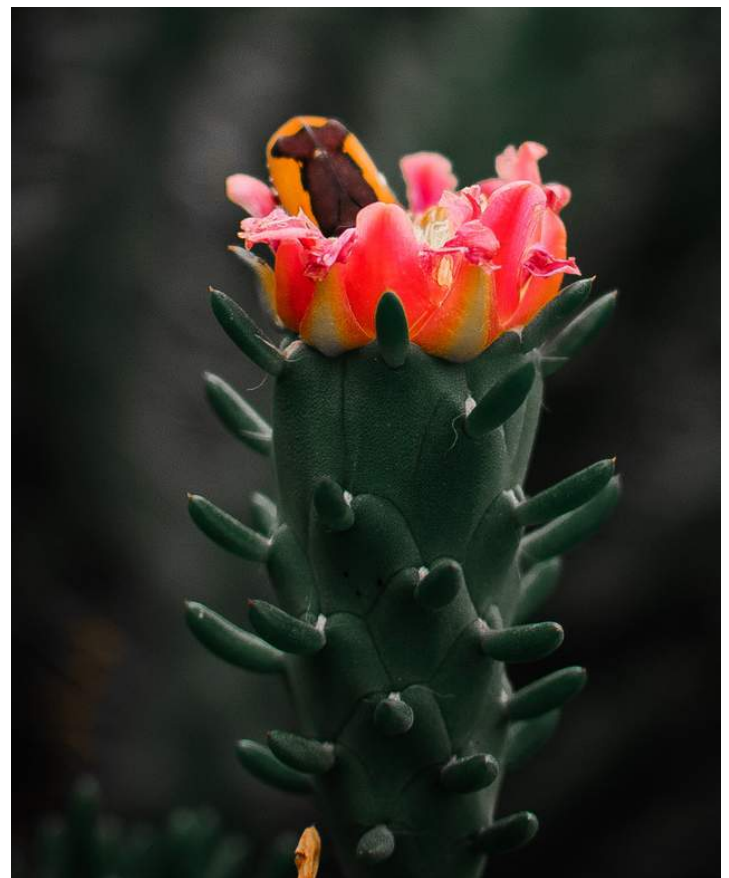


DAV CALIFORNIA NEWS

DAV WORKS TO OVERCOME & KEEP SERVING VETERANS



ADJUTANT CONTRERAS BECOMES NATIONAL 2ND JR VICE COMMANDER!



**ADAPTING &
STAYING OPEN
TO SERVE!**



**NATIONAL CONVENTION
RESUMES!**



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

MICHAEL KERR : DAV CALIFORNIA COMMANDER

My fellow veterans,

As we begin our next 100 years as a department, we remain focused on ensuring that our fellow veterans receive the necessary care and benefits they earned through service, however, we are at a unique time. Not only do we struggle with our wartime scars, but now we are also struggling to maintain normalcy during the worst global pandemic in generations, as well as another record year for wildfires in our great state. This is why it is of the utmost importance to stay connected to our fellow veterans and help each other thrive.

Another national convention is in the books. As usual, it was a great event. As we have come to expect, there was a sizable presence from California. We have a new National Commander in Florida's own Andy Marshall. We also have our own representative in California's CEO-Adjutant, Dan Contreras, who is now our National 2nd Junior Vice Commander. We are very proud to have Dan representing California at the National level.

The pandemic may have slowed us but our mission must continue. As you may be aware, we are reopening our statewide transportation network. We continue to have a great need for volunteer drivers to get our fellow veterans to their much-needed medical appointments. We understand nobody can do it all. That is why we rely upon you, our members, to help us find the people our veterans have come to rely upon. Please contact our department if you or someone you know has a desire to build lasting friendships and memories by helping our veterans get to their medical appointments.

Many of you have asked when our Department leadership will begin traveling again. Obviously, with the ongoing pandemic, this is difficult to determine and we are doing our best to comply with federal, state, and local

guidelines. However, if you are meeting, whether in-person or virtually, let us know. Some of you have already given us updates, but we'd love to know your meeting status and the state of your members. If you are meeting virtually, provide us with your participation information and we will do our best to have a Department leader join you. We understand that some chapters have begun to resume in-person meetings and are in the process of nominating and installing new chapter leadership. Please let us know if you would like a Department leader to join your meeting and conduct the installation of your new officers. It is our pleasure to do so. We always love to see the growth and development of our chapters.

