



**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES**  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Remarks of  
J. Marc Burgess,  
National Adjutant  
To the  
Delegates of the 92<sup>nd</sup>  
DAV National Convention  
Orlando, Florida  
Sunday, August 11, 2013

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Thank you Commander. Thank you, everybody.

I am honored and humbled to serve as your National Adjutant.

Filling the shoes of someone like Art Wilson can't be done. You don't replace a man like him. But I'm blessed to have his mentorship, continued counsel and the example he has set for me throughout my career.

I am grateful for and humbled by the opportunity to continue the legacy he and other veterans have established for our organization.

Times change. The ways wars are fought change. But the needs of those who fight our wars and defend our nation continue. So too does our purpose, mission and commitment.

Going back to the days of Judge Marx, our values and mission remain transfixed and true.

Our commitment has earned tremendous respect as a strong and influential advocate for veterans' rights.

Our reputation has been forged through the commitment of our members, our camaraderie and dedication to service. It demands that we strive even harder in helping those who served to overcome great obstacles as they reclaim their lives after service.

In the context of our values, let's look back on some of the many highlights of another year of achievement and fulfilled promises.

I believe you'll find a lot to be proud of in this video.

***(ROLL YEAR IN REVIEW TAPE – 15 Minutes)***

I can't take credit for what you've just seen. Nor would I want to. Our success is due to your support at every level. Rest assured, I will continue to build on what DAV has accomplished under Art Wilson's leadership.

And I promise I will remember where our strength has always come from – the men and women in the field who make our services and mission of hope possible.

With your help, DAV advanced and strengthened our service programs that help hundreds of thousands of veterans each year in obtaining the benefits they deserve. That is an enviable record that we all can be proud of. But we can't and won't stop there.

As you know, DAV has the best-trained National Service Officers, and our Department and Chapter Service Officer certification program is second to none. We are determined to raise the bar even higher by continually improving our training programs and upgrading the tools needed in this important work on behalf of the men and women who served.

When it comes to protecting veterans' rights, we are the foremost leaders in the world of veterans services. We are not only well respected by lawmakers and their staffs for our experience and expertise in veterans affairs, but for our premiere grassroots advocacy.

Our membership is the most well-informed and actively engaged in the veterans community, and that is a legacy carried forward from our early efforts to bring order to the chaos that marked health care and benefits for veterans of World War I.

Also deeply rooted in our history is the concept of veterans helping veterans, which takes many forms.

All across the nation, our members continue to serve injured and ill veterans and their families by volunteering at VA hospitals and nursing homes, providing free rides for veterans to and from their medical appointments and offering a helping hand when it's needed in their communities. The compassion our volunteers demonstrate in so many ways is a DAV tradition and an inspiration for all of us to continue serving our nation's veterans.

Our legacy contributes to our strength. And together we will continue to build an even stronger DAV.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me. And thank you, Commander, for your leadership. This concludes my report.

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