

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



Annual Report 2008

our guiding principles...

Annual Report 2008

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**SERVICE
QUALITY
INTEGRITY
LEADERSHIP**





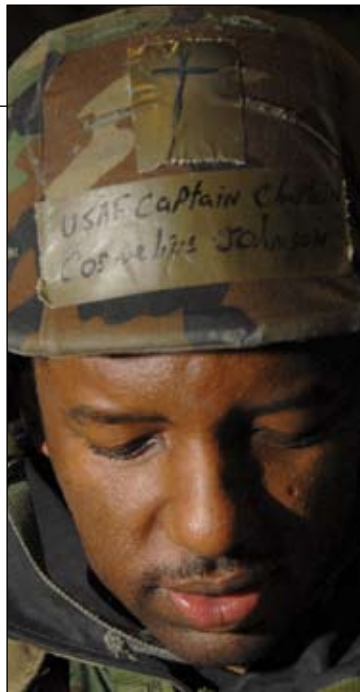
The Costs of War

When America sends its young men and women into combat there is a price. Today a fraction of our national population serves in the military. Consequently the weight of sacrifices from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are carried by a courageous few and their families. The Disabled American Veterans is committed to ensuring that our nation fulfills its obligations to those who bear the wounds and scars of war.

From the intrepid amputee who runs marathons on a state-of-the-art prosthetic device to the reclusive burn victim who must learn to live beyond unimaginable pain and inconsolable loss, soldiers are surviving catastrophic injuries that would have been unthinkable in any previous war.

The brave few who serve during these challenging times are undeniably impacted by repeated combat tours. Beyond the wounds and scars we can see, the horrors of war leave their mark in the hearts and minds of our warriors long after their military service ends.

More than 1.64 million U.S. troops have been sent by our government to combat zones around the world since 9/11. The 38,907 "official casualties" of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are deceiving. These numbers do not include the many thousands of veterans who come home with undiagnosed traumatic brain injuries and psychological trauma.



Nor do the statistics tell the story of the husbands and wives, parents and children who have become caregivers to the young men and women who were once providers.

The future for these veterans is uncertain. Recent studies on burn pits and toxic exposures in combat theaters suggest many more veterans will need our help in the years to come — just as Vietnam veterans suffered from Agent Orange exposure and Persian Gulf War veterans are still coming forward with symptoms connected to

Gulf War.

It has been said that our entire nation has not gone to war in Iraq and Afghanistan — that our troops and their families are the only ones bearing the burden of these bloody conflicts. Our commitment as an organization and community of disabled veterans and supporters is to welcome returning veterans back with services and advocacy that truly honor the sacrifices they have made on behalf of us all.

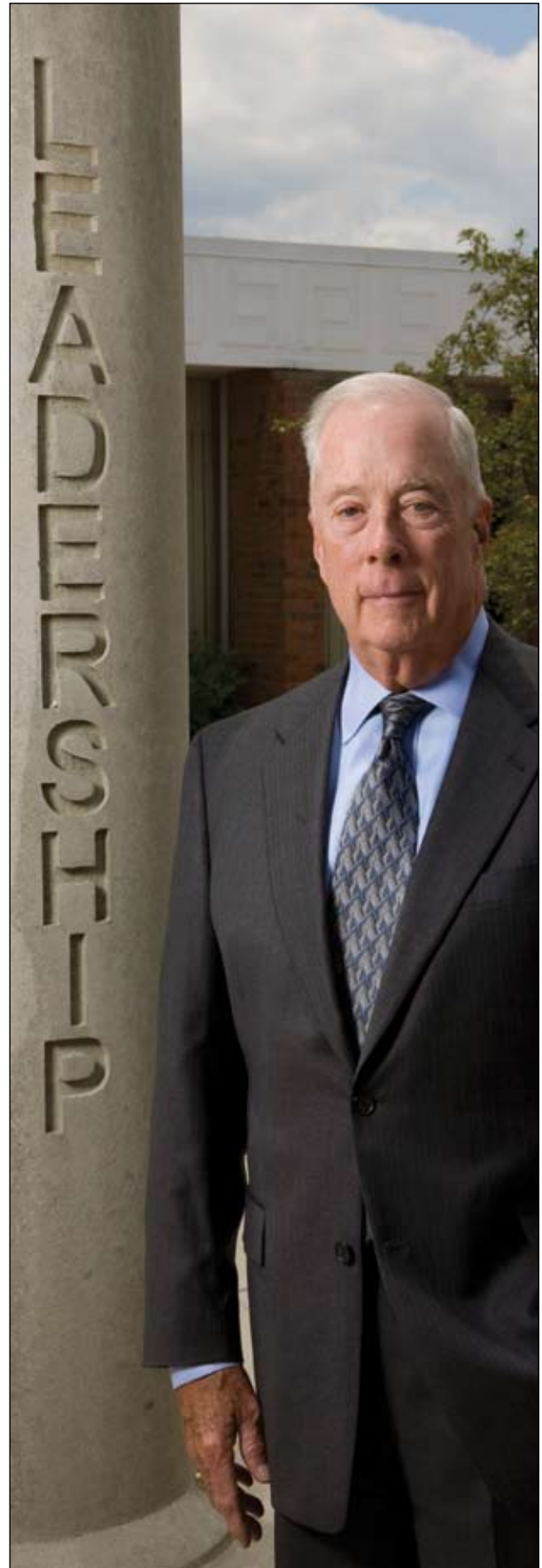
DAV

Mission Statement

Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense, the Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to one, single purpose: building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

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 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 the 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; and
- ★ Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.



Dear Friends of the Disabled American Veterans

Founded in 1920 by disabled veterans returning from World War I, the Disabled American Veterans has continually represented the unique interests of the men and women who bear the wounds and scars of war.

With a new generation of brave Americans leaving the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, our mission of service and advocacy are as critical today as in any time in our nation's history. Each year, the DAV represents more than 200,000 veterans and their dependents with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense.

