



DAV CALIFORNIA NEWS

Happy Holidays!



**CHAPTER #12
CELEBRATES 100
YEARS WITH TIME-
CAPSULE EVENT**

MORE ON PAGE 3



A WORD FROM OUR SR. VICE COMMANDER

DAV California Sr. Vice Commander, Joseph Moseley

To my Fellow DAV California Members,

As we continue to endure this persistent COVID pandemic and adjust to life using protective measures, let us take a moment to celebrate our wellness as we welcome in the new year. Our organization has suffered degrees of loss this year and it is easy to get discouraged at what you see going on around you; however, the members of DAV California have endured bleak moments before, and will continue to prevail.

I hope many of you have used this time to analyze and evaluate your life and perhaps even make some positive changes for the better. As DAV members, we are all striving to live healthy and full lives in spite of the illness and injuries we experienced due to our military service.

We can help each other to stay healthy along the way. I continue to encourage you to do wellness checks on each other to continue helping prevent isolation and depression. By staying mentally strong and supporting one another, we can help keep each other from

becoming overwhelmed by the memories, scars, or injuries of our service. We must stay resilient in our mission.

With that being said, the DAV Chapters of California, conjunctively submitted more resolutions to National than ever before during the 2021 year. This is a great example of the ability our organization can heave to improve the lives of disabled veterans for generations to come.

Be proud of your DAV because together we are doing great work and keeping up the good fight both locally, and on Capitol Hill.

I encourage all members to be good ambassadors of our organization; wear your DAV gear, announce your Chapter meetings, and publicly welcome 2022 with enthusiasm and optimism as we help more veterans with their claims, services and benefits. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Centennial Convention in May!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*Ron Ringo, DAV California Chaplain
Past National Chaplain & Trauma Specialist*

During the holidays, we get very concerned with gift-giving. Many of us spend hours shopping and wrapping, in the hope that our offerings will express the fullness of our feelings for the recipient. Many of us also get inspired this time of year to also go beyond our immediate circles and help those outside our comfort zones and families, just as we may have found ourselves doing in the military. This kindness without expectation of receiving a reward can bring us wonderful feelings of unconditional love, but also I feel a little sad thinking that often, after the Christmas festivities come to a close, sometimes it feels like the spirit of giving goes away until the following year as well.

However, those that are serving their fellow man, such as those in the military and their families, know that there is a greater gift to give: the giving of ourselves, and these are the gifts that can truly last a lifetime. When we give of ourselves, it doesn't have to be a big heroic act. It can be as simple as giving someone our understanding or patience, lending a hand or offering a smile, even when we don't feel

like it. We can share pride in someone's accomplishments or pass up a chance to gossip. I'm reminded of Emily Dickinson's poem, "A Smile as Small as Mine" which says: "*They might not need me/ but they might/ I'll let my head be just in sight/ A smile as small as mine might be/ Precisely their necessity.*"

With all that is going on around the world today, this is still a season of joy and hope. Henry van Dyke wrote on this in a piece entitled, "Keeping Christmas"

Are you willing to forget what you have done for [others] and to remember what [others] have done for you? To ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world? To stoop down and consider the needs of little children? To remember the weakness and loneliness of the old? To stop asking how much friends like you, and ask whether you love them enough? To try to understand your [loved ones]? To make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open? Are you willing to believe that love is stronger than hate, stronger than death?

Whatever holiday you celebrate this season, I hope you catch some joy this season and spread a little peace on earth, and goodwill towards all.

CHAPTER #12 CELEBRATES 100 YEARS WITH TIME-CAPSULE EVENT



On September 9th, 2021, Chapter #12 celebrated their 100-Year Centennial Anniversary. Guests were welcomed to the Veterans Garden by DAV Chapter #12 Commander, Jose Mendoza, and joined by Congressman Pete Aguilar, DAV National 2nd Jr. Vice Commander & State Adjutant, Dan Contreras, DAV Department of California Commander, Michael Kerr, and many more.

There was a special presentation recognizing the chapter's 100 years of service to our nation's heroes. Several individuals were recognized for their service to DAV and veteran in an award ceremony and a 25-year time capsule was placed. Brian Robbins delivered the invocation and a moment of silence was had in recognition of those comrades who didn't make it home.

Thank you to all those that sponsored and supported this successful event, and congratulations to all of you in Chapter #12 who made this happen and got to be a part of a once-in-a-lifetime event!





CHAPTER #82 STAYS BUSY REACHING OUT TO VETERANS



Santa Maria’s DAV, Chapter 82 has been working year-round. This past November they helped out once again with the Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand-Down. There they served 91 homeless veterans and 35 women veterans, and provided services including filing claims, housing and job referrals.

On Veterans Day, Chapter #82 led the way in Color Guard events at the local Senior Center, Santa Maria Cemetery and the traditional Veterans BBQ held by local attorney Michael Clayton. Commander Joseph Skoda led the ceremonies at the BBQ event. The DAV was also well-represented at Golden Corral in Santa Maria with a donation/information booth.