NEED DISASTER RELIEF?

Our amazing organization provides disaster relief to qualified applicants in the form of financial aid for emergency food, shelter, and clothing as well as supply kits for hygienic needs. Requirements for relief are:

- The applicant must be an ill, injured or wounded veteran, or the spouse, or surviving spouse, thereof
- The applicant does not need to be a member or in receipt of service-connected compensation
- The applicant must be the victim of either an isolated or large-scale disaster.
- The applicant must be in immediate need of financial assistance

If you or anyone you know meets the above criteria, please contact your nearest National Service Office.

As you know, July marked the beginning of our new year. This means that we have new membership goals. Please reach out to our Department staff if you need to know what your chapter goals are for the upcoming year. Next May we will finally host our centennial celebration at our annual Department convention at the Miramonte Resort and Spa in Indian Wells. I hope to see as many of you there as possible, and I hope to hand out Commander's coins to every chapter leader!

Remember that the COVID-19 vaccine is free at your local VA. If you want to get the vaccine, please contact your primary care provider to set up an vaccination appointment.

Do not forget to rely on your SECs. They have been elected to guide your chapters. They are your first line when it comes to understanding your roles and responsibilities to your membership. Lastly, our National headquarters is opening late September with a momentous celebration. I hope you all get the chance to visit in the future! As always, I hope you are all safe and secure. If you are struggling, reach out to us. Every one of you matters to us.



REACH OUT



Our DAV California Line Officers are Here to Serve DAV Members and Veterans!

REACH DAV CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP

AT: LINE@DAVCAL.ORG

Have Questions Regarding DAV California Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Regulations?

**REACH DAV JUDGE ADVOCATE,
GUY ANASTASIA**

**AT:
JUDGEADVOCATE@DAVCAL.ORG**



DAV PROGRESSES DESPITE OBSTACLES

DANIEL CONTRERAS, PSC : DAV CALIFORNIA CEO-ADJUTANT
: NATIONAL 2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER

All of our lives have been upended by the current pandemic in one way or another. Some of our chapters here in California have barely missed a beat, finding ways to continue meeting outdoors and serve veterans throughout the chaos of the past 18 months. However, other chapters have faced continuous challenges in finding meeting places or overcoming health issues or concerns. This year has brought about hope with the vaccines and a decline in deaths, however mutations on the virus continue to raise fear and confusion. At DAV we've worked to adapt, and we will continue to do so as we take gradual steps to re-open in a world that doesn't look quite the same.

I was able to attend the National Convention recently. And it was inspiring to hear from National Commander, Butch Whitehead. Despite the pandemic, in 2020 our services resulted in veterans and their families obtaining more than \$23 billion in earned benefits throughout the nation. DAV national also expanded access to benefits and healthcare for Vietnam veterans suffering from the impacts of Agent Orange. Last year, more than 30,000 Vietnam veterans gained access to VA health care and received almost \$800 million in retroactive benefit payments due to the enactment and implementation of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. In addition, this past December, Congress

approved legislation to expand the list of presumptive Agent Orange diseases, extending health care and benefits to thousands more deserving Vietnam veterans.



Thank you to all of you who supported me at this past National Convention as I became National Second Jr. Vice Commander. It was great to gather again and see so many familiar faces for a while. We're always working and moving forward. I'm grateful to work alongside such a powerful team while witnessing the work of our fellow DAV members across the country.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

RON RINGO : DAY CALIFORNIA CHAPLAIN
PAST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN & TRAUMA SPECIALIST

With the recent events in Afghanistan—the loss and chaos there and elsewhere in the world, I wanted to start this message with this quote: “There is a mighty strength that comes of the knowledge that you and I are sons and daughters of God. Within us is something of divinity. Those who have this knowledge and permit it to influence their lives will not stoop to do mean or cheap or tawdry things. Let us encourage the divinity within us to come to the surface.”

If we thought about it, we'd probably realize that we really don't have anything that we haven't received from someone else. If we look at our lives and consider who and what has helped shape and create us, we would find many people had a hand. We would see family, friends, co-workers, teachers and others. I believe God has made us who we are through the assistance of others.