Our Voluntary Services Program operates a comprehensive network of volunteers who improve care and morale for sick and disabled veterans. A nationwide volunteer transportation network provides veterans free rides to and from VA medical facilities for their care.

The DAV's 1.2 million members provide grassroots advocacy and services in communities across the country. From educating lawmakers and the public about important issues to supporting services and legislation to help disabled veterans — the DAV is there to promote its message of hope to all who have served and sacrificed.

In the pages that follow, you'll learn more about the DAV's accomplishments and compassionate commitment to meeting the needs of disabled veterans and their families. In everything the DAV does, we remain true to our core values of service, quality, integrity and leadership, which have guided this organization from its beginnings in the wake of World War I.

Those who support our programs through their generosity and the public at large have a right to know just how their gifts are used and blessings they bring to disabled veterans and their families. Because of our commitment to this principle, the DAV's books are always open. We are proud of our record of wise stewardship and dedication to our mission. And as you read this annual report, we are confident that you will feel the warmth of knowing you have played a vital role in helping those who have given so much of themselves to preserve and protect our nation's security and freedom. We're glad to answer any questions about the DAV's financial status and our work on behalf of America's disabled veterans and their families.



Arthur H. Wilson

Arthur H. Wilson
NATIONAL ADJUTANT
Chief Executive Officer



Raymond E. Dempsey

Raymond E. Dempsey
NATIONAL COMMANDER



Robert T. Reynolds

Robert T. Reynolds
CHAIRMAN
Board of Directors

Partnerships

Historically, DAV has created programs and services that strive to bridge the gap between what disabled veterans need and what the government can provide.

In order to fulfill our commitment to building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families, we rely virtually on public support. This helps us ensure that our government honors and lives up to its responsibilities to the men and women who bear the visible and unseen scars of war. Increasingly, key corporate partners have helped bolster our efforts and have provided needed momentum to expand our services to veterans and to reach out to the American public.



Veterans attending motorcycle events across the country now find it more convenient to get professional assistance with their benefits' claims, thanks to a grant from the **Harley-Davidson Foundation**. Young volunteers at veterans hospitals are encouraged by scholarship opportunities made available by the **Ford Motor Company Fund**. A grant from the **GE Foundation** helps ensure that the men and women have their rights and benefits properly addressed before discharge.

These and other critical services provided *free of charge* to veterans and their families are made possible through alliances with major corporations and foundations, as well as the individual generosity of the American public. Today, tens of thousands of

wounded and injured veterans returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan swell the ranks of America's disabled veterans, whose needs grow even as resources are stretched thin by the current economic turmoil.

Especially in times such as these, corporate and foundation grants are a vital source of support — allowing us to continually expand our role as the nation's premier nonprofit veterans service organization. Our

continued commitment to wise stewardship and our guiding principles of **SERVICE, QUALITY, INTEGRITY** and **LEADERSHIP** instill confidence that this vital financial support is directed toward our mission of service and hope. We have been fortunate to have the support of leading companies since our inception following World War I.

In 1922, San Francisco was the site of our second national convention. With limited means of travel available then, a lengthy trip to the West Coast was very difficult for many, particularly those with severe disabilities. Thanks to automotive pioneer Henry Ford, a cross-country caravan of 50 Model T Fords was organized to take many of our members to the convention.

As a testament to its sustained allegiance to the principle of corporate social responsibility, Ford has expanded its relationship with us. One example of that commitment: Ford Motor Company Fund has donated 132 vans for use in our nationwide Transportation Network since 1996. Those vans, along with others purchased by DAV, are on the road daily taking sick and disabled veterans to their Department of Veterans Affairs medical center appointments and returning them home again.

Another example is the **Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program**. Supported in part by the Ford Motor Company Fund, it nurtures the volunteer spirit and fosters an intergenerational link between veterans and our young people. Since its inception in 2000, this program has provided more than 100 scholarships to students who generously volunteer their time in service to veterans through our Voluntary Services program.

A four-year, \$1 million grant from the Harley-Davidson Foundation has allowed the DAV to expand its Mobile Service Office outreach program. Through the Harley's Heroes Tour program, these specially equipped offices on wheels set up at Harley-Davidson dealerships or motorcycle events and enable our professional National Service Officers to provide free, on-the-spot benefits counseling and claims representation to more veterans than ever. As the iconic American motorcycle company, Harley-Davidson has long counted veterans among its best customers and created this unique way to give back to those who served our nation.

For many who have served and sacrificed, **Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday** is a welcome recognition of their patriotism and service. As a joint venture, this bighearted program rewards

veterans and military members with a free meal while offering DAV Departments and Chapters the opportunity to spread our message of hope and raise funds to support their veterans' service initiatives. Held annually the Monday following the Veterans Day observance, this event provided donations of more than \$700,000 nationwide in 2008.

Golden Corral and DAV also teamed up to co-sponsor the National Memorial Day Concert. This annual musical event is a stirring salute to those brave men and women who have laid down their lives for our country. Broadcast live from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, the top-rated PBS show is hosted by Emmy Award-winner Gary Sinise (*CSI: New York*) and Tony Award-winner Joe Mantegna (*Criminal Minds*). These two acclaimed actors have dedicated themselves to veterans' causes and supporting our troops.

As a way of showing its respect and appreciation for the newest generation of Americans who have served and sacrificed to defend our way of life, the GE Foundation is helping us reach out to assist those men and women transitioning to civilian life. With a two-year grant of \$1.5 million from the GE Foundation, we expanded our Transition Service Program to provide benefits counseling and assistance to separating service members at more than 100

military installations nationwide.

These are just a few examples of how corporate and foundation support helps us enrich the lives of disabled veterans and their families through our free professional services and volunteer activities. As our programs and services offer a wide array of opportunities, you're sure to find one to fit your need. So we invite you to invest in the future of our nation's disabled veterans — the men and women who have defended our liberty and our American way of life.



