

DAV DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA



Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



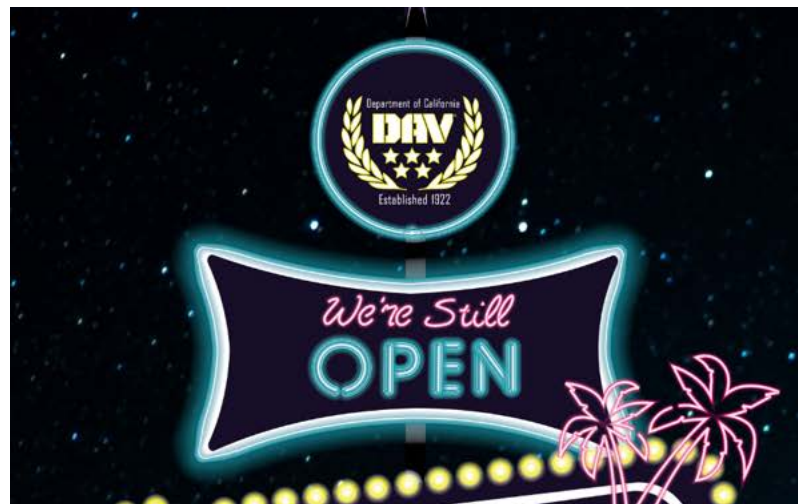
Happy
holidays



DAV CALIFORNIA
TO HAVE VIRTUAL
MIDWINTER
CONFERENCE!
MORE ON PG. 2

DAV Dept. of California to Hold 1st Virtual Midwinter Conference

Each year, the DAV Department of California comes together for the annual Midwinter Conference to hold business meetings, train Chapter Service Officers and connect with, and better equip, our members. Although Covid-19 has thrown a wrench into our personal interaction, we're excited to announce our first virtual Midwinter Conference! This year's Chapter Service Officer training is open to all! We hope you'll take the opportunity to learn more about our organization's practices, the claims assistance process, and the issues and opportunities impacting your fellow veterans around the state, all from the safety of your own home! Join us on Friday and Saturday afternoon for the full two-part Chapter Service Officer training.



REGISTER ONLINE

<https://bit.ly/36kPe0A>



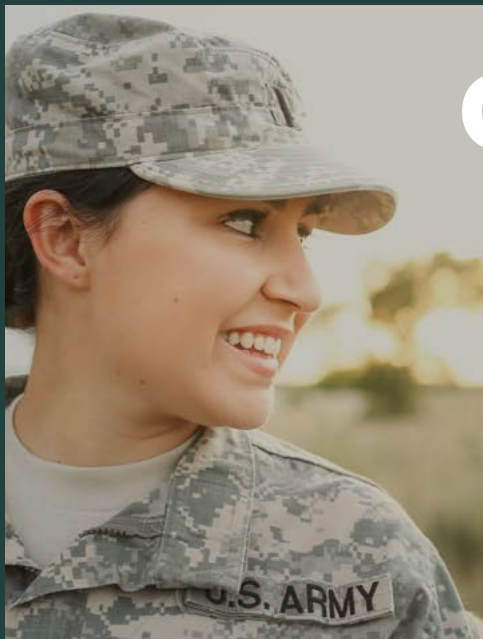
A Word from our Sr. Vice Commander

Sr. Vice Commander,
Joe Moseley

Well, this year the country may be in turmoil, but our membership and our mission are as strong as ever. DAV will weather this COVID storm because the fight for veterans' benefits and healthcare is always vital and continuous. We cannot give up or become complacent when the need is so strong to look after and care for one another. This is the moment where we endure the hardships of this pandemic and show the world that nothing will break our spirit or desecrate our hope in humanity. DAV is about empowering veterans to live lives with respect and dignity and we must not succumb to sadness or despair.

Although younger veterans may be reluctant to join a veteran service organization, the truth is, they absolutely need us more now than ever before. We have had great breakthroughs and successes in voicing need, and establishing treatment through the VA, in areas such as PTSD, substance abuse, depression, anger, MST, TBI and other mental health issues. Veteran suicide is currently being addressed on Capitol Hill because DAV made it known that it was an epidemic within our community. We are the voice for a newer and better VA healthcare system and we must not be discouraged from our mission during these moments of chaos and uncertainty. Remember that each of us has value and we all take part through unity in creating change that helps veterans and provides them with the proper treatment owed to them for their service to this great country.

One day all this COVID nonsense will be over and life as we once knew it will slowly regain normalcy, but until then, DAV members; stay strong, stay safe, and stay vigilant in all that you do.