The DAV leadership including Sr. Vice Commander, Joseph Moseley, Dept. Operations Manager, Robert Graves and Chapter 82 Commander, Joseph Skoda was interviewed by past Grover Beach Mayor, Fred Munroe, on Central Coast Voices Public Radio located in San Luis Obispo.

Sr. Vice Joseph Moseley paid the chapter a visit and updated them on department. Here he is with Larry Williams and Chapter Commander Skoda.





CHAPTER #82 CONTINUED



Commander Skoda and Adjutant, Michael Stadnick, Jr. (both retired Air Force) were guest speakers at the Abel Maldonado Center commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Adjutant Stadnick is also the Commander of the Santa Maria Valley Color/Honor Guard and has led us in nearly 100 events throughout the year. DAV Member (Captain, retired USAF), Vanneca Phelps, also helped commemorate the event.



Want to stay busy and connect with local veterans? Meet up with Chapter #82! They meet the 1st Wednesday of every month at noon at the Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Building.

IN LOVING MEMORY: LOU GYSIN, PSC

Past DAV California State Commander, Lou Gysin, passed away on October 9th, 2021. In addition to being a Past State Commander, Lou also served for many years as our Officer of the Day, was an alternate member of our State Executive Committee and was a long-time member of Chapter #73.



We're grateful to have known him, and Lou's warm and jovial presence is already missed greatly by his DAV family. A memorial was held for him in Burbank on November 14th, 2021. Thank you to all our fellow DAV members that have reached out to honor Lou Gysin, PSC.





CHAPTER #60 HOSTS 7TH ANNUAL AIR RIFLE SHOOTING COMPETITION



Marine Corps Base, Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corps base may be a distant or unpleasant memory for some veterans, but for DAV Chapter #60, it became a place of family fun and camaraderie this past October. Using their connection with local leadership, the members of Chapter #60 secured and organized their Annual Air-Rifle Competition and BBQ on the base's firing range.

This was a free event, open to all disabled veterans and their family members, that will continue to occur annually. The weather was beautiful and the excitement of the competition made it enjoyable for everyone.

Marines from the Marksmanship Training Unit of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twenty-Nine Palms helped in the orchestration of the day's activities by having a squad of highly motivated soldiers at the location to assist the participants with the air rifles and targets. This unit has been helping with this event for seven years.

There were several categories of marksmanship allowing for many winners who subsequently, all received nicely engraved plaques for their achievements with their names on them. Commander Mike Smith hauled out a huge portable BBQ pit and



his hardworking team made lunch for the whole crew.

This truly was a remarkable time for those involved. If you are interested in attending next year's competition, contact Chapter #60 Adjutant, Allen Pagdilao, at apagdilao@dav.org or 760-401-8131 for more information. To the members of Chapter #60 we salute you for another fine performance and outstanding outreach within your community.

*Article Submitted by Joseph Moseley
DAV California Sr. Vice Commander*





DAV 5K



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



SHOUT OUT TO DAV CALIFORNIA'S VIRTUAL DAV 5K TEAM!

Thank you to all of you who participated in this year's DAV 5K Walk, Roll, Run & Ride to Honor America's Veterans. Team DAV California came in 4th place nationally for amount of money raised. Good job team (and DAV California folks who made your own teams) I know we can keep up the good work next year too. Here are some of our participants who sent in photos as they ran (or walked, rolled, or rode) to honor our vets!



NSO out of Oakland,
Patrick Eustis, shows
off his 5K swag for
the big day!

DAV5K 2021 Team Florentino Sarino (USN-1946-1966) gathered in Long Beach California to support the men and women who served. Randolph Hudson was team captain!



5K CONTINUED...

Member, Laura Lewis, thought outside the box and did the 5K with her horse, Emmie Girl! She invited other area veterans to participate along with them.



Past State and National Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, warms up for her 5K and honors some beloved veterans on her run.

Armando Hernandez and his family have their game faces on for the DAV 5K!



Roy Fessenden, riding his bike for Homer Blevins Chapter #1 in Fresno.

Also, a special shout out to Team DAV California's top Fundraiser, Karen Foore! She was closely followed by Patrick Eustis, both of whom raised over \$1,000! Talk about a dream team.

VETERANS CEMETERY COALITION JOINS TOGETHER TO CREATE CHANGE IN ORANGE COUNTY



After getting "fed up with the endless delays and political manipulation in the City of Irvine," veterans teamed up in the largest veteran coalition established in Orange County History. They joined together around the singular issue of making a "regional effort to finally build a suitable resting place for [their] fallen."

Together, the coalition urged Orange County to pursue the possibility of building a veterans' cemetery on the Gypsum Canyon site in the City of Anaheim, "which has already been planned for a cemetery and is currently in the Orange County Cemetery District."

The project is still facing delays and possible legal battles, but in the meantime, the coalition joined together to ask for bipartisan support and regional resources in the effort to finally get a veterans' cemetery in that area. And, according to the Veterans Cemetery Coalition, the "Gypsum Canyon site in the City of Anaheim is a feasible, timely, and logical alternative to the disputed options currently under consideration."

