

Combat-Injured Vietnam Veteran Named DAV National Commander

LAS VEGAS – Combat-injured veteran of the Vietnam War Ronald F. Hope of Clemmons, N.C., was unanimously elected National Commander of the 1.2 million-member DAV (Disabled American Veterans) today at the organization's 93rd National Convention.

"As our weary nation winds down from combat operations after nearly 13 years of war, those veterans will be making that very challenging evolution that we've all experienced ourselves," Commander Hope told DAV members today. "The transition out of uniform and back to your civilian life is difficult. But that's where DAV is at its best."

Hope served 31 years as a DAV National Service Officer, a decade of which was spent as National Area Supervisor overseeing Service Offices in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. His career was dedicated to assisting veterans to ensure they received the benefits they earned.

His devotion to DAV and all of America's injured and ill veterans and service members is what drew him to seek National Office.

Prior to his DAV career, Hope earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree with a major in marketing from Tarleton State University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968 until his medical retirement in 1970.

After accepting his new post, he urged his fellow veterans to keep the newest generation in mind. "Be ready to teach them, to reach out to them, to show them the impact we make in peoples' lives and to give them a role to serve," Hope said.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Commander and I pledge to you I’ll work tirelessly to ensure your voices are heard as we continue our nearly 95-year mission of service to the men and women who raised their hand, said ‘send me,’ and went forward to conduct America’s business when called.”

About DAV:

DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. DAV does 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. DAV, a non-profit organization with 1.2 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U. S. Congress in 1932. Learn more at www.dav.org.