OPERATION 1%

About 25% of veterans in California are members of the DAV. What if we reached just 1% more? Can you push just 1% harder when it comes to recruitment? Join us in our efforts to grow the DAV for a strong future!

Some Good News from Around the State

Tell us what you and your chapter are up to at news@davcal.org!



Veterans Mobility Program Allows Injured Veterans to Access Malibu Creek State Park Using Specialized Trike

Brian Rooney from the Veterans Mobility Program, invited the DAV Department of California leadership to Malibu Creek State Park to test out their program to provide mobility trikes. The trike is battery-operated, motorized, and has a pedal option. It can last for 2-4 hours depending on terrain and cruising speed. This trike allows veterans who have lost access to outdoor recreation activities, like hiking, to get back into nature and enjoy its therapeutic benefits. Veteran and Chapter #73 member, Frank Corbin, along with Adjutant/CEO, Daniel Contreras, and Director of Operations, Robert Graves, came out to test out the mobility trike.



Visit malibucreekstatepark.org/VMP.html to learn more about the program or if you're interested in reserving a time to use the trike at Malibu Creek State Park. If you'd like to see this program introduced to a national park near you, reach out to Brian Rooney with the Veterans Mobility Program at 818.665.5607 or brian.rooney@R7Media.com.



Chapter 31 helps out at the VA's 2nd Annual Baby Shower

Due to Covid, this year's shower was a drive-thru event. A total of 44 different pregnant veteran families were helped!

Some Good News (Continued)



Ken Lepore, Chapter #95 Service Officer named Murrieta 2020 Field of Honor Hero

Service Officer of Chapter #95, Kenneth J. Lepore, First Sergeant United States Army Reserve (Ret.), was honored by the Murrieta Rotary Club as a 2020 Field of Honor Hero for his prestigious career spanning 40 years and three wars, including performing counter-insurgency operations in the Republic of Vietnam on the elite 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). Ken Lepore continues to serve veterans by assisting with memorial projects (including designing Murrieta's Killed in Action Monument), as an active member of fraternal organizations, and by acting as DAV California Chapter #95's own service officer.



(From Left to Right): Doug Torres, Mike Wegner, Jeff Rono (owner of Jeff's Cuisine), Mike Pacheco & Pastor Craig

DAV Chapter #31 Holds Drive-By Christmas Dinner

While Covid-19 interfered with their usual annual Christmas banquet, chapter #31 found a work-around. Jeff's Cuisine, in Atwater, offered to prepare approximately 30 meals needed at a discounted rate. A few chapter members "hosted" by accepting phone calls from arriving veterans, at which time they would bring their meal to their car (while masked). The preparation and delivery of meals went smoothly. In a year where connecting has been tough, this event allowed hosts to touch base with chapter members, wish them a Merry Christmas and happy holidays, and check in with veterans to ensure they are safe and cared for.



(From Left to Right): Mike Wegner, Norm Cloutier (inside vehicle) Commander, Mike Pacheco, & Gustavo Escobar

Chapter #125 Provides Assistance to Veterans Impacted or Displaced by Fires

This group of chapter members helped out with the Camp Fire and Bear Fire relief efforts



This group of chapter members delivered four pallets of 4Patriots food to the Vietnam Veterans Santa Rosa Chapter 223 for victims of the Kincadee Fire.

Even More Good News

100th

Thomas F. Durbin Chapter #70 DAV in Escondido California celebrated their centennial with a proclamation from the Mayor of Escondido, DAV member, Paul P. McNamara, as well as a similar proclamation from the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors. On Veterans' Day, the chapter held a graveside service at the grave of the chapter's namesake, PFC, Thomas F. Durbin, who was killed in action in 1967 in Quan Tin Province, South Viet Nam less than 2 months after arriving in country. Thomas was 23 at the time of his death and would have been 75 years old the week of Veteran's Day.

Chapter #82 also celebrated their 100th with a proclamation from the mayor of Santa Maria and Chapter #83 marked the occasion with a proclamation from the Lake County Board of Supervisors. Congratulations to all of you and we'd love to hear how your chapter celebrated, or will celebrate, your centennial!



Chapter #154 Helps Clean Up Sycamore

Members of Chapter #154 volunteered on September 26, 2020 in a very underserved community in Antioch called Sycamore. They had the honor of joining members of the Share Community, George Young and Marie Arce, in a community clean-up. The Share

Community started this clean-up of the Antioch Sycamore area a year ago. Every Saturday, volunteers can join to pick up trash. In spite of some mobility issues, chapter commander and Navy veteran, Paul Scannell, has volunteered on multiple occasions. When it comes to serving his community, he's the type of volunteer that's the the first to show up and the last to leave.

