



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

January, 2018 Newsletter

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FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER JAMES BAILEY



HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Every 365 days, we get an opportunity to celebrate the birth of the New Year! It is time to look forward to new challenges, new opportunities and new accomplishments. It is also a time to look back and reflect what we accomplished in the previous year.

The DAV Department of Ohio has accomplished much in the previous year. As State Commander, I know that all the successful accomplishments were due to the hard work of our DAV Chapters, DAVA units and all the individual members of these organizations.

When we reflect on what we have accomplished in the previous year, we should also consider what still needs to be done to assist our veterans. The best way of this self-reflection is to review what our DAV purpose.

As DAV members, we are dedicated to one (1) single purpose, that is, ***“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 by the work of our Chapter, District and National Service Officers. Statistics indicate that over 70% of all VA claims are filed and processed by the DAV.

The DAV fights for the interest of America’s injured heroes in Washington, DC and in state legislatures throughout the United States. In February, the DAV Ohio Team plans to visit with all of Ohio’s 16 Congressional Offices, as well as, both Senate Offices, explaining the DAV’s position on key pending legislation. Also, Ohio DAV and DAVA members have participated in the Commander’s Action Network to have our voices heard on issues.

We educate the general public about the sacrifices and needs of veterans whenever we conduct our annual Forget-Me-Not Drives or by actively participating in the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP).

Although we accomplished a lot, there is still more to do. Let us use the month of January as a planning month for our DAV activities. Let us reflect on what we did in 2017 and ***decide what we are going to do in the future!***

Remember, WE SHOULD, WE CAN, and WE WILL!

James Bailey
State Commander

2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS

State Commander:	James Bailey
Sr. Vice Commander:	John Plahovinsak
1 st Jr. Vice Commander:	John Parker
2 nd Jr. Vice Commander:	David Weeks
Executive Committee:	Timothy Dibble Robert Habern
PDC (2016-2017):	David Bilinovich

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DAV 2018 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

As happens every year, everyone from Dear Abby to the New York Times is writing about resolutions for New Year 2018. As with every year, we are encouraged to improve our lives and ourselves by resolving to exercise, to diet, to form healthy relationships, to avoid stress, to get enough sleep, to read good literature, to challenge our minds, to live more and worry less, and to otherwise change our ways.

The DAV has its resolutions, too. To our credit, our DAV resolutions are designed to improve the lives of others. They are compiled in an annual booklet, called the "DAV Legislative Program."

My copy arrived last week. It contains 142 separate resolutions to change federal laws and regulations, with each resolution designed to achieve our mission and single purpose: to empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

We accomplished this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; and by fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; as well as by educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. As part of this process, we look for ways to better existing laws and regulations governing veterans' affairs. We come up with ideas to do so, and write your ideas down in the form of resolutions.

The unique aspect of our DAV resolutions is that you, our comrades, are the authors. You reduce your ideas to writing and present them for endorsement at chapter meetings. From there, your ideas are reviewed and refined at district meetings and at our department convention. With the endorsements of those bodies, your ideas are submitted to a Legislative Committee, which is formed at our National Convention. Similar ideas are compared and combined, with the best versions selected for consideration and presentation. If recommended by the Committee, your ideas are submitted to the convention floor, where your delegates consider their adoption. If adopted, your ideas are printed as resolutions in that annual booklet, titled: "DAV Legislative Program."

But it does not stop there! Each year, the DAV's Commanders' & Adjutants' Association sponsors its Mid-Winter Conference. Members and department officers are encouraged to attend, and to schedule meetings with their respective congressional and senatorial representatives. Several of your best ideas are selected for in-person presentation and discussion at those meetings. Questions are encouraged and addressed. Written narratives of your ideas are provided in writing and left for each senator and congressional representative. Follow-up lines of communication are established.

And it doesn't stop there, either! By pre-arrangement, a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees is scheduled near the end of the Mid-Winter Conference. Our National Commander addresses the Joint Committee, encouraging adoption of your ideas, the resolutions, as federal laws. The DAV National staff attends, to assist in detailed response to any questions on any issue.

We encourage your New Year's resolutions. We encourage the kind of resolution designed to empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We encourage you to challenge your minds, and ours, by providing your best ideas.

Also, we encourage your attendance and active participation in the upcoming C&A Mid-Winter Conference, scheduled February 24 to 27, 2018. We promise attendees the opportunity to assist Department Commander James Bailey, National Service Officer Supervisor Steve Strodbeck, Legislative Chair John Plahovinsak and others, including myself, in presenting your ideas to our elected officials in their Capitol Hill offices. We encourage your attendance at the Joint House & Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees meeting, scheduled for February 27th, where National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster will promote the adoption of your ideas, your New Year's resolutions for 2018!

You can be justifiably proud of your New Year's resolutions, and of the way your veterans' service organization, the Disabled American Veterans, works to make your resolutions into reality!

Mike Stith
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP

As of *January 3, 2018*, the Department Membership Report stands at 32,423 members. The Department is 98.01% of goal and 595 members below the yearly goal of 29,889. Total full life membership is 29,294.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 25-28, 2018	2018 Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA.
April 21, 2018	DAV Commander James Bailey and DAVA Commander Marlene Zwiebel Testimonial Dinner, Holiday Inn, Wapakoneta, OH
June 22-24, 2018	97 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
July 14-17, 2018	2018 National Convention, Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada
November 2-4, 2018	2018 Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott Northwest, Dublin, OH.
February 24-27, 2019	2019 Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA.
August 3-6, 2019	2019 National Convention, Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, Florida.