



BPTL Webinar

Take Care of America's Veterans Act and National Convention Prep

July 9, 2026

2026 Legislative Update

Where DAV stands and the path forward

- ▶ Take Care of America's Veterans Act: DAV opposes cutting benefits to fund others
- ▶ Major Richard Star Act: DAV urges a House floor vote to end the pay offset
- ▶ Briley-Edmundson Act: DAV backs higher disability and survivor pay



Take Care of America's Veterans Act

DAV Position: Oppose

Expands some benefits by cutting others

- ▶ A PAYGO offset cuts future tinnitus and sleep apnea pay—up to \$57 billion over 10 years—to fund 60-plus bundled priorities
- ▶ VA projects reduced future payments for an estimated 1.5 million veterans
- ▶ **DAV action:** reject the offsetting of one veteran's earned benefits for another's
- ▶ Section 108 rewrites tinnitus and sleep apnea ratings for claims filed after enactment; current benefits are protected



Inside Section 108: Tinnitus and Sleep Apnea

Applies to claims filed after the date of enactment

- ▶ Existing ratings protected: compensation in effect before enactment can't be reduced or discontinued
- ▶ After enactment, existing claims could still be re-evaluated—a key source of uncertainty
- ▶ Tinnitus: no separate compensable rating
- ▶ Exception: 10% only when tied to otherwise-non-compensable service-connected hearing loss
- ▶ Sleep apnea rescaled to 0 / 10 / 50 / 100%—30% level removed
- ▶ 50% only if treatment is ineffective or unusable (comorbid conditions) with no end-organ damage
- ▶ 100% requires end-organ damage



Major Richard Star Act

DAV Position: Support

End the offset on combat-injured retirees

- ▶ Ends the offset that docks pay for 50,000-plus combat-injured retirees
- ▶ Yet House leaders have blocked a floor vote despite broad support
- ▶ A discharge petition needs 218 signatures to force a House vote—213 have signed

Bipartisan momentum: 330 House and 75-plus Senate cosponsors



A Clean Star Act: The Case for Concurrent Receipt

Two earned benefits, one unfair offset

- ▶ Combat-injured Chapter 61 retirees must waive retired pay to receive VA disability compensation
- ▶ Retired pay is earned through service; disability pay is earned through service-connected injuries
- ▶ Helps those medically retired before 20 years with combat-related disabilities
- ▶ DAV backs a clean bill—fix the offset without cutting other veterans' benefits



213 of 218 signatures

218 needed to force a vote

Briley-Edmundson Benefits Expansion Act

DAV Position: Support

A long-overdue raise for survivors and veterans

- ▶ Raises VA disability and survivor (DIC) compensation rates under Title 38
- ▶ Boosts SMC R1, R2, and higher-level aid and attendance by over \$800 per month
- ▶ Raises DIC survivor rates by 3% phased in over three years
- ▶ Path forward: passed the House in May 2026; DAV urges the Senate to act



How You Can Help

Take action this session

Your voice is needed now

- ▶ Oppose any plan that funds new benefits by cutting earned compensation
- ▶ Ask your House member to sign the Star Act discharge petition
- ▶ Press the Senate to pass the Briley-Edmundson benefits increase
- ▶ Join DAV CAN at DAVCAN.org and answer every alert as one voice



One DAV Voice: Every Role Connects

Policy change never happens by accident

One coordinated voice—not separate silos

- ▶ Members and chapters surface the issues and lived experience
- ▶ Commanders and adjutants carry the message and keep departments aligned
- ▶ BPTLs are DAV's local advocates with Members of Congress
- ▶ National turns approved resolutions and field input into policy strategy



DAV CAN: Grassroots Advocacy

We need more active voices in DAVCAN.org

Grassroots advocacy makes DAV impossible to ignore

- ▶ DAV CAN is free—open to members and supporters alike
- ▶ Get alerts on the bills that matter—the Star Act, Briley-Edmundson, and the offset
- ▶ Your message reaches your senators and representative directly
- ▶ Promote it at every chapter and department for more pressure



262K

Total members

48.3K

Active members

213K

Never taken action

706K

Total actions

5,036

New sign-ups (12 mo)

Preparing for National Convention



National Convention and DAV's Legislative Program

What do I need to do?