To find out more about Corporate and Foundation Partnership opportunities, please contact Susan Loth at (859) 441-7300.

National Service Program

Our largest endeavor in fulfilling the DAV's mission is our National Service Program. In 110 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, we employ a corps of approximately 260 National Service Officers (NSOs) and 41 Transition Service Officers (TSOs), who counsel and represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

Veterans need not be members to take advantage of our assistance, which is provided free of charge. With outlays of \$42,781,321 in 2008, these direct services make up the largest item in our budget for program activities. Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, our NSOs and TSOs, all wartime service-connected disabled veterans, represented nearly a quarter of a million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining for them nearly \$3.4 billion in new and retroactive benefits.

NSOs function as attorneys-in-fact, assisting veterans and their families in filing claims for VA disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pensions, death benefits, employment and training programs. They provide free services, such as information seminars, counseling and community outreach. NSOs also represent veterans and active duty military personnel before Discharge Review Boards, Boards for Correction of Military Records, Physical Evaluation Boards, the Disability Transition Assistance Program, the Transition As-



sistance Program and other official panels.

Our NSOs are highly trained professionals and skilled experts in developing and prosecuting veterans' claims through in-depth reviews of medical histories, in conjunction with application of current law and regulations. They also review rating board decisions, informing veterans and their families of the appeals process and of their appellate rights.

The expertise required for these essential services provided by NSOs involves extensive preparation. It begins with a 16-month on-the-job training program, which provides the foundation for new trainees. Trainees are instructed by tenured supervisory NSOs. The National Service staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters administers and monitors the program and the instructors.

NSOs also participate in a comprehensive Structured and Continuing Training program designed to keep them up to date on changes to the laws and regulations affecting veterans' benefits. NSOs are



NSO Paul Varela assists widow Frances George.

required to pre-test and successfully complete 32 training modules. Full completion requires post-testing at the conclusion of the program. The DAV is the only veterans' service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by the American Council on Education.

In addition to these training programs, supervisory staff and selected NSOs from field offices across the country receive specialized instruction in management and leadership development. The goal is to produce the most highly trained representatives possible to serve veterans and their families.

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NATIONAL APPEALS OFFICE

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The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is the highest appellate level of the VA responsible for the final decision concerning entitlement to veterans' benefits. About 94 percent of the claims before the board involve disability compensation issues. Our highly skilled National Appeals Officers serve appellants in the preparation of written briefs for BVA review and

conduct formal hearings before Veterans Law Judges. We maintain the largest staff of any advocacy group, representing more than 27 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2008.

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JUDICIAL APPEALS OFFICE

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We have maintained our leading position among veterans' service organizations representing veterans, their dependents and survivors before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In July 2008, we implemented a long-anticipated plan to utilize the services of carefully selected law firms to provide pro bono representation to some DAV clients at the veterans court. Through the combined efforts of DAV and its first partner law firm, nearly two hundred veterans received free representation before the court in 2008. We added another law firm to this team in late 2008. As a result, it is likely that the number of veterans receiving representation before the court through our long-term efforts will increase substantially in future years.

TRANSITION SERVICE PROGRAM

For those servicemembers making the all-important transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and Disabled Transition Assistance programs. Due to a generous grant provided by the GE Foundation, we increased our staff of Transition Service Officers from 25 to 41 in 2008.

Our TSOs provide benefits counseling and assistance to servicemembers filing initial claims for VA benefits at more than 100 military installations throughout the country. By filing compensation claims at separation centers where service medical records and examination facilities are readily available, we are able to provide prompt service to these future veterans. Over the last year, our TSOs conducted 2,044 formal presentations to 89,299 transitioning servicemembers. During that same time they filed 30,225 claims for VA benefits. Counsel and representation was provided for active duty servicemembers during their transition through the military's Disability Evaluation System. We devoted approximately \$2 million to this program in 2008.



MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE PROGRAM

By literally putting our service offices on the road, assisting veterans where they live, DAV is increasing their accessibility to benefits. With 10 specially



equipped Mobile Service Offices (MSOs) visiting communities across the country, this outreach effort generates a considerable amount of claims work from those veterans who may not otherwise have the opportunity to seek assistance at our National Service Offices.

During 2008, our MSOs traveled more than 90,600 miles visiting 645 cities and towns. Our NSOs interviewed 16,388 veterans and other potential claimants. The Harley-Davidson Foundation in August 2006 pledged \$1 million over four years to partner with the DAV to form the Harley's Heroes program. During 2008, the MSOs visited 195 Harley-Davidson dealerships as part of this program. Nearly \$900,000 was expended for the Mobile Service Office program in 2008.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The National Service Department has the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. Each



veterans to discuss VA benefits with our NSOs in their own community, give Chapters an opportunity to recruit new members and encourage their involvement.

Since 2006, DAV NSOs have offered services at other community-based events, including participation with state and county fairs, air shows, Major League Baseball, the National Football League and NASCAR.

WOMEN VETERANS

In historic numbers, women are serving our country with pride, patriotism and honor equal to their male counterparts. But women veterans use VA health care facilities and other earned benefits in fewer numbers than their male counterparts. As a result, we advocate for women veterans on a

variety of fronts. We have organized top-level forums designed to bring women veterans and government policy-makers together to openly address topics of concern. In 2008, DAV co-sponsored the fourth National Summit on Women Veterans Issues held in Washington, D.C., June 20-22.

We are involved in the congressionally chartered VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. In addition, our own Women's Advisory Committee, primarily made up of women veterans from

receives the training and information necessary to assist those we serve. Our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training Program guarantees the vitality and growth of our local service programs. This provides an environment where our Hospital Service Coordinators, Department and Chapter Service Officers and volunteers work together for the common goal of service to disabled veterans. In 2008, DAV trained and certified 1,387 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 35 states.

During 2008, we conducted 47 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, with 2,749 individuals in attendance. These Information Seminars provide the opportunity for



U.S. Army veteran Centra "CC" Mazyck

across the country, meets annually at our national convention. We actively seek out and recruit women veterans for our National Service Officer corps.

