful, dedicated, and passionate members. Midwinter conference is a great time to get informed, touch base with like-minded veterans in the state, and gain helpful knowledge to bring back to the chapters. With the great accommodations provided by the DoubleTree in Anaheim, and the ample entertainment opportunities located near the venue, this event was not only productive and informational, but fun as well! We hope to see you at next year's!

DAV's National Commander Visits Northern California!

Commander McIntosh, his wife Margie and daughter Paige had a spectacular visit at Palo Alto Healthcare System VA and San Francisco VAMC from March 17, 2016 to March 20, 2016. PAHCS Director, Lisa Freeman, Deputy Director, Tony Fitzgerald, and PA Interim Director & VAVS Chief, Bill



Ball, scheduled a thorough walk-through and a daily real-time planning session with all department leaders and teleconferences off sight. The extensive tour of the new Spinal Cord and Rehab center seemed to leave a positive impression in the Commander's heart. Commander McIntosh was accompanied by National First Junior Vice Commander, Delphine Metcalf Foster, PSC, James Bogan, PSC, Kirk Johnson, DAVA PSC, Doris Bogan, and Dept. of California Senior Vice Commander, J.R. Wilson. They were also joined by NSO Assistant Supervisor from the Oakland Regional Office, John Spradlin, NSO, Hoy Evans, and Chapter #83 Clearlake Commander, Richard "Skip" Hulet.

Commander McIntosh graciously recognized three DAV NSOs and two chapter members for their role in providing disaster relief following the Valley Fire that took place on September 13, 2015 in Lake County, California. DAV Chapter #83 of Clearlake also received an award reading "Your dedication and high standards to the DAV mission is a model for all to emulate in ensuring all disabled veterans receive the quality of care they deserve."



The tour continued at San Francisco VA Medical Center. Commander McIntosh met with the Chief of Voluntary Service, Ms. Owetdia Dupree, Deputy Chief, Mr. Jim McDermott, and Telehealth Nurse Manager, Ms. Elaine Der. SFVAMC DAV VAVS Representative, Thomas Mack, and DAVA Representative, Adrian Mack, were on this site visit as well. Ms. Der gave a presentation on the Telehealth programs at SFVAMC, Ms. Dupree led a discussion on DAV Participation for fiscal year 2014 and 2015, and Mr. McDermott spoke on the Volunteer Transportation Network after giving a brief walkthrough of the facility.

Thanks also to Vallejo Chapter #21 Adjutant, James Dickerson, SEC/PSC, Kenneth Wingett, and Oakland Regional Office Supervisor, William E. Marigny. Thank you to the National Commander and all who made this event possible!

California is Proud to Support Delphine Metcalf-Foster for Higher Office!



California's own Delphine Metcalf-Foster, retired Army First Sergeant, with service in Desert Storm/Desert Shield, has spent this year serving as National First Junior Vice Commander, and has been doing a fantastic job! She will be running for higher office at the next National Convention, and we hope you will come out to support her! Ms. Metcalf-Foster began getting involved with the DAV and veterans issues following her retirement from the military in 1996. She became a life member of Chapter #21 in Vallejo, California where she proved her skills as a leader in various positions, including Commander and Adjutant. On the Department level, she is heavily involved, and has served as District #1 Commander, Department Resolution Committee Chair, VAVS Chair, member of the Claims and Service Commission, and as a Past State Commander. She has shown a commitment to spreading DAV's mission and message to our lawmakers and throughout the country. Delphine has been a member of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans since 2011, and has served on Congressman George Miller's VA Committee. She has helped educate our state of California about veterans' issues by working with state and local officials on Stand Downs and Women's Summits.

Overall, First National Junior Vice Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, has infectious enthusiasm for veterans rights, a hard work ethic, and the charisma needed to make a dynamic leader. We are proud of her and proud to support her for higher office.

4 UR Community

DAV Departments can partner with local Ford dealerships to raise up to \$6,000 through Ford Motor Company's program called Drive 4 UR Community (D4URC). This program is designed to help raise much-needed funding for local community groups and nonprofit organizations.