Lisa Beamer, widow of Todd Beamer, who famously said “Let's Roll” on 9-11-01 and helped take down the plane heading for Washington DC, spoke of missing the little things about Todd the most. As she spoke of her grief, she recalled a high school teacher she had growing up whose husband had died about a week earlier from a sudden heart attack. The teacher sat down on the edge of the desk, in the late afternoon sun, and with a gentle look of reflection on her face she paused and said, “class is over. I would like to share with you all something unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important.

“Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is the Powers way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day.” Her eyes beginning to water, she went on, “So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see, it could be a scent, perhaps of freshly baked

bread wafting out of someone's house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. Please look for these things, and cherish them. For, although it may sound trite to some, these things are the 'stuff' of life. The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy. The things we often take for granted. We must make it important to notice them, for at any time it can all be taken away.”

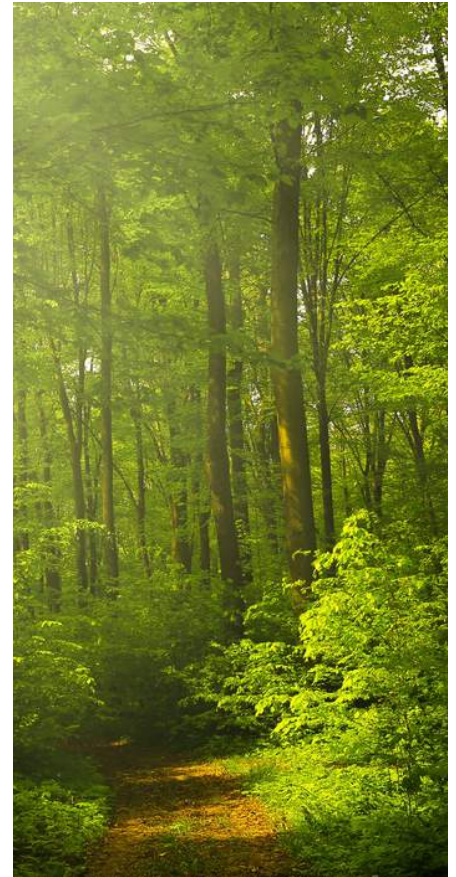
After that, Lisa's class was completely quiet. “We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester. Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and I try to appreciate all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.”

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Go barefoot, or walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the way home tonight to get a double dip ice cream cone. For as we get older, it is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do.

Remember, “life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.” You might want to try doing something that some friends of mine do. Often, as they see each

other when one returns home for the day, they'll gasp as they catch each other's eye. I think this is a wonderful way to greet someone special in our lives, or acknowledge a spectacular sunset. Discovering the beauty around us and the purpose of our own lives, individually and even collectively, is a challenging process. However, we can learn a lot about ourselves and the world and about our God by looking around us at all his handiwork, realizing how blessed we really are by the aid of so many who touch our lives.

As we truly take the time to soak in the beauties of nature and those people around us in our lives, we realize that none of this is just by chance. I believe our lives are each a very valuable part of a great and grand design. On "Personal Growth Retreats" in which I oversaw in the Marine Corps in the past, I experienced, often just for a few seconds, a glimpse of the infinite, and the meaning of life came to view. I saw new life come into the eyes of someone in despair as the result of a thoughtful look from another or being heard by someone with a desire to understand. Being filled with genuine care and concern for who and what is around us helps us see with clearer vision that God's hand is in everything. May we seek to look more clearly this week.



DAVA: 100 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

JULIE WEISSMAN-STEINBAUGH
DAV AUXILIARY CALIFORNIA ADJUTANT

At the first DAV National Convention, a veteran made an impassioned speech about the importance of creating an auxiliary to be composed of the wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of war's disabled and the gold star relatives of those who had given their lives in defense of their country, to be recognized by the DAV leaders. The DAV membership agreed and the Women's Auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans of the World War, now known officially as the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary was formed at the 1922 DAV Convention, held in San Francisco.

DAV Auxiliary members are celebrating our organization's 100th anniversary. A partnership of this length is worth celebrating. For 100 years, auxiliary members have

partnered with DAV members to advocate for pro-veteran legislation. We have spent a century volunteering at VA Medical Centers and other patriotic institutions. Most importantly, we celebrated our victories and mourned our losses together.

The DAV and DAV Auxiliary make a formidable team. The pandemic brought challenges and we overcame many of them. However, the need for social distancing has hindered our ability to maintain and recruit members for both our organizations. The occasion of our 100th anniversary provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to support one another by actively recruiting disabled veterans and their families to join our ranks.