National Service Officer Tony Craig counsels a veteran about her benefits.



Mobile Service Offices like this one staffed by National Service Officers Ron Minter, right, and Filippi Micocci provide benefits counseling and outreach to veterans in their communities.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Our National Service Program is responsible for the organization's employment-related program and works alongside the Department of Labor, the VA, the Office of Personnel Management, Congress and other government agencies to ensure that disabled veterans are treated fairly and equitably in the work force.

Disabled veterans have historically fared less well than non-disabled veterans and other workers in the job market. Our primary goal is to seek legislation and policies to enhance programs and services provided by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, the Office of Personnel Management and other government agencies. Our active involvement and oversight ensure disabled veterans get fair consideration in the job market.



HOMELESS VETERANS

The DAV's Homeless Veterans Initiative is to seek legislation and policies to enhance programs and services to help homeless veterans break the cycle of poverty and isolation and move from the streets to self-sufficiency. Many of our Departments and Chapters are actively involved in the homeless initiatives in their respective communities, as well.

National Legislative Program

Our National Legislative Department advocates in support of federal legislation that creates, improves and protects programs for disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

This legislative activity requires an intensive effort throughout the year, advocating directly with congressional members and their staffs, providing testimony to congressional committees, and using other means of communication as Congress debates the President's budget and various appropriations bills that incorporate funding levels into laws that supports veterans' programs.

Some of the guiding principles of the Legislative Department are borne from our legislative agenda as set forth by the resolutions adopted by delegates to our annual National Convention. Additionally, we must effectively articulate our position on other pertinent legislation presented during the congressional session. Through our focused advocacy, DAV, as the primary voice to Congress of America's wartime disabled veterans, advances their interests and works for their betterment.

The rights of disabled veterans are affected by all three branches of the federal govern-



ment—the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Our Legislative Department serves as a gatekeeper overseeing each governmental branch with the goal to ensure that proceedings never succeed in diminishing veterans' earned benefits.

Our advocacy progressed on multiple fronts during 2008, including a grassroots project aimed at assisting our newest generation of veterans and the challenges specific to their needs. Further, with grassroots support, we contin-

ued to face down new initiatives that posed real threats to service-connected disability benefits. Simultaneously, we pressed Congress to move forward on other initiatives, which may enhance VA benefits to a level equal to the sacrifices that earned those benefits.

The –“Stand Up For Veterans”– initiative launched in 2007 is a special advocacy campaign that generates broad public awareness and focuses on areas that demand further action by our government to meet the needs of severely disabled

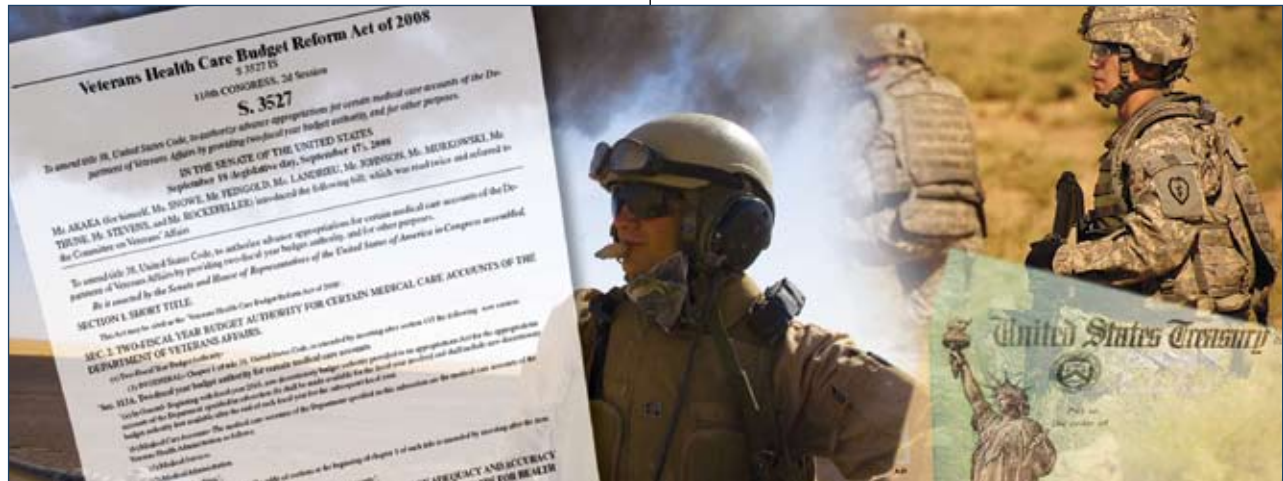


veterans, especially those injured during wartime service. These areas include sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for veterans health care; improved diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injuries; screening and treatment for mental health problems; new support for family caregivers and additional focus on the unique needs of women veterans.

Through our legislative and grassroots efforts, Congress was generous in its support of sufficient funding for veterans programs. Specifically, a \$6 billion increase was provided in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill for the VA, as well as an increase of more than \$5 billion in the 2009 appropriations bill. Twelve years had passed since

Congress last approved the VA's budget before the beginning of the VA's budget year. Because of these funding delays, we continue our quest to ensure that VA funding is sufficient, timely and predictable each year. We believe this can be achieved through *advanced appropriations*: a basic change in the method by which VA health appropriations are approved annually by Congress.

Finally, another benefit won through our legislative efforts can be seen in the new GI Bill, the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act. This new benefit covers the full cost of education at any public school in the country and many private schools for veterans who have served at least 90 days of active duty post-9/11 and have



remaining entitlement. There is no requirement to buy-in to qualify, and the benefits last for 15 years after separation.

We will continue to work to ensure that the new Administration and Congress will meet our nation's obligations to the men and women who bear the physical and mental scars of their war-time service defending our freedoms.