How does it work? Local dealerships can partner with a DAV Department to host an event. Together, they will select a date and time, and will coordinate volunteer and promotional activities. On the event date, for every person who takes the wheel and test-drives a new Ford vehicle, Ford Motor Company will donate \$20 to the participating DAV Department, up to \$6,000 (some models excluded). The funds will go toward the programs and services provided by the participating DAV Department to ensure veterans receive their benefits and are able to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity. Events must be held within



one day. Events feature many vehicles from Ford's impressive lineup. Participants can test drive a wide host of vehicles, including fuel efficiency vehicles, like the Fusion or Focus, or electric vehicles, like the C-MAX. Dealership staff on site will be able to assist with all Ford vehicles and provide additional information about each vehicle available for test-drive. Participants must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license. There is a limit of one test-drive per household. Test-drives typically last approximately 7-10 minutes.

Ford dealerships may have limited availability on the number of Drive events they can participate in per year. It is important to contact the dealership you are interested in working with to discuss possible event dates. For information regarding event availability, please contact Drive 4 UR Community Program HQ at (888) 893-3673. If you have any questions on this opportunity, please contact Laura Rusche in DAV National's Fundraising Department at LRusche@dav.org or 859-442-2072.

❄️ National Midwinter Conference ❄️

For those of you who have never attended a National Midwinter Conference, it is a unique experience in which we all get to be a part of the bigger movement of our organization. This year was no different. We witnessed our Commander, Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., address the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, and DAV members and leaders from our own Department of California were able to meet with several of California's legislators. In these meetings, the DAV Department of California had the opportunity to bring issues that are important to, and effecting veterans before our nation's lawmakers. This



year, the focus was on reforming the veterans' healthcare system, comprehensive caregiver support for veterans of all eras, legislation to enact a fully developed appeals pilot program, enhanced services and policies for women veterans, and adequate funding for veterans benefits and programs. Midwinter is always a great way to connect with our national organization, to learn more about the VA, and to learn about issues effecting veterans on a larger scale. Thank you to all those of you who shared DAV's mission

with members of congress, and we hope you'll consider attending next year.

RON VOGEL ANNOUNCES...

...his Candidacy for **Junior Vice Commander!**

Ronald Vogel, of Bakersfield, California served in the US Navy aboard the USS Fresno LST 1182 from May 19, 1969 to May 16, 1973.

He has been a member of DAV Bakersfield Chapter #20 for 22 years, and has served the chapter as Jr. Vice Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and Commander. He currently acts as the Adjutant/Treasurer.

He has also served the DAV on the department level as the Sergeant At Arms, and has done a great job as SEC for District #8.

After Mr. Vogel left the service, he took on the venture of owning and operating a small upholstery business, which he ran for 38 years, until he retired and closed the business in December of 2015. He has also been married to his wife Sheila for 33 years and has three adult children.

During his time as a DAV member, he has strived to promote the organization to the men and women that serve this country. Mr. Vogel believes that DAV is the best Veteran Service Organization in the country, and, as such, is motivated to let veterans know that we are dedicated to helping them obtain their medical benefits and meet their families' needs. As a nominee for department line officer, he is excited for the opportunity to raise even greater awareness.

Ron Vogel



for Junior Vice Commander

Employee Spotlight

Thanks to our Spring 2016 Employee Spotlight, Transportation Coordinator, Pam Goto, our transportation efforts in Mather are of the highest quality. Ms. Goto's sister served in the army for 20 years, and became a DAV member. This contributed to Pam's interest in serving veterans.

She first heard about the open position from the previous Transportation Coordinator in Mather.

She enjoys the opportunity to make a difference in the Mather community, and to help veterans with their transportation needs. She tries her best to pick up as many veterans as she can with Mather's two transportation vans. Ms. Goto is a very hard worker, extremely detailed-oriented, and organized. These attributes make her perfectly suited to her role.

Pam Goto has high hopes for the future and would love to see Mather's transportation program grow and flourish under her leadership. She would like to see the eventual addition of a third van, and an expansion of DAV's service area in the community surrounding Mather. She truly has a passion for helping as many veterans as possible.

Thanks for the last six years of great work, Pam! We look forward to many more! Interested in helping our wonderful transportation coordinators bring injured and ill veterans to VA appointments? Volunteer! Find out more or find your nearest transportation coordinator on our website at davcal.org.



Pam Goto

Veterans Cemetery to Open Fall 2016

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) is pleased to announce great progress on construction of our new California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) in Seaside, and expects to begin interments in fall 2016.



