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**TO:** National Executive Committee  
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National Department Directors  
Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants  
Commanders and Adjutants Association  
DAV Auxiliary National Adjutant

**FROM:** J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant

**DATE:** June 26, 2020

**SUBJECT:** National Convention Cancellation and Organizational Continuity

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DAV remains incredibly grateful for your understanding during this extraordinary time. For your continued safety, we encourage you to follow the instructions given by the CDC, and to keep reaching out to your fellow department and chapter members as a way to stay socially connected while maintaining physical distance.

The cancellation of the 2020 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention marks only the second time in the organization's 100-year history in which this annual event was not held. In 1942, as the United States ramped up involvement in World War II, the event was canceled. That cancellation helped prepare our organization for today's national emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic. Our governing documents have been crafted and amended over the years to guide us through times like these and will ensure a continuity of leadership and programs for the coming year.

We have received several questions regarding continuity of our organizational structure in light of the cancellation, and wish to address those inquiries with the following information:

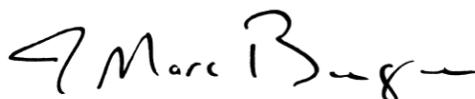
- Although the delegates assembled and voting at the national convention represent the governing body of DAV, the affairs and decisions of the national organization between conventions fall to the National Executive Committee (NEC) as outlined in the DAV National Constitution and Bylaws.
- As required by the Constitution, the election of a national commander, national senior vice commander, four national junior vice commanders, national judge advocate and a national chaplain must occur at the national convention. Accordingly, since a national convention will not convene this year, all elected national officers shall remain in place until the next national convention. All other elected and appointed national officers governed by our bylaws to include the NEC members and their alternates, Board of Directors (BOD) members, and all other appointments made by the national commander or national adjutant will also remain in place. Any vacancies created will still be addressed in accordance with our governing documents, just like in any other instance where a vacancy may occur during the course of the year.
- While the election of NEC members and their alternates must occur on the day prior to the opening of the national convention for two-year terms, with even-numbered districts electing representatives during even-numbered years and odd-numbered districts electing representatives during odd-numbered years, all districts will be required to elect new representatives during the national convention in 2021. This will obviously mean that the even-numbered districts will elect representatives to serve for one year in order to fall back into the appropriate cycle as outlined in our bylaws during the national convention in 2022. The same will hold true as it relates to the election of BOD members from even-numbered districts.

- Mandates and resolutions adopted at a national convention are effective until the next national convention. Accordingly, in the absence of a convention this year, all resolutions which were adopted by the delegates at the national convention in 2019 will remain effective (unless already favorably enacted) until our next national convention in 2021. The bylaws also place the national organization under a continuing mandate to protect benefits already in place for disabled veterans and their dependents, while allowing the NEC to adopt new resolutions specific to federal legislation to address the needs of our constituents during the next year.

DAV will host a special virtual gathering, including our Year-In-Review, Commander's Awards and messages from DAV leadership, at 7 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 26. This event can be found at [www.dav.org/events/2020-national-convention](http://www.dav.org/events/2020-national-convention). As the organization marks 100 years of service, we are still planning to host a centennial celebration in Cincinnati in September. Updates on those events can be found at [www.dav.org/centennial](http://www.dav.org/centennial).

Our hope is for each and every one of you to stay safe and stay well as our country faces this national emergency together, united as one. We look forward to seeing you all next year at the 2021 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Reno.

With sincere gratitude for your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Marc Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

J. Marc Burgess  
National Adjutant