No funds from charitable contributions are used to cover the expenses of our Legislative

Program, with the exception of contributions donated explicitly to fund legislative efforts. All other legislative operations are funded from membership dues. During 2008, \$3,572,137 was spent on legislative activities. While the costs of the Legislative Program were only 2 percent of total expenditures, it is an essential part of our mission. The successes and ongoing efforts of this program demonstrate our dedication, strength and leadership in advocacy for veterans' rights.



National Voluntary Service Program

DAV operates an extensive network of programs through which dedicated volunteers provide a variety of services to disabled veterans.



During 2008, the organization devoted \$37,647,695 to these Voluntary Service initiatives.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

One of the largest of these programs is our nationwide Transportation Network, through which volunteers drive sick and disabled veterans to and from VA medical facilities for treatment. This program fills a substantial community need since the federal government terminated its program that helped many veterans pay for transportation to VA medical facilities. More than 180 Hospital Service Coordinators manage the transportation needs for disabled veterans to

and from nearly every VA medical center in the country. In 2008, 150 vans were added to the Transportation Network. Ford Motor Company also donated \$200,000 for the purchase of an additional 7 vans, representing a unique partnership between DAV and corporate America. Since 1987, 2,109 vans have been purchased by the National Organization, Chapters, Departments, and the National Service Foundation Columbia Trust at a cost of \$41,132,839. These vans have all been donated to VA hospitals for use in the Transportation Network.

The National Organization devoted \$35,769,400 in contributed services to the Transportation Network in 2008. DAV and Auxiliary volunteers, and a growing number of generous nonmembers, provided 1,833,388 hour and drove 22,199,882 miles, providing free rides to 602,137 veterans.



Detroit Tigers pitcher Zach Miner gives a pat on the back to a hospitalized veteran during a visit to the Detroit VA medical center.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM

Volunteers contributed an additional 464,155 hours of service to veterans at VA hospitals, clinics and nursing homes through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program in 2008. Due to our interpretation of generally accepted accounting principles, these in-hospital volunteer hours are not recognized as contributed services

in the financial tables that follow; however, this volunteer time has a value of \$9,055,664, according to the VA. The National Organization's 2008 investment was \$903,895 to coordinate programs through its VAVS and transportation efforts. In addition to services in VA facilities, volunteers annually contribute approximately 1 million hours at veterans' medical facilities outside the VA, such as those operated by state governments.

NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

Working in cooperation with the VA for the 22nd consecutive year, our organization co-sponsored the 2008 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, devoting \$607,248 in direct expenditures to this program. That is in addition to other indirect expenditures which are part of our ongoing VAVS program. This program has helped veterans overcome the impact of severe disability and empowered many to take their lives in new directions they might otherwise never have dreamed possible.



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CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

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Another volunteer initiative is the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program, featuring Major League Baseball Umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Layne, and professional athletes from the National Football League and Major League Baseball, who continue to visit hospitalized veterans in VA medical centers. Chapters, Auxiliary Units, state-level Departments, and associated organizations work on behalf of disabled veterans in the communities they serve. These programs range from initiatives for homeless veterans to advocacy for the removal of barriers to handicapped people; from household chores to driving severely disabled veterans to the store or bank. The creation of the Local Veterans Assistance Program during the fall of 2007 offers volunteers the opportunity to provide valuable assistance to veterans within their communities. During 2008, 2,859 volunteers donated 90,609 hours of volunteer service to disabled veterans living in rural and underserved areas.



Oklahoma Redhawks players take time to thank a veteran during a visit to the Oklahoma City VA medical center.

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YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIPS

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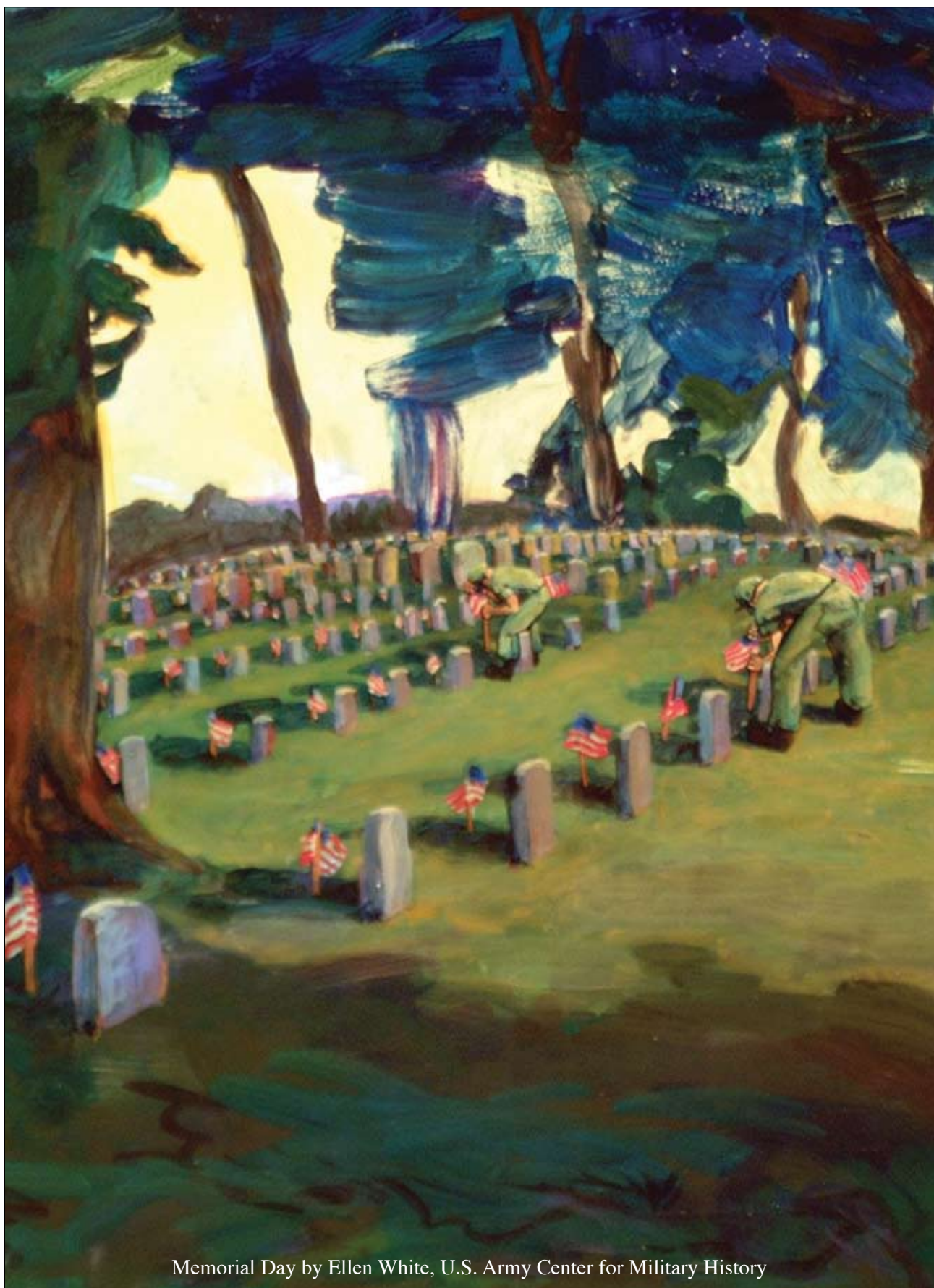
To encourage our young people to get involved in volunteer work to assist sick and disabled veterans, we created the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service program. In 2008, a total of \$80,000 in scholarships was awarded to 12 outstanding youth volunteers.