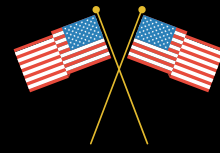


VETERANS DAY IS COMING!

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

← HOW IS YOUR CHAPTER CELEBRATING? →

EMAIL US AT NEWS@DAVCAL.ORG & TELL US HOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY!



Walk, Roll, Run and Ride to
HONOR AMERICA'S VETERANS

JOIN OUR DAV CALIFORNIA TEAM FOR
THE 2021 VIRTUAL DAV 5K!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN
MORE & SIGN UP!](#)



INJURED & ILL VETERANS IN CALIFORNIA NEED YOUR HELP!



OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE ALL OVER
CALIFORNIA!

HELP VETS GET TO
VA MEDICAL
APPOINTMENTS

IN LOVING MEMORY: MARIE POUNDS

After nearly 30 years of serving as a Transportation Coordinator at the Sepulveda VA, the longtime and well-loved DAV California employee, Marie Pounds, passed away this past March. She held yearly holiday luncheons to recognize her volunteers and was also a past Commander of DAV Auxiliary Camp Kearney/Van Nuys Unit #13.



"Over 100 veterans, friends of veterans and family attended her funeral services to show their honor and respect for her life's work. Marie touched the lives of 1000s of veterans by assisting them when they were in crisis. We pray for her soul and ask her to continue to guide us as we meet life's challenges."

-Ernie Hilger, Adjutant DAV Chapter #13

UPCOMING CELEBRATION OF LIFE: LARRY POLZIN, PNC/PSC

Covid's quarantine prevented us from properly gathering to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of a man who's given so much to so many. This September 25th, Larry's Home Chapter, Chapter #73, will be holding a Celebration of Life. Come join and celebrate the late Larry Polzin, father, Marine, and Past DAV State and National Commander.



The chapter asks if you are looking to donate something to the memorial to please not send flowers, but instead donate to the Chapter or the DAV itself.



Date and time

Sept. 25, 2021

1:00 PM

Location

6543 Corbin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 91367

SHOUT-OUTS & NEWS

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS AND CHAPTERS OUT THERE MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY! HAVE A STORY FOR US? EMAIL NEWS@DAVCAL.ORG



THE OAKLAND NSO OFFICE
HAS A NEW NUMBER!



NEED CLAIMS ASSISTANCE? CALL **(510) 587-5077**

LA JOLLA



Volunteer at La Jolla, Eldridge Burk, receives a certificate in recognition of 17 years of service. Thank you Mr. Burk!



Volunteer, Eldridge Burk, pictured here with the first veteran transported since the DAV Transportation program restarted. He was transported from El Centro to La Jolla to receive medical care. Our transportation volunteers make a difference!



CHICO

Chico DAV Chapter #125 presenting a certificate of appreciation to Cozy Diner in Chico for their continued support of DAV Chapter #125 & PTSD support groups throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks Cozy Diner!



OZIE BOLER CHAPTER #21 & VACAVILLE CHAPTER #84 HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS



From left, DAV Chapter 21 Commander, James Dickerson, Jr., Vice Commander, Alan King, Adjutant, Robert Ford, Treasurer, Dennis Clemente, and Members, Dennis Barbarin, Robert Lee, and Gary Blackburn



Joseph C. Bock, center, was presented a certificate of appreciation for his many years of outstanding performance of duty to Vacaville veterans organizations.

Many Vietnam veterans did not receive a warm welcome or recognition on their return home. Now, fifty years later, US Armed Forces personnel with active duty service regardless of location between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, are being presented with pins, presidential proclamations, and other memorabilia in recognition of their service to the US in the Vietnam War. Chapters #21 and #84, along with www.VallejoVetsBuilding.org, teamed up to recognize and honor area Vietnam Veterans on Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, 2021.

INTERESTED IN ADVANCED DIRECTIVES?

The San Jose VA Clinic, along with Victor Valley College, will be holding
Advance Care Planning Telephone Groups
the **last Monday of each month**
from **10:30-11:30 AM.**



Reach out to: **Tabytha Rivera-Herrero, MSW**
at **209-946-3400 ext 71048**
to Join!

LOMA LINDA



The DAV fleet of volunteer transportation vans got a makeover! Now veterans can arrive in style to their medical appointments in these newly-wrapped Ford Flexes. Our volunteers will be representing our organization well in these.



