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National Commander's Awards

We are pleased to announce the DAV National Commander's Awards! These awards honor those whose actions are exceptional examples of DAV's core values of Service, Quality, Integrity and Leadership. Nominations for the following awards are now being accepted through February 28, 2022.

- Disabled American Veteran of the Year
- Department of Veterans Affairs Employees of the Year (VBA, VHA and NCA)
- Patriot Employer of the Year (large, midsize and small)
- Outstanding Local Veterans' Employment Representative
- Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

Attached is the document for each of the awards providing necessary details for submitting nominations.

We thank those departments who have consistently participated and supported the National Commander's award program by submitting quality nominations. We urge your continued support, and for those that have not been involved we ask you to assist us this year. We believe there are deserving candidates for each award in every state. While the National Commander can only select one recipient per award, DAV locally recognizing those who go above and beyond is also crucially important.

As always, thank you for your leadership and steadfast commitment to the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our tremendous freedoms.


J. Marc Burgess
National Adjutant

JMB:dsb

The following governing rules are to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for outstanding member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

Nominations:

- Nominations for an outstanding member of the VHA, VBA and NCA must generally be made by a state-level department of DAV from submissions made through the chapters. DAV national service offices may also submit nominations. Departments are also encouraged to consider nominations from individuals directly associated with or who have witnessed to the outstanding performance of a member of the VHA, VBA or NCA. Previous years' candidates may be renominated if they have not formerly won the national award.
- In the event of multiple nominations, departments are requested to submit only their winning nominee in each administration.
- A resume of education and work activities, to include military service dates and branch, if applicable, must be included for each nominee.
- Nominees need not be members of DAV or a veteran to be eligible for these awards. However, if they are members of DAV or the Auxiliary, their affiliation should be noted in their nomination.
- Section D of the nomination form (military service information) should be completed, if applicable.
- Nomination forms must include the nominee's signed written consent authorizing DAV's use of their name, photo and story for publicity purposes.

Selection Criteria:

- Exemplary accomplishments in relation to how the nominee's employment positively impacts DAV's mission of keeping our promise to America's veterans.
- The ability of the nominee to willingly and effectively motivate others to positively serve the needs of injured and ill veterans and their families.
- Public relations, writing, speaking and other proactive activities on behalf of veterans and their families.

Administration:

The department adjutant is responsible on the state-level for administration of this program. DAV national service offices will submit nominations directly to natlconvawards@dav.org.

Publicity:

Every department is strongly encouraged to participate and urged to publicize this awards program for maximum participation. This is an effective way to recognize outstanding service by members of the VHA, VBA and NCA and to encourage others to emulate their outstanding work on behalf of injured and ill veterans and their families.

Expenses:

The winners will be presented the award at the DAV national convention. Round-trip airfare (nonrefundable economy class) and General Service Administration (GSA) per diem will be provided for lodging, meals and incidental expenses for two nights and meals per diem for up to three days will be provided for the winner.

Deadline:

Each nomination, with all supporting material, must be received **no later than Feb. 28, 2022**.

The following governing rules are to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for Disabled American Veteran of the Year.

Nominations:

- Nominations for the Disabled American Veteran of the Year are generally submitted by a DAV state department; however, they may also originate from a chapter, business, the Department of Veterans Affairs, an individual or other entity. Previous years' candidates may be re-nominated if they have not formerly won the national award.
- Nominees must be service-connected disabled veterans. If a nominee is a DAV member, the chapter affiliation must be supplied. If not a current member, the nominee must be eligible for membership and willing to join.
- Nominees must have overcome their disabilities to such an extent that they have become productive members of society and serve as an inspiration to other disabled veterans with the community. Nominations should include information about personal rehabilitation and involvement with DAV and other community groups.
- The major disability of the nominee must be service connected. The term service-connected disability shall mean one which was incurred during time of war as defined by our Constitution and Bylaws and has been rated service connected by the VA. In lieu of this, eligibility will be established if the veteran can submit proof of disability retirement from the military.
- Nominations must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee, authorizing DAV's use of their name, picture and story for publicity purposes. The nomination form must include the nominee's signed written consent.

