

# WARS & SCARS

The Story of Compassion & Service  
for our Nation's Disabled Veterans

A HISTORY OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



## Mission Statement

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

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Society Library

Associated Press  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Navy  
U.S. Marine Corps  
U.S. Air Force

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#### **PRINTING**

The IPR Group  
American Printing

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# PREFACE

Wars and scars—those are the hard facts of history that brought about the creation of the Disabled American Veterans. Compassion and service—those are the tools with which the DAV responds to our Nation’s disabled veterans and their families.

This great organization was formed as our country struggled to deal with the painful effects of World War I. At this moment our Nation is struggling once again with the impact of war—as American men and women face combat in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other nations.

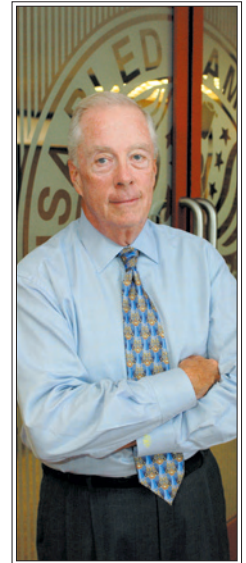
A great deal has changed in the 85 years since the DAV was founded, but this much has remained the same: those who come home from war wounded and sick need the care and attention of a grateful nation. And our Nation’s citizens have an organization they can trust to serve as their vehicle of compassion for their wartime disabled veterans. Through the DAV, they can fully express their appreciation and their concerns for those whose bodies and minds have been forever scarred by war.

But the story on the pages that follow—the history of the Disabled American Veterans—is not a story of able-bodied people taking care of handicapped veterans. While it is certainly true that the American people have been invaluable partners in the DAV’s mission, the work of our organization has been a self-help proposition since the beginning. The DAV—disabled veterans helping disabled veterans—continues working cohesively to build better lives for all disabled veterans and their families!

As you read about the men and women of the DAV in the following chapters, please remember that all those mentioned are themselves disabled veterans, struggling with their own disabilities as they help others.

That’s what it’s all about in the DAV, and I don’t think anyone in America would have it any other way. Surely, it’s the best way for America’s disabled veterans.

Arthur H. Wilson  
National Adjutant and  
CEO





*We had a common experience which bound  
us together, and we ought to continue  
through an organization of our own...an  
organization of us, by us and for us...*

**~ Robert S. Marx ~**