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LOCAL & STATE VOLUNTEERISM

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Because Chapters and Departments account for their activities separately, the tables that follow do not reflect the impressive financial investment associated with their volunteer work at the local and state levels. In an effort to encourage even greater involvement in the lives of veterans at the community and state levels, the National Service Foundation established the Colorado Trust, now called the Columbia Trust. Through the Trust, well-funded Chapters and Departments are providing invaluable help to other Chapters and Departments that lack the funds to support their service programs. In addition to these contributions to the Trust, in 2008 the DAV National Organization provided another \$287,151 in part for the purchase of Transportation Network vans. The National Organization has contributed \$4,208,175 to the Trust since its inception.



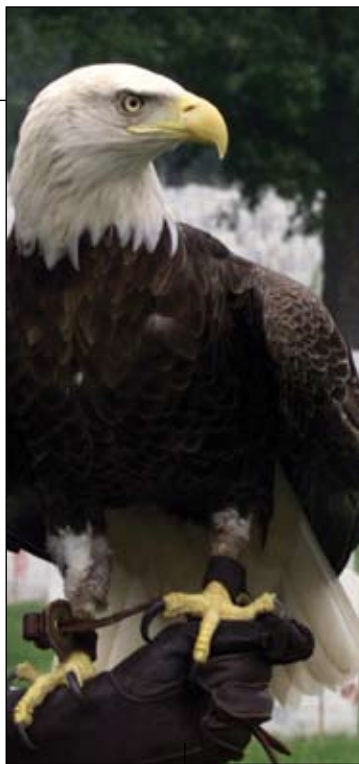
Memorial Day by Ellen White, U.S. Army Center for Military History

State Service, Disaster Relief and Memorials

A program of direct grants is provided to needy disabled veterans and their families, as well as a plan to fund state-level services to these veterans and families. During 2008, spending on these programs totaled \$7,524,877.

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**DISASTER RELIEF
PROGRAM**
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When disasters strike, National Service Officers are dispatched to the disaster area to provide monetary assistance, conduct benefit counseling, and to offer referral sources. We provided disaster relief grants in the aftermath of natural disasters and emergencies in various areas around the nation to help disabled veterans secure temporary lodging, food, and, other necessities. During 2008, almost 4,400 grants totaling \$1,610,397 were disbursed to flood victims in Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, Alabama, and Missouri and hurricane victims in Texas, Louisiana,



Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. Since the program's inception in 1968, \$8,750,956 has been disbursed.

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**STATE SERVICE
PROGRAM**
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We help fund services that state-level Departments provide to disabled veterans and their families. In some cases, these Department programs extend, supplement, or dovetail services we provide through our nationwide programs. In other cases, Departments have created entirely new programs to meet the unique needs of veterans in their states. Grants to Departments under this program totaled \$5,240,483 in 2008.

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MEMORIALS
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Honoring the memory of veterans has always been of primary interest. In 2008, DAV contributed \$673,997 to the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, which will be built on a very impressive location in Washington, D.C., within sight of our nation's Capitol. The long overdue memorial will honor the service and sacrifice of disabled veterans from all wars.

Communications and Public Relations

Effective communications outreach — to our membership and the public — is essential to building awareness, appreciation, and support for our services to the nation's disabled veterans and their families.

The National Communications Department oversees media relations, publications, contacts with other organizations, and various public outreach initiatives. It is responsible for producing news releases, speeches, op-eds, brochures, print advertisements, public service announcements, and other materials that provide information about our full range of free services.

A full-color magazine informs our members about important issues and our government's policies affecting the federal benefits and services they've earned. This bi-monthly publication also highlights the many accomplishments of our state-level Departments and local Chapters nationwide.

A comprehensive Internet Web site (www.dav.org) also is a vital information and education resource for disabled veterans and the general public. Our Web site provides timely, easy access to legislative matters, service programs, and critical issues. It also allows our members, as well as the general public, to make their voices heard on important public policy issues through an electronic mail feedback feature.

Through a close association with Major and Minor League Baseball, we are able to carry our message to the American public in a unique way.



Special baseball cards, featuring star players on one side and information about the DAV on the other, are distributed to fans attending special games during the playing season. The special video, "*Baseball—Real American Heroes*," is shown at ballparks on a regular basis. And, now, National Football League teams have joined the effort and are featuring our video, "*GIs of the Gridiron*," and specially designed autograph cards for players.

Air shows across the country carry our message of service and volunteerism in support of the nation's sick and disabled veterans on the wings of *Panchito* and *Special Delivery*, fully restored World War II B-25 Mitchell bombers. In 2009, the DAV will add a third B-25, *Pacific Prowler*, to its lineup. This warbird will fly shows on the west coast, including California, Oregon, and Seattle.

Former UFC middleweight champion Rich Franklin was inspired to team up with the DAV after meeting wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Ultimate Fighting Championship star created the —"Real American Fighters"— program as a tribute to the men and women who have been wounded in defense of our freedom. As part of the program, Franklin visits patients at veterans and

military hospitals and appears in a public service announcement.

These educational public service and out-reach programs continue to promote awareness of veterans' issues and honor disabled veterans' service to our nation. A total of \$4,992,731 was spent on the Publications and Other Communications program in 2008.

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**PUBLIC AWARENESS
 OUTREACH**
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Too many disabled veterans remain in need of federal benefits and services they've earned but haven't used. Generally, these veterans aren't aware of their entitlements or the free help our National Service Program can provide in filing for VA and other government benefits.

Further, many aren't aware of the wide range of other programs we offer for disabled veterans and their families. In a nontraditional approach, the Public Awareness Outreach Program asks our donors to help identify those veterans and get them in contact with us. In 2008, \$21,398,583 million was spent on this large-scale outreach effort, an investment that's paying real dividends in the lives of disabled veterans and their families. This program supplements the outreach efforts already built into other program services. It offers the American public an even greater opportunity to become personally involved in identifying and assisting those in need of our programs and services.



American LeMans race car driver Jason Carter races around the country to support "Racing for Our Heroes" Program.



B-25J Mitchell Bomber *Panchito*

Membership Programs

We supply a variety of services to build the large, strong, and active membership base required to promote an agenda for the well-being of America's disabled veterans and their families.



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The Membership Department coordinates and extends its mission into communities where veterans and their families live. A structure of 52 state-level Departments and more than 1,587 Chapters nationwide support our mission.

We concluded our membership year slightly ahead of goal, with a total membership of 1,440,866, including 1,051,860 fully paid life members.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are nearly 3 million service-connected disabled veterans receiving VA benefits and services.

In 2008, we unveiled a major initiative in the Internet-based, electronic world known as –“Second Life,”– which is a virtual world and social networking environment where people can communicate, conduct real life business, attend school, and engage in social



interaction with others. Since then, we launched a full-fledged “social networking” campaign where individuals can interact online with one another as part of a larger social web. The networks are created by social networking tools—easy-to-use platforms that allow people to connect online.

The strength of DAV has always been our individual members, the veterans we serve and those who support our mission. This support has made DAV what it is today and will steer our course into the future. Social networking sites and tools allow us to connect with veterans and supporters on an individual basis at the place where their lives intersect with our mission. Through social networking, we are making it easier than ever to connect with the men and women we serve.

DAV is currently active on social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube and Second Life.

We offer membership benefits that provide real value on products and services that enhance their lives as well as their families. These include discounts on long-distance telephone and Internet services, Ford Motor Company vehicles, Dell and Apple computer products, rental car discounts, travel discounts and long-distance moving programs, a prescription drug plan, a legal services network, and Hickory Farms and Omaha Steak discounts.

Funds raised from the general public are not used to pay for the \$9,917,285 spent for membership services.

DAV members have many opportunities to help their fellow veterans, while benefits such as discounts on select products and services are an added value.

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Governing Board
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

front row:

CHAIRMAN
Robert T. Reynolds
Alexandria, Virginia

SECRETARY
Arthur H. Wilson
Cold Spring, Kentucky

ADVISOR
Raymond E. Dempsey
Des Plaines, Illinois

back row:

DIRECTOR
Robert
DiGirolamo
Phoenix, Arizona

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Roberto
Barrera
Del Rio, Texas

ADVISOR
Michael E.
Dobmeier
Grand Forks,
North Dakota

DIRECTOR
Ronald D.
Tears
Rochester, New York

DIRECTOR
Joseph A.
Costa
Attleboro,
Massachusetts

TREASURER
William D.
Bottom
Elkhart, Indiana



DAV Structure

Our business structure is designed to vest control of the organization in its membership and to ensure the greatest degree of operational efficiency possible in the delivery of services to disabled veterans and their families. The National Organization funds and operates programs that serve veterans throughout the United States and its territories and possessions.

Fifty-two Departments and more than 1,587 Chapters augment the service programs of the National Organization on a local level and, in addition, provide the essential framework for our fraternal activities.

Our national programs are administered by its professional staff under the leadership of National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War. Mr. Wilson is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Organization and serves as Secretary of our seven-member Board of Directors. The board is responsible for approval of the annual budget, as well as for the responsible management and investment of all of the organization's assets.

Each member of the Board of Directors is a DAV member. With the exception of the National Adjutant, who is a DAV employee, board members are uncompensated volunteers. Two of these



volunteers serve by virtue of their election to national office by the DAV's membership. The remaining four Directors are selected by the National Executive Committee from its ranks.

Our fraternal activities are an essential part of its mission of service to disabled veterans. The National Commander, our official spokesperson, is elected each year by the membership at the National Convention. The National Commander chairs the

National Executive Committee which includes five Vice-Commanders and 21 District Representatives. All of these persons are elected at the National Convention. The immediate Past National Commander also serves on the committee, which receives support and guidance from the National Judge Advocate, Michael E. Dobmeier of Grand Forks, N.D., and the National Chaplain, Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr., of Austin, Texas. These positions are also filled by election of the membership at the National Convention.

2008 Financials

Complete financial statements have been audited and received an unqualified opinion. Copies of the statements are available from our National Headquarters upon request.

NONPROFIT STATUS

The Disabled American Veterans is a tax-exempt organization, and contributions made to DAV are tax deductible. DAV is a federally incorporated, nonprofit organization. It was incorporated by an Act of Congress on June 17, 1932. The organization's Congressional Charter can be found at 36 U.S.C. § 50301 et seq. DAV is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(4). Contributions are deductible pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 170(c)(3).

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support and Revenue

★ ————— SUPPORT ————— ★

Contributions Received Primarily from Direct Mail Solicitation	110,729,393
Contributed Services and Facilities, Primarily Services	37,564,323
Bequests	6,784,660

TOTAL SUPPORT	\$155,078,376
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★ ————— REVENUE ————— ★

Membership Dues & Fees	5,841,259
Income From Investments, Net	8,857,056
Realized Investment Losses	-18,883,927
List Royalties	1,046,860
Miscellaneous	10,945

TOTAL REVENUE	-\$3,127,807
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TOTAL SUPPORT and REVENUE	\$151,950,569
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

★ EXPENSES ★

Program Services

National Service Program	42,781,321
Legislative Program	3,572,137
National Voluntary Service Program	37,647,695
State Services, Disaster Relief & Memorials	7,524,877
Publications & Other Communications	4,992,731
Membership Program	9,917,285
Public Awareness Outreach	21,398,583

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	\$127,834,629
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Supporting Services

Fund Raising Costs	32,863,062
Administrative & General Expenses	6,471,730

TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$39,334,792
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$167,169,421
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Excess of Expenses Over Support & Revenue	-\$15,218,852
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Change in Unrealized Appreciation of Investments	-\$68,567,592
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Excess of Expenses and Decrease in Unrealized Appreciation on Investments Over Support & Revenue	-\$83,786,444
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Pension and Postretirement Benefit Changes	-18,449,799
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Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	-\$102,236,243
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Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$297,123,328
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Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year	\$194,887,085
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★ ————— **TOTAL EXPENSES** ————— ★

Program Services	127,834,629	76.5%
Fund Raising Costs	32,863,062	19.7%
Administrative & General	6,471,730	3.9%

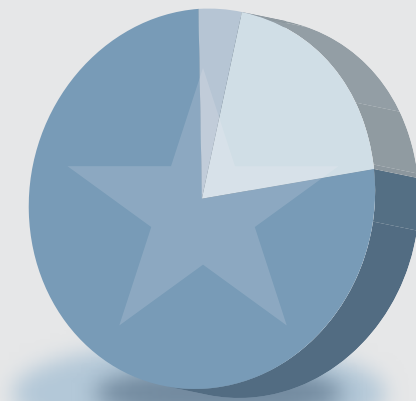
TOTAL:	167,169,421	100%
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★ ————— **PROGRAM SERVICES** ————— ★

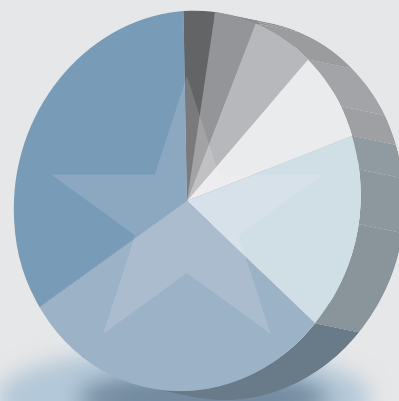
National Service Program	42,781,321	33.5%
Voluntary Service Program	37,647,695	29.5%
Public Awareness Outreach	21,398,583	16.7%
Membership Program	9,917,285	7.8%
State Services, Disaster Relief: Program and Memorials	7,524,877	5.9%
Publications & Other Communications	4,992,731	3.9%
Legislative Program	3,572,137	2.8%

TOTAL:	127,834,629	100%
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TOTAL EXPENSES



PROGRAM SERVICES





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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

National Commander
Raymond E. Dempsey
Des Plaines, Illinois

Senior Vice Commander
Roberto Barrera
Del Rio, Texas

1st Junior Vice Commander
Wallace E. Tyson
Raleigh, North Carolina

2nd Junior Vice Commander
Donald L. Samuels
Gallatin, Tennessee

3rd Junior Vice Commander
Larry A. Polzin
Sylmar, California

4th Junior Vice Commander
Mary J. Bencivenga
Toms River, New Jersey

Past National Commander
Robert T. Reynolds
Alexandria, Virginia

NEC 1st District
Joseph A. Costa
North Attleboro, Massachusetts

NEC 2nd District
Ronald D. Tears
Rochester, New York

NEC 3rd District
Wayne W. Desjardins
Bangor, Maine

NEC 4th District
H. Rick Newell, Jr.
Hartford, Connecticut

NEC 5th District
Darlene A. Bielecki
Erie, Pennsylvania

NEC 6th District
Robert E. Bent
Springfield, Virginia

NEC 7th District
Roger H. Sullivan
Lady Lake, Florida

NEC 8th District
Arthur J. Taylor
Clarksville, Tennessee

NEC 9th District
Marian J. Truscello
Leesville, South Carolina

NEC 10th District
J. Dave Boozer
Adrian, Michigan

NEC 11th District
Frank D. Williams
South Vienna, Ohio

NEC 12th District
Mark Aaron
Chillicothe, Illinois

NEC 13th District
William D. Bottom
Elkhart, Indiana

NEC 14th District
Van D. Karg
Dassel, Minnesota

NEC 15th District
Raphael N. Wahwassuck
Waynesville, Missouri

NEC 16th District
Fred L. Powers
Bakersfield, California

NEC 17th District
Frank Maughan
Ogden, Utah

NEC 18th District
Robert DiGirolamo
Phoenix, Arizona

NEC 19th District
Stan Barton
Tualatin, Oregon

NEC 20th District
Vincent C. Morrison
Houston, Texas

NEC 21st District
David W. Spurgin
Mena, Arkansas

National Judge Advocate
Michael E. Dobmeier
Grand Forks, North Dakota

National Chaplain
Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr.
Austin, Texas



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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