Selection Criteria:

- The nature and severity of the disability.
- Persistence and initiative in surmounting the disability.
- Achievements in overcoming the disability from an economic and employment standpoint.
- Contributions and achievements in areas such as assistance to veterans, participation in civic activities and other actions which clearly demonstrate responsible citizenship.

Administration:

The department adjutant is responsible on the state level for the administration of this program, and the national communications director is responsible on the national level. Submit nominations directly to natlconvawards@dav.org.

Publicity:

Departments and chapters are encouraged to establish and publicize through local media their own state and local disabled american veteran of the year award program. Establishing a "kickoff date" for these awards is recommended.

Expenses:

The winner will be presented the award at the DAV national convention. Round-trip airfare (nonrefundable economy class) and General Service Administration (GSA) per diem will be provided for lodging, meals and incidental expenses for five nights and meals per diem for up to six days will be provided for the winner and a companion.

Deadline:

All nominations must be received **no later than Feb. 28, 2022**.

The following governing rules are to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for the Outstanding Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP).

Nominations:

- Chapters should submit nominations for the LVER Award to the state-level Department Employment Committee or to a specific committee appointed by the department commander. Previous candidates may be renominated if they have not formerly won the national award. In addition to chapter nominations, departments are urged to solicit and accept nominations from employers, local employment office managers, state and assistant state directors of veterans employment and others. These are the people who know the quality of work performed by LVERs and DVOPs.
- Only one nomination for each award may be submitted by a department or other submitting entity.
- Nominations must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee authorizing DAV's use of their name, picture and story for publicity purposes.
- Nominations will be reviewed by the national employment director and national interim employment committee who will recommend recipients to the national commander for final selection.

Selection criteria:

- Accomplishments with regard to outreach, counseling, training, placement and job development opportunities for America's injured heroes.
- Ability to motivate and stimulate other employment service personnel to serve veterans.
- Effectiveness with employers, veterans organizations, unions, government officials, and injured and ill veteran applicants.
- Outreach activities on behalf of veterans and their families.

Administration:

The department adjutant is responsible on the state level for the administration of this program, and the national employment director is responsible on the national level. Submit nominations directly to natlconvawards@dav.org.

Publicity:

Every department is requested to urge participation in this program by all chapters, as this is an effective way to maximize employment services for disabled veterans at the local level. Chapter officers should contact local office managers of the state employment service and work with state and local veterans employment representatives to ensure the success of this program. All chapters are urged to publicize this awards program. It would be most appropriate to invite local veterans' employment representatives and/or local office managers to speak at chapter meetings about local employment services for veterans.

Departments are asked to consider inviting state administrators, regional and state directors of veterans employment, and other employment service personnel to awards ceremonies for department winners and to publicize these activities. The department convention would be an ideal opportunity to present the award.

The anticipated cooperation of all departments is appreciated, as it will result in expansion of employment and training opportunities for countless unemployed or underemployed veterans.

Expenses:

The winner will be invited to attend the DAV national convention and be presented the award by the national commander. Travel or other related expenses are not covered by DAV.

Deadline:

Each nomination, with all supporting material, must be received **no later than Feb. 28, 2022**.

The following governing rules are to be observed in selecting the nominee for the DAV Patriot Employer Recognition Program. DAV wants to publicly recognize businesses that demonstrate by their employment policies, hiring practices and community outreach that they have an unwavering commitment and passion to ensure all veterans obtain suitable employment to care for themselves and their families—and have the opportunity to live life with respect and dignity. Employers will be recognized as a DAV Patriot Employer and will receive an email with a digital badge to display on their website, along with a certificate. Additionally, all nominations will also be considered for the DAV annual recognition for small, midsize and large employers. The annual recognition is for DAV Patriot Employer of the Year (1-small, 1-midsize, 1-large employer) and other special recognition for employers with excellence in Veteran Hiring, Career Building, and Community Involvement efforts. These employers will receive a letter via email, a digital badge for displaying on their website, along with a plaque.

- Small Employer: 249 or fewer employees
- Midsize Employer: 250 to 999 employees
- Large Employer: 1,000 or more employees

Nominations:

- Nominations for the DAV Patriot Employer Recognition may be submitted by a DAV state department; however, they may also originate from a chapter or directly from an employer. Previous years' candidates may be renominated if they have not formerly won the national award.
- Nominations may be accompanied by newspaper clippings, magazine articles, website information, letters of recommendation, press releases and or other supporting documentation.
- Military service information on the nomination should be completed if applicable (i.e., the company CEO/president or the person accepting the potential award on the company's behalf is a veteran). Military service of company leadership is not required for recognition.
- Nomination forms must include the nominee's signed written consent authorizing DAV's use of their name, photo and story for publicity purposes.
- Nominations will be reviewed by the national employment director and national interim employment committee before recommendations are made to the national commander for final selection of the DAV Patriot Employer of the Year and other special recognition.
- The nomination form is available online at patriotemployers.org. We recommend submitting nominations online, but if you do not have access to submit a nomination online, you may email a nomination to davawards@dav.org.

Selection Criteria:

- Strength of veteran recruiting/hiring efforts.
- Veteran retention and career-building efforts.
- Company policies specific to disabled-veteran, active-duty and veteran employees, National Guard members, Reservists and their families.
- Outreach supporting veterans in communities where the business operates.

Administration:

The department adjutant is responsible on the state level for the administration of this program, and the national employment director is responsible on the national level.

Publicity:

Departments and chapters are encouraged to establish and publicize their own outstanding employers of the year awards through local media. Establishing a "kickoff date" for these awards is recommended.

Expenses:

The employers receiving recognition as DAV Patriot Employer of the Year (1-small, 1-midsize, 1-large) will receive an invite to attend the DAV national convention and be presented the award by the national commander at the recipient company's expense.

Deadline:

All nominations must be received **no later than Feb. 28, 2022** to be considered for the DAV Patriot Employer of the Year and other special recognition.



2022 National Commander's Award Nomination Form

Department of _____ State _____

Type of Nomination (Select One):

- ☐ Veterans Health Administration (VHA) — Complete Sections A, C, D, F, I
- ☐ Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) — Complete Sections A, C, D, F, I
- ☐ National Cemetery Administration (NCA) — Complete Sections A, C, D, F, I
- ☐ Disabled American Veteran of the Year — Complete Sections A, C, D, F, H, I
- ☐ Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist — Complete Sections A, C, D, E, F, I
- ☐ Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) — Complete Sections A, C, D, E, F, I
- ☐ Patriot Employer of the Year — Small (up to 249) — Complete Sections B, C, D, E, G, I
- ☐ Patriot Employer of the Year — Midsize (250–999) — Complete Sections B, C, D, E, G, I
- ☐ Patriot Employer of the Year — Large (1,000+) — Complete Sections B, C, D, E, G, I

Section A

Nominee's Name _____

Work Address _____

Home Address _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Place of Birth _____ Marital Status _____

Spouse's Name _____ Children _____

Section B

Company Name _____ Industry _____

CEO/Owner _____
Name _____ Title _____

Headquarters Address _____

Company Website _____

Section C

Phone _____
Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____
Work _____ Home _____

Section D

Military Service (If applicable)

Date ☐ Enlisted ☐ Drafted ☐ Commissioned ____/____/____ Date Separated ____/____/____

Branch _____ Rank _____

DAV Membership (Select one if applicable)

☐ Member Chapter _____
Number _____ State _____

☐ Eligible for Membership ☐ Not Eligible for Membership

Section E

Local Office Manager

Name _____ Title _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

2022 National Commander's Award Nomination Form, continued

Award: ☐ VHA ☐ VBA ☐ NCA ☐