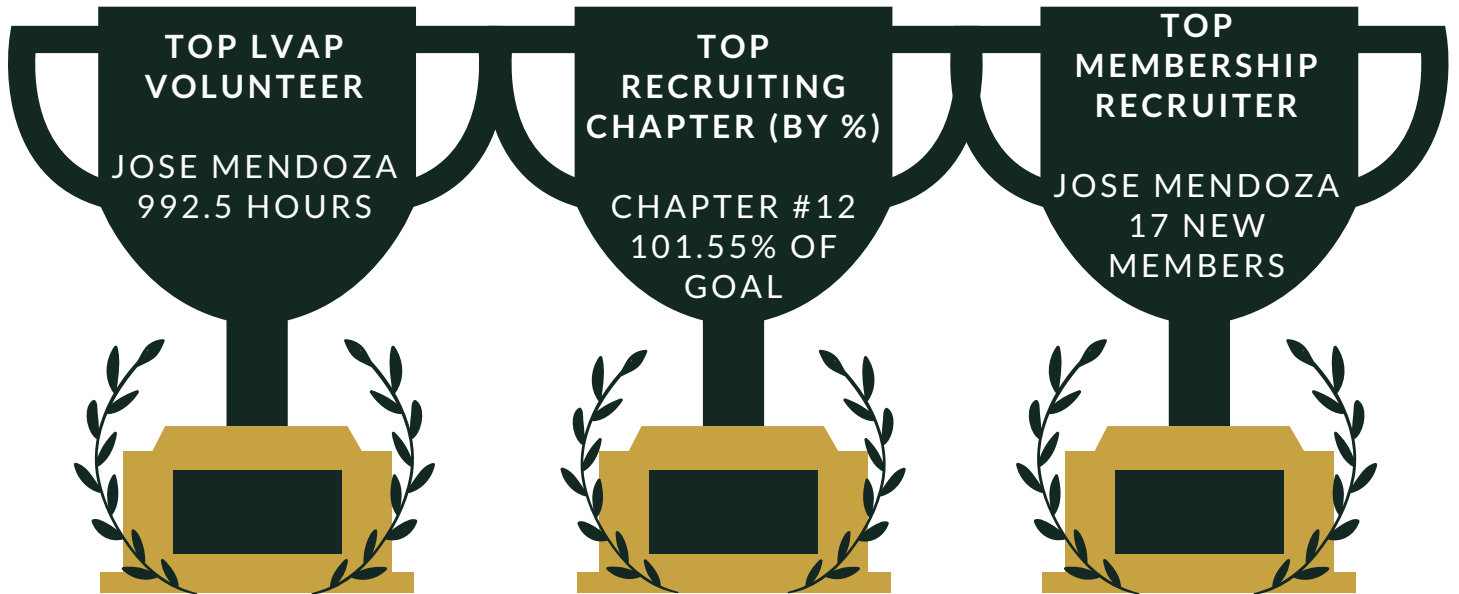


DAV Chapter #12 Distributes Over 1,200 Boxes of Food!

Commander, Jose Mendoza has teamed up with Dominic Frontino from Trinity Veteran March Air Force Base Food Pantry. Over the last three months, during their weekly food distribution, they've been able to donate over 1,200 food boxes to veterans and civilians. Each box comes with eggs, milk, cheese, potatoes, onions, taco meat, chicken, hot dogs, fruit and much more. Thank you, Chapter #12 and friends, for helping our community through this pandemic!



Our Current MVPs



DAV DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2020 & 2019

ASSETS	2020	2019
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 462,074	\$ 360,851
DUE FROM AUXILIARY		2,717
PREPAID EXPENSES	34,681	8,993
LONG-TERM INVESTMENT	3,659,921	4,030,043
FIXED ASSETS (PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT)	223,815	225,015
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,380,491	\$ 4,627,619
LIABILITIES	2020	2019
ACCRUED EXPENSES & OTHER PAYABLES	\$ 295,519	\$ 115,080
NET ASSETS	2020	2019
WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$ 4,027,545	\$ 4,423,532
WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	57,427	89,007
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 4,084,972	\$ 4,512,539
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 4,380,491	\$ 4,627,619

SUPPORT DAV'S THRIFT STORES!



**NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA**
800-238-8387
donatedav.org

Do you have clothing or household items to clear out? 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 and financial support through the DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation!

**FRESNO
AREA**
559-237-0273
davcharities.com

**POMONA
AREA**
800-238-8387
donatedav.org

**SAN DIEGO
AREA**
800-894-2486
davveteransthiftstores.com