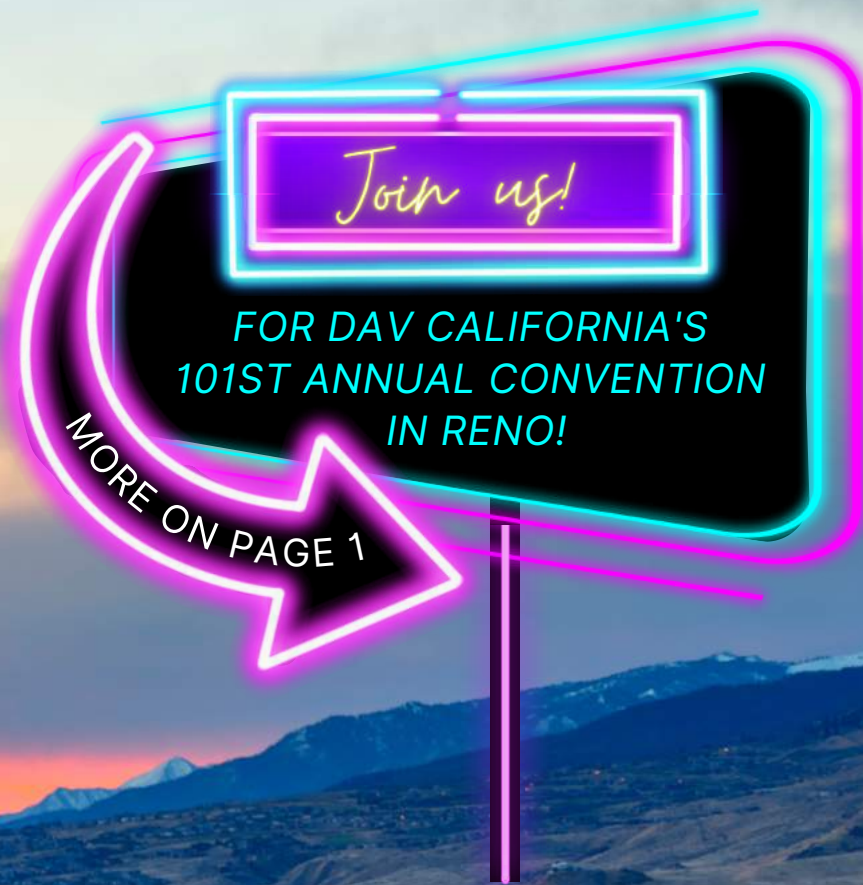




# DAV CALIFORNIA NEWS





# You're Invited!

CLICK  
TO  
REGISTER!

to

**DAV California's 101st  
State Convention**

**MAY 31-JUNE 4, 2023**

at the

**Nugget Casino Resort**

1100 Nugget Ave.

Sparks, NV 89431

Rates: Sun-Thurs. \$79

Friday-Saturday: \$119

**(800) 648-1177**

Call or click above to register!

**Reserve by: 4/28/23**

**Group Code: GDAV523**

We're looking forward to meeting again with our big DAV & DAVA California family at the Nugget! The Reno-Sparks area offers much to enjoy and explore- so, bring the family. More importantly, connect with DAV leadership, learn, get involved and discover how you can contribute to the work of helping veterans in California. Also, we're very happy to host our National 4th Jr. Vice Commander, Cynthia Madison. We're fired up, and ready to work, have fun, and welcome this next chapter for our DAV California team! See you soon!



*Daniel Contreras*

# SCHEDULE

*may be subject to change*

## Wednesday, May 31, 2023

8 AM-12 PM	Registration
9 AM-10:30 AM	Claims & Service
10:45 AM-12 PM	Finance Committee
1:30 PM-4 PM	SEC

## Thursday, June 1, 2023

8 AM-12 PM	Registration
8:30 AM-10 AM	District #1-#4
10 AM-11:30	District #5-#7
1 PM-4 PM	Joint Opening
5 PM-6 PM	Joint Memorial

## Friday, June 2, 2023

8 AM-12 PM	Registration
8 AM-9 AM	Employment Committee Legislation & Vets' Rights Resolutions & Membership
9 AM- 10 AM	Constitution & Bylaws Women Veterans Hospital & Volunteerism
10 AM-12 PM	Workshop
1 PM-4 PM	1st Gen. Business Session
6:30 PM-10 PM	Fun Night

## Saturday, June 3, 2023

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



**Join us June 2nd, 2023 at 6:30!**

for a

## **"Superhero Celebration" Fun Night**

### Featuring!

- games
- music
- photobooth
- food
- & more!



**W**e can't wait to see all of you at our 101st Annual State Convention, to be held May 31-June 4, 2023 at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV. The newly remodeled Nugget is consistently ranked at the top of the area's resort hotels, and features more than 900 slots, an indoor pool and health center, all your favorite table games, a bingo hall and more.

Hungry or thirsty- the Nugget has your back with five award-winning restaurants and several lounges where you can enjoy a crafted cocktail. We also hope you'll come ready to relax in the modern lodge-themed rooms, which feature free wi-fi, lots of amenities, and beautiful views of the Reno-Sparks skyline and the Sierra Mountains.

If you have the time, the area is surrounded by beautiful parks and gorgeous Lake Tahoe. There is lots to explore, so I hope you will bring the whole family.

As always, this is a time to connect with one another as members of the DAV in California. This is an important part of our year for learning, advocating and planning for the work ahead. 2023 is the Year of the Volunteer! Celebrate our helpers, and learn how to recruit or get plugged in. Our Fun Night will reflect this theme with a "Superhero Celebration Night." Start planning your superhero look now and we'll see you all there!





# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

**JOE MOSELEY | DAV CALIFORNIA COMMANDER**

Capitol Hill was filled with veterans this past February, fighting to keep VA Healthcare funded and benefits in place. National Midwinter had several informative workshops and seminars with emphasis on “Resolution Writing” and Membership programs. DAV supported our National Commander Joe Parsetich as he presented this year’s legislative agenda before the Joint Congressional Veterans Affairs Committee. The California DAV Legislative Team was especially busy and attended meetings with many of our local politicians and Congressional representatives.

What makes us especially impressive and marketable is our collective volunteering that we use to strengthen our position in politics. DAV California continues to accrue vital LVAP hours by helping disabled veterans in all types of ways across our great state. These hours show our lawmakers not only how great the needs of our veterans can be, but also the effort and impact we make as an organization to meet those needs. Let the Spring season revitalize your efforts in helping the community and strengthening DAV outreach to those that need it most.

Let the “Year of the Volunteer” continue strong as we shine together reporting the quality time we consistently give in the service of helping fellow veterans. There are a variety of activities that qualify as

LVAP hours including: attending veteran seminars/training/boards, Stand Downs, grassroots legislation, Chapter/Department Service Officer work, Chapter/Department meetings, and direct assistance including helping spouses and family members of disabled veterans. All of this counts if you simply log it. So spread the word and help strengthen our DAV organization and improve the way we serve our fellow comrades.

Lastly, the California State Convention is just around the corner so please get registered and make your reservations for you and your Chapter. This is going to be an affordable, spectacular, educational, enjoyable time for the whole family at The Nugget, in Sparks NV. This is our time to shine so please come to have fun and share camaraderie among your fellow disabled veterans.

**“ Let the spring season revitalize your efforts in helping the community ”**





# DAV HITS DC

NATIONAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE  
& LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JR WILSON, PSC | DAV CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

The DAV California Benefits Protection Team (BPT) had a very productive DAV National Midwinter Conference in Washington, DC. This year the BPT, which included DAV California Commander, Joseph Moseley, DAV California Women Veterans Advisor, Penni Brown, and BPT Leader/DAV California Legislative Director, JR Wilson.

It is always exciting and challenging to visit with as many California Representatives as we can, in the limited time we have in Washington, DC. This year we were able to make appointments with 18 of our California elected members of Congress spanning over 4 days. This year as in the past we took to capital hill to lobby for veterans and their dependents by speaking about the DAV Critical Policy Goals for the 118th Congress. There is still a lot of work to do for veterans and their dependents, even with the recent legislative victories we've seen for veterans. The Pact Act and the Debra Sampson Act were good steps forward for our community. However, congress still needs to ensure that there is proper funding for the implementation and outreach needed to carry out this legislation.



This year we held a couple pre-Midwinter Zoom Meetings with elected officials. This allowed the BPT to get a couple "practice runs" in before reaching DC. The Commander, Joseph Moseley, rose to the occasion as usual and represented California very well! Joseph spoke on many of the DAV Critical Policy Goals as we went around congress. We are lucky in California to have a wonderful Women Veterans Advisor in Penni Brown and in Washington, DC she showed her knowledge of current legislation and current issues Women, LGBTQ and other minority veterans face within their local communities.





# CRITICAL POLICY GOALS



The DAV National Legislative Team put out 6 Critical Policy Goals for the 118th Congress in November 2022. Below is a synopsis for each of our 2023-2024 goals.

## **1** Congress must correct the inequities in compensation benefits for veterans and their survivors.

DAV will fight for concurrent receipt of earned compensation and military payments without offsets; parity with other federal programs for survivors receiving Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits; and increased rates for veteran's disability compensation based on quality of life. The current disability compensation for Veterans needs to be increased based on quality of life.

## **2** Implement the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic exposure benefits

Thousands of disability claims have been submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) following the passage of the PACT Act (P. L. 117-168), but far too many veterans who have suffered from toxic and environmental exposures still do not qualify for benefits. Our nation must ensure these veterans receive the care and benefits they have rightfully earned.

## **3** Ensure equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans

The VA must ensure these veterans have access to benefits and timely, high-quality and specialized health care services to the same extent as their veteran peers. The VA must provide a safe, welcoming and harassment-free environment at all its healthcare facilities.

## **4** Provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans.

The VA must have a comprehensive geriatric and extended care program that includes a broad range of care options and supportive services—from homebased primary care to long-term institutional care to assist a rapidly aging veteran population, particularly veterans with service-connected conditions.

## **5** Bolster mental health resources to ensure continued progress in reducing veteran suicide.

Despite increased resources for VA mental health services and targeted efforts, rates of suicide among veterans have only marginally decreased. By improving lethal means safety efforts, enhancing care for veterans in crisis and requiring training for community partners, the VA can help to further reduce suicide for at-risk veterans and ensure all veterans have timely access to needed mental health services.

## **6** Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high-quality care to veterans to ensure the best health outcomes for veterans,

particularly veterans with service-connected conditions who rely on the VA for all or most of their care, the VA must remain the primary provider and coordinator of care. This will require new investments to hire and retain clinical staff, rebuilding health care infrastructure and modernization of information technology systems.

Click to learn more about these goals!



# BE A VETERAN ADVOCATE!

Of course, none of these Critical Policy Goals can be completed without each of our members advocating for veterans and their dependents. That starts with "Resolutions" from our chapters. Resolutions can deal with State or National Legislation. *For example, Property Tax is a State Issue and Space-A availability for 100% Service-Connected Veterans Caregivers is a National Legislative issue.* If your chapter has not already put together a couple resolutions, I would encourage you to do so. Think about veteran policies you would like to see changed, and start from there.

All Resolutions need to be submitted to the DAV Department of California before May 5th to be voted on at our State Convention in Reno, NV on June 1st.

Also, make your voice heard and become an online advocate! Click here now to sign up.



## REMINDER!

Resolutions are due May 5th! Click here to learn more!



## 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](http://dav.careasy.org)



Log volunteer hours instantly in the DAV California App!



SCAN TO  
DOWNLOAD!

Staying connected is easier than ever, with the DAV California app. Use it to sign up to volunteer, recruit, log volunteer hours & more. Search your App Store for: "DAV California". Download it today and help us streamline our process of helping veterans!





DEPARTMENT OF  
FINANCIAL PROTECTION  
& INNOVATION

# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD

Topic of Discussion 

In partnership with the DAV, please join us for an online presentation where Veterans can learn information on trending fraud and scams, current cybercrimes targeting the Veteran community and tools to protect your financial and personal information.



**Fernando Ponce**  
DFPI  
Targeted Outreach  
Specialist



**zoom**

Meeting ID:  
889 8866 0341

Password:  
232041

**Wednesday**

**May 3**

**7 p.m.- 8 p.m.**

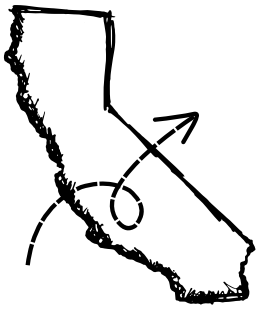


KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
**AMERICA'S VETERANS**



**Auxiliary**  
*Making a Difference*





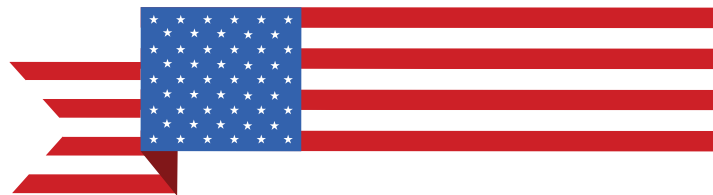
# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## OAKLAND #7

PNC/PSC, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, placed a wellness call to the eldest daughter of Korean War Era Army veteran, James E. Morgan, of Oakland in November, and discovered that the veteran's family had never received a burial flag. Mr. Morgan had passed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and his last rites were performed virtually via Zoom as his family lived in Los Angeles and the interment was in Sacramento. PNC/PSC, Metcalf-Foster immediately contacted the DAV NSO office in Oakland, and NSO Supervisor Robert Cole was able to obtain one of the few remaining flags in stock. James Morgan was renowned for having served his local veterans in the Bay Area for decades as a Full Life member of DAV Chapter #7 in Oakland, so with the assistance and support of Chapter #7, NSO Cole was able to encase the flag in a beautiful display case and ship it along with condolences signed by chapter members in time to arrive at his eldest daughter's residence in Los Angeles the day before Thanksgiving. In her thank-you letter, his eldest daughter, Ian Vaughn, expressed her gratitude for this touching memorial two years after her father's passing:

*"I will be ever so grateful for what all of you did to ensure an expedited delivery of a U.S. Flag to me on behalf of Mr. James Morgan, my dad and my best friend. All your labor warmed my heart when I returned from Thanksgiving holiday and my neighbor found a large heavy box. After opening, my tears and feelings made me proud. My dad loved all of you and he enjoyed going to the monthly meetings with Mickey (Mickey Ganitch, recently deceased Pearl Harbor veteran). I will forever be grateful for your love to him."*

Thank you to PNC/PSC, Metcalf-Foster, Chapter #7, and NSO Supervisor, Bob Cole for this example of how our advocacy can touch veterans' families in their time of grief.



## WEST LA VA

The West LA TC team Medford Auguste (West LA Campus) and Scott Cannon (Sepulveda Campus) perform outreach to veterans on Martin Luther King Jr. Day!



## CHICO #125

Chico DAV and DAVA #125 joined forces with the American Legion, VFW and the VVA for a Vietnam Veterans Day BBQ.



Special guests, DAVA State Commander, Joel Adema and his wife, Debbie, joined. About 250 veterans came out and made the day a success!

## VA'S NEW AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

This registry is designed to collect data from eligible veterans and service members about their exposures and health during service. Information provided through this registry helps VA better understand whether long-term health conditions may be related to military exposures.

Eligible participants can complete an online questionnaire and have the option to have a free health evaluation to discuss health concerns regarding military exposures. More than 346,544 participants have joined since the launch of this registry in 2014.

To learn more about the registry, [click here!](#)



## DAV AT USS IOWA

Thank you to Director of Operations, Robert Graves, LeRoy Acosta, PSC, and DSO, Bryan Root, for their efforts to get a DAV office established on the USS Iowa!



If you are nearby and need claims assistance, reach out to Bryan Root at [Bryan.root@davcal.org](mailto:Bryan.root@davcal.org). Also, If you are near the Long Beach/ San Pedro area make sure you stop in a say hi during Fleet Week taking place during the Memorial Day Weekend (May 28-30).



# NEWS *continued*

## **SAN DIEGO MOURNS VOLUNTEER DRIVER**

Bob Baumgarten, a DAV driver since 2016, passed in March at age 81.

Bob always made himself available to stay and take patients home if needed or work an extra day if necessary. He was always willing and eager to help everyone, and will be greatly missed. Those who knew Bob were blessed by his friendship. Our hearts go out to his family and friends, and thank you for the years of service, Mr. Baumgarten.



*Bob (in the DAV shirt) and team getting ready to go to the 2020 North County Veterans' Standdown*

*Bob recruiting volunteer drivers on a local AM radio station.*



## **CHAPTER #60**



Chapter #60 swears in new member, William Houghton during the March monthly meeting at the Eagles Lodge in 29 Palms.



DAV Chapter #60 performs outreach at the weekly 29 Palms Farmers' Market.

*L-R: Mike Smith, Gerry delos Santos, Jamie Holtry and his daughter, Kimberly Viscuso*



Chapter Commander and CSO Michael F. Smith, Morongo Basin Chapter 60, assisting a transitioning Service Member with his VA benefits' claim package



Chapter Adjutant, Allen Pagdilao & Commander Smith representing DAV at the Farmers' Market.



# NEWS *continued*

## CHAPTER #11



Adjutant, Jerry Arnold (left) with Commander, Dave Sanders show off their chapter's 100-year plaque.

DAV Chapter #11 Leadership with DAV State Commander, Joe Moseley, holding the Chapter's 100-year plaque. Congrats on 100 years, Chapter #11!



## CHAPTER #13

Chapter #13 held a 99th Anniversary Celebration and Honorary Dinner for Bill Carter (96-year-old disabled veteran). Five new members signed up, and State Commander, Joe Moseley, and Jr. Vice Commander, Joseph Skoda joined to officiate the evening of camaraderie. Good job, #13!

## CHAPTER #12



Chapter #12 and State Commander, Joe Moseley, visit with nonprofit, Stackup. This organization works to promote veteran mental health and combat veteran suicide through gaming.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



# NEWS *continued*

## LA JOLLA



*DSO Richard Randolph and Director of Operations, Robert Graves, bid farewell to Carol Nava*

Though we were sorry to say bye to Transportation Coordinator, Carol Nava, we are happy to welcome our new TC, Joyce Guese, a 25-year veteran of the Navy and Marines. Ms. Guese started as a volunteer, being mentored by Ms. Nava, and is ready to take care of each driver and rider.

Ms. Guese, is hardworking and catching on quickly. Also, she is the Director of the No Shame Warrior Foundation. We are excited to welcome Joyce to the team, And, if anyone needs to reach out to Ms. Guese, she can be contacted at [jguese@davcal.org](mailto:jguese@davcal.org).



*Welcome to the team, Joyce Guese!*

## CHAPTER #118

State Commander, Joe Moseley, took a trip up to Ione to visit Chapter #118, brief them on the latest from department and encourage them to continue their work with veterans.



*Pictured here is: Ben Woodworth, Gerald Faulk, Chapter Commander Gareth Hall, State Commander Moseley, Bob Gray, and Rick Boughner*



## WASHINGTON DC

Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee brought PSC, Richard Valdez, as his guest to the State of the Union Address in recognition of his veteran advocacy and efforts in support of the passing of the Pact Act. The PACT Act is the most comprehensive legislation to date to treat toxic exposure as a cost of war and ensures that all toxic-exposed veterans can access the care and welfare they've earned through their service and heroism.



# 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!*

*tell us your*

# NEWS



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



# 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!*



## **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

800-238-8387  
donatedav.org

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

## **FRESNO AREA**

559-237-0273  
davcharities.com

## **POMONA AREA**

800-238-8387  
davpickupservice.org

## **SAN DIEGO AREA**

800-894-2486  
davyeteransthiftstores.com