- Submitted by Nick Berardino from the Veterans Alliance of Orange County



join us!

FOR OUR CENTENNIAL CONVENTION!

CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER!



Save the Date:

May 12-14, 2022
Miramonte
Indian Wells Resort & Spa
4500 Indian Wells Lane
Indian Wells, CA 92210
\$139/Night

1. Click Link
2. Find Correct Dates
3. Reserve! (Group Code is 7625404)

EVENT NEWS



JOIN US!

VIRTUAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

JANUARY 28TH
& 29TH, 2022

CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER!



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2022

Membership Committee 9 AM
Claims & Service Commission 10 AM
Finance Committee 11 AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2022

Chapter Leadership Forum TBD
State Executive Committee Noon

Please note that Chapter Service Officer Training will not be held during Midwinter as we held a successful CSO training in November. Thank you to everyone who joined!

UPCOMING! TOWN HALL MEETING

Hear the latest from
DAV California Leadership!
Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 11:00 AM

CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER



VOLUNTEER NEWS

VOLUNTEER EASILY WITH OUR DAV CALIFORNIA APP!

Staying connected is easier than ever, with the DAV California app. Within the app, users can sign up to become a volunteer, or log your volunteer hours. Search the Apple Store or Google Play for "DAV California." We encourage everyone to download, use and share this app; as it helps us to streamline our volunteer and legislative process and become more efficient in our service to veterans in California!

And, thank you so much to the 118 of our volunteers who have been early adopters, and have successfully been logging their volunteer hours using the DAV California App. These volunteers have helped us to fine tune the app's process, and through this new tool, we have tracked close to 10,000 volunteer hours provided to veterans outside of the VA hospital since the app's launch last year. That's 10,000 hours that we're showing those on Capital Hill, that veterans need support and assistance not just at the VA, but more importantly, in the communities they live in.

Thank you to those of you have been using the app and allowing us to better our processes so we can be more effective in our service to veterans. And, if you're not using the app, consider joining our 118 early adopters!

**SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD APP!**



FRESNO IS LOOKING FORWARD TO REOPENING TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



The Fresno transportation program, led by Susan Bertolani, looks forward to providing veterans with needed rides to appointments again in Mid-January 2022. Volunteer drivers will be brought up-to-date on “Pandemic” processes and must be vaccinated. Congrats Susan & Team Fresno!

DAV NATIONAL NOW PROVIDING \$110,000 ANNUALLY IN SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Increasing from \$75,000 annually, this scholarship is open to volunteers, 21 or younger, with at least 100 volunteer hours. Whether helping at a local VA, or lending a hand to veteran neighbors and family members, there's a place at DAV for young volunteers!



HELPING VETERANS? HELP US GET FUNDING FOR VETERANS BY SIGNING 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!](#)



CHAPTER NEWS



SEC TRIMINGHAM RECOGNIZED AT FOOTBALL GAME

SEC from District #1 and Commander of Chapter #84, David Trimmingham, was recognized as the Veteran of the Game at the October 23, 2021 Cal vs Colorado football game! And, Cal won the game too. Go Bears!

29PALMS HAS NEW SITE FOR CSO SERVICES!

Congrats to Allen Pagdilao and the other CSOs from 29Palms on the new location. With this, they were recently able to get back to providing claims assistance. Keep up the good work and way to keep taking care of your local veterans!



JR. VICE VISITS MURRIETA VETERANS EXPO



Assemblymember, Kelly Seyarto, and Senator Melissa Melendez, hosted the 2021 Veterans Expo in October in Murrieta, CA. Jr. Vice Commander, Nancy Casey, came out to represent the DAV California and help and connect with veterans!

CHAPTER NEWS, CONT...

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



SHOUT OUT TO OUR
TOP RECRUITING CHAPTER
BY %: CHAPTER #12!

*Advocating for Veterans in
California is now easier than ever*



*Join our grassroots efforts
& make your voice heard!*



This holiday, receive the gift of better balance!

With the 60uP Balance Board System!



CLICK HERE & FILL OUT FORM TO SIGN UP!



Whether you suffer from balance problems, want to prevent future issues or just want to maintain your strength and healthy living, the 60uP balance station could be for you!

60uP is an exercise station that combines basic movements designed to increase mobility, coordination, and strength. But, most of all, it helps users reconnect their minds to the muscles of the body for better balance!

- *Supplies are limited, please only sign up if you intend to use the product.*
- *60uP is generously donating their merchandise to veterans through DAV. Neither 60uP or DAV is liable, & each party shall hold the other harmless.*
- *Each board comes with a pair of yellow flex support poles. Firmer support poles are available upon request.*
- *Please fill out entire form to ensure receipt*



SUPPORT DAV'S THRIFT STORES!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

800-238-8387
donatedav.org

This holiday season,
clear space for the
new! Donate your
extra clothing and
household goods to
your nearest DAV
thrift operation and
set up a pick up today!

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.