



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

DAV New Member Orientation Guide

Welcome to DAV!

Your Chapter

History

As a new member, it is important to be aware of the history of your Chapter in order to feel like you truly belong. The orientation trainer should provide new members with some background on your Chapter.

If you happen to be a charter member of your Chapter, you and your fellow members will have a chance to form the history of your Chapter.

Chapter Officers

The officers of your Chapter include the commander, immediate past commander, junior vice commanders, adjutant and committee appointees.

Each Chapter elects annually a commander, a senior vice commander and one or more junior vice commanders and can elect or appoint an adjutant and a treasurer. It may elect or appoint other officers as necessary to operate the Chapter. Appointed officers serve at the pleasure of the appointing power. Neither a Chapter commander nor any vice commander may serve as Chapter adjutant or treasurer.

Duties of each office can be found in your Chapter's bylaws.

Purpose

To uphold and maintain the Constitution and the laws of the United States; to realize the true American ideals and aims for which those eligible for membership fought; to advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to cooperate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and all other public and private agencies devoted to the cause of improving and advancing the condition, health and interest of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to stimulate a feeling of mutual devotion, helpfulness and comradeship among all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to serve our comrades, our communities and our country; and to encourage in all people that spirit of understanding which will guard against future wars.

Governing Bodies

The governing bodies of the organization include the national convention, the National Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, the state Departments and Chapters.

Nonpartisanship

DAV is non-political and non-sectarian and the name of the organization or name of any subdivision can not be used in representing the desires or wishes of its membership in any political, sectarian or labor dispute.

Mission Statement

Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

This mission is carried forward by:

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government.
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically.
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government.
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local chapters.
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

DAV EMPOWERS VETERANS

RESPECT

ADVOCACY

HONOR

SUPPORT

COMMITMENT