SAN DIEGO

Mr. Patrick C. Prieb, Director of the San Diego VA Regional Office, presents Jim Galliher with a Certificate of Appreciate for his many years of service assisting innumerable veterans. Jim retires with more than 20 years of service in the DAV National Service organization.



ESCONDIDO



Commander, Michael Kerr, pays a visit to Thomas Durbin Chapter #70 in Escondido to install new officers. Congratulations to the new line of officers, Chapter #70!



SAN DIEGO



San Diego Supervisor Guy Anastasia presented Tomoko "Tommi" Ferguson with a letter of appreciation for 10 years of dedication to the DAV and our Veterans. Thanks for the decade of service, Tommi!



ATWATER



These DAV Chapter #31 Atwater/Merced members: Mike Pacheco, Chuck Gierman, Tom Legg and Gustavo Escobar worked hard to get their community ready to celebrate the 4th of July. When the chapter was asked to line the local Broadway Street with American flags, this crew showed up and worked through the heat to ensure that each flag was proudly displayed. The end result looked great and patriotic!

INTERESTED IN YOGA OR MEDITATION?

Yoga and meditation are great ways to relax in your body!



Michael Rosenkrantz of Palms to Pines Parasports is offering free classes for Veterans and their family members.

If you're interested please contact Michael at pppmiker@palmstopinesparasports.org or call **760-469-9207**

These will be gentle exercises that participants should be able to perform on their own

SANTA ROSA



Past National and Past State Commander, Delphine Metcalf Foster paid Sonoma County Chapter #48 a visit. Chapter Adjutant, Jamie Fox, signed up a new member, Paul Langlos, Coast Guard veteran from 1972-2006. It was a great meeting!



SAN DIEGO

SAYS GOODBYE TO DAVID STROBEHN & LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FUTURE



The San Diego Transportation Team had a great going away get together for David Strobehn, Transportation Coordinator in San Diego. There were several presentations and many awards given to David along with some great food. Richard Randolph in his presentation told us that San Diego is not only the first in the number of patients transported on the West Coast but we are now the first in the country. This is a high bar for us to maintain but I know we can and will do it.

Mrs. Carol Nava, who is taking over for David, starting today, was present. I had a chance to talk with her and found out that she is a Navy wife and has a big-big heart for all our veterans. I know that she will do a great job and I also know that we will all help her in any way we can. Cesar is there supporting her until another permanent scheduler can be hired. I have included a picture of them taken this morning.

I know that we are all going to miss David. It really hit me this morning how much I miss him when I ate the last ½ cookie that was left in the lounge. Thank you for all you do for our veterans!

-Submitted By: Bill Clark

While this location has volunteers and continues to bring in more to cover the San Diego community, more are needed! The veteran population in San Diego is significant. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering, reach out to Carol Nava at (858) 552-7470.

IN MEMORY



Thank you to Louise Clerici. At 88, after the loss of a childhood friend, Eleanor Niciewski, she was inspired to reach out to DAV California and give back to veterans in Mrs. Niciewski's memory. What a legacy to lifelong friendship. We are grateful to Eleanor Niciewski for inspiring generosity towards veterans! If you are interested in making a memorial donation, reach out to DAV California HQ at 562-404-1266.

join us!

FOR OUR CENTENNIAL CONVENTION!

Save the Date

May 12-14, 2022

Miramonte

Indian Wells Resort & Spa

4500 Indian Wells Lane

Indian Wells, CA 92210

DAV DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2021 & 2020

ASSETS	2021	2020
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 683,440	\$ 462,074
DUE FROM AUXILIARY		
PREPAID EXPENSES	34,681	34,681
LONG-TERM INVESTMENT	4,195,995	3,659,921
FIXED ASSETS (PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT)	223,815	223,815
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,137,931	\$ 4,380,491
LIABILITIES	2021	2020
ACCRUED EXPENSES & OTHER PAYABLES	\$ 289,230	\$ 295,519
NET ASSETS	2021	2020
WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$ 4,027,545	\$ 4,027,545
WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	-	57,427
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 4,848,701	\$ 4,084,972
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 5,137,931	\$ 4,380,491

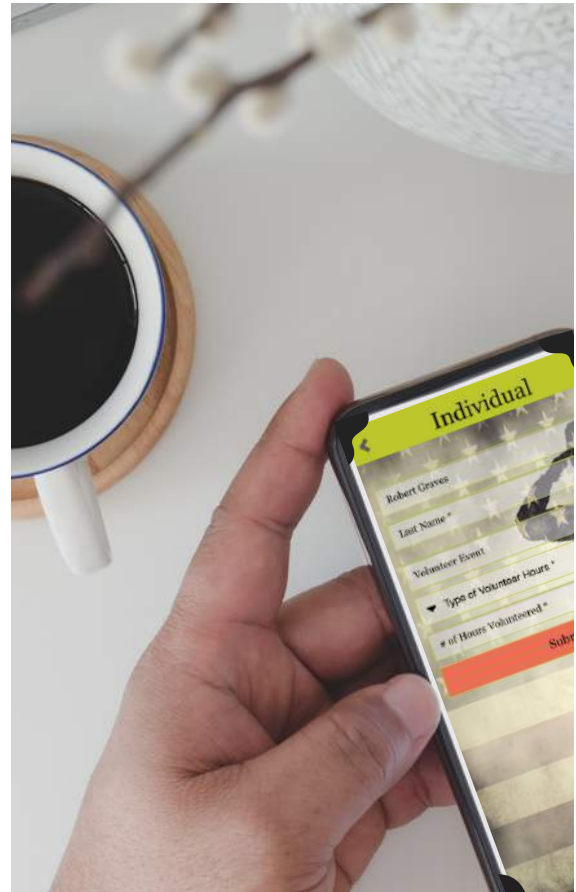
NEED A JOB?



Need work? Or need to hire great employees? Recruit Military is dedicated to helping organizations hire veterans. Sign up with Recruit Military and find what you're looking for!

VOLUNTEER & RECRUIT EASILY WITH OUR APP!

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



HELPING VETERANS? MAKE SURE YOU'RE SIGNED UP FOR THE LVAP PROGRAM

No matter what your volunteer interests may be, there's a role for you within the Local Veterans Assistance Program. Whether you can grocery shop, run errands for veterans in your community, do yard work or paint a veteran's home, there's a need you can help fulfill.

CLICK HERE & SIGN UP FOR LVAP TODAY!

DEADLIEST CATCH EVER!

Based on a True Story : Submitted by Mario Flores, Department Service Officer

It was 0430, on cool overcast Sunday morning in June. I was traveling to Moss Landing from Monterey, California with the Love of My Life and excited to start a new adventure with my comrades from Homer Blevins Chapter 1 "Tip of the Spear!" I realized this would be my first ever fishing trip. I felt unsure of the outcome, but journeyed on nonetheless.

After navigating into Moss Landing Port, we located our gate, and wouldn't you know it, the gate key didn't work. So, there I was anticipating what was going to be my next step (do I jump the fence, cry for help?). When along came a man and a woman who obviously knew what they were doing, so I stepped aside and followed them in. (I am brilliant!)

As I was looking for the boat, Freedom II, it so happens, that the man and woman who had just passed me were the Captain of Freedom II and his Wife. As I came aboard, there was George, Armando, and Brian of Homer Blevins Chapter with family and friends. As we sailed off I was fortunate not have anything to "chuck" into the ocean and feed the fish but water; however, I was feeling kind of woozy and trying to get my "sea legs" back.

As they had prepared the fishing rods I wobbled up to the starboard side and cast my line. I thought to myself: "Self, do not fall overboard." I was getting upset that each time I cast my line with bait, those stupid fishes were eating my bait. "Haters." Meanwhile, the rest were catching baby sharks, a crab, some sort of sting ray, and a rescued hat that fell off the boat (it was George's).

So there I was, discouraged, saddened, and feeling like I'd been teased by these sea creatures. Then, suddenly I looked down and saw the line bob up and down. Then, it bobbed further down still. "POW! YAY!" Next thing you know, I reeled in the DEADLIEST CATCH EVER!

The end.



Last known photo?

Are you ready to brave the seas like Mario? Reach out to Monterey Bay Veterans at (831) 901-0217

SUPPORT DAV'S THRIFT STORES!

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

FRESNO AREA

559-237-0273
davcharities.com

POMONA AREA

800-238-8387
donatedav.org

SAN DIEGO AREA

800-894-2486
davveteransthiftstores.com

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



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