The CCCVC is being developed in phases on a 78-acre property located on the former Fort Ord Army Base. In March 2015, representatives from the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, the County of Monterey, the City of Seaside, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, CalVet, and the California Department of General Services, as well as active and former legislative leaders, broke ground for the project.

“We are nearing the opening of our Veterans Cemetery after two decades of diligent collaborative effort by Veterans and family members,” said Keith Boylan, CalVet Deputy Secretary, Veterans Services. “We are proud to continue honoring our Veterans from the Central Coast by providing them with an eternal resting place near home while also memorializing the Monterey area’s rich military history and tradition.”

Phase I of the CCCVC development process includes construction of an administration building, a maintenance building and maintenance yard, an assembly area,

committal service shelter, columbaria with 5,000 burial sites, landscaping, a memorial walkway, and infrastructure to support future phases. This work is well underway and is expected to be completed by September 2016. The cost for Phase I of the project is \$9.4 million, including \$6.8 million in funding from the federal government, \$2 million from the State of California, and \$615,000 in local donations.

The Cemetery layout has been developed to include flexibility through sequential phases which allows the Cemetery to be completed on an as-needed basis determined by the burial demands anticipated over the next 100 years.

Eligibility for burial at CCCVC is based on military service and is consistent with eligibility for interment or burial at a National Veterans Cemetery operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Currently, burial benefits include a columbarium niche, opening and closing of the niche, a niche cover, a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the vault. There is no charge for burial or interment of an eligible Veteran. A fee applies to burial of the spouse or dependent children of an eligible Veteran.

Families who want to determine eligibility for Veterans and their dependents may complete the Eligibility Determination Form at: www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/State-Veterans-Cemeteries.aspx or contact the Monterey County Military Veterans Affairs Office at:

Monterey County Military & Veterans Affairs Office
1200 Aguajito Road, Suite 003
Monterey, CA 93940
831-647-7613

CCCVC will be the third California Veterans Cemetery, joining our Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo, and our Yountville Veterans Cemetery exclusively serving the Yountville Veterans Home, near Napa. A fourth Veterans Cemetery in Southern California is in the planning stage. In addition, there are nine National Veterans Cemeteries in California, five of which are currently open for burials.

***Editor’s Note:** This article was submitted by June Iljana, Information Officer with the California Department of Veterans Affairs. We here at the DAV Dept. of California would like to extend a special thanks to all of our DAV members who played a role in this important project!*

Department Service Offices & Transportation Coordinators

A. SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER

4150 Clement St. Bldg. 2, Room 161A
San Francisco, CA 94121
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Vacant- Transpo. Coordinator
(415) 221-4810 Ext. 5612

B. MATHER VA MEDICAL CENTER

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

C. FRESNO VA MEDICAL CENTER

2615 E. Clinton Room E-108A
Fresno, CA 93703
Hours: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Mario Flores- Dept. Service Officer Supervisor
(559) 241-6418
Cristina Vaxter- Dept. Service Officer
(559) 241-6401
Susan Bertolani- Transpo Coordinator
Room W110
(559) 241-6424

D. SEPULVEDA VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

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Sepulveda, CA 91343
Hours: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mon.-Fri.
Leigh Polzin- Dept. Service Officer
Bldg. 22, Room 213
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Marie Pounds- Transpo. Coordinator
Bldg. 22, Room 215
(818) 895-9408

E. LOS ANGELES VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

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F. LOMA LINDA VA MEDICAL CENTER

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G. WEST LA VA MEDICAL CENTER

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H. LONG BEACH VA MEDICAL CENTER

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Long Beach, CA 90822
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Liza Thornton- Transpo. Coordinator
(562) 826-5796

I. VA ESCONDIDO CLINIC

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Escondido, CA 92025
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Juan Gallardo- Dept. Service Officer
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"The Hub" Miramar Way Room 120
San Diego, CA 92145
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Tomoko Ferguson- Dept. Support
(Monday-Friday)
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K. LA JOLLA VA MEDICAL CENTER

3350 La Jolla Village Dr.
San Diego, CA 92161
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Richard Randolph- Dept. Service Officer
Room 1598
David Strobehn/Nancy Casey- Transpo. Coordinator
Room 1592
(858) 552-7470

L. SPRING VALLEY - DAV INDUSTRIES

1049 Elkeltan Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA 91977
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