Our 3 Suggestions:

- ▶ Review our Legislative Program
- ▶ Know our National Constitution and Bylaws (C&B)
- ▶ Prepare for District & Convention Committee Meetings



What is DAV's Legislative Program?

“There ought to be a law!”



What is DAV's Legislative Program?

Resolutions:

- ▶ DAV Member
 - ▶ Chapter
 - ▶ Department
 - ▶ National Convention



DAV National Resolutions

A resolution that relates to federal benefits and programs under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, the VA.



Constitution and Bylaws (Resolutions)



Constitution, Article VI – Legislation

- ▶ **Supreme Legislative Powers**

Bylaws: Article 2, Section 2.2 – Legislative Activities;
Article 3, Section 3.2 – Duration of Mandates

- ▶ **National Legislative Program**

- ▶ **Duration of Resolutions**

Bylaws, Article 3, Section 3.10, Rule 7(a) (Rules of the Convention)

Resolutions passed at your Department Convention should be sent to:

Reminder: submit resolutions on time by July 18, 2026

☐ Email: resolutions@dav.org

☐ Snail mail:

National Legislative Director Jon Retzer

DAV Washington Headquarters

1300 I Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005



At National Convention

District Meetings:

- ▶ Delegates and Alternates
- ▶ Delegate/Alternate Information Packet



2026 DAV & Auxiliary National Convention & Events

TENTATIVE AGENDA as of 03/11/2026

Rosen Shingle Creek Orlando, 9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819
\$149.00 Single/Double (with taxes = \$167.63/ night)
(room block closes June 26, 2026 or when sold out)

Thursday- 07/30/26	10:00 am - 5:00 pm 10:00 am - 10:45 am 11:00 am - 3:00 pm 6:30 pm	Convention Registration/ Will Call DAV Informational Seminar for Job Fair Attendees DAV Job Fair Auxiliary NEC Meeting
Friday- 07/31/26	8:00 am - 5:00 pm 8:30 am Immediately following NEC 9:00 am - 10:00 am 10:15 am - 11:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm 3:45 pm 3:45 pm 5:00 pm	Convention Registration/ Will Call DAV NEC Meeting DAV Board of Directors Meeting District Meetings - Auxiliary (odd numbers) District Meetings - Auxiliary (even numbers) Benefits Protection Team Leader Workshop Seminar- My DAV.org/ Membership Portal Training District Meetings - DAV (even numbers) District Meetings - DAV (odd numbers) Caregiver Support Seminar Memorial Service Rehearsal (DAV & DAVA NEC) Preparing to Serve on a Conv. Resolution Committee Patriot's Pitch
Saturday - 08/01/26	8:00 am - 5:00 pm 8:00 am - 11:30 am 8:30 am 11:30am - 4:30pm 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm 1:00 pm / 4:15 pm 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Convention Registration/ Will Call DAV Convention Exhibitor Move-in DAV/ Auxiliary Joint Opening Session DAV Convention Exhibition Seminars (See 2 nd page) Auxiliary First Business Session DAV Convention Committee Meetings National Commander's Reception
Sunday - 08/02/26	7:30 am 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 9:00 am 9:00 am - 5:00 pm 11:30am - 4:30pm	Memorial Service Convention Registration/ Will Call DAV First Business Session Auxiliary Convention Committee Meetings DAV Convention Exhibition



National Convention Committees

- ▶ Committee on **General Resolutions**
- ▶ Committee on **Legislation and Veterans Rights**
- ▶ Committee on **Constitution and Bylaws**
- ▶ Committee on **Employment**
- ▶ Committee on **Hospital and Voluntary Services**



At National Convention

Prepare for Convention Committees:

- ▶ Review current resolutions
- ▶ Report the disposition of resolutions



In Summary:

1. Review the Purpose (Legislative Program)
2. Understand the Rules (Constitution and Bylaws)
3. Participate and Report the Results (Resolutions)



Thank You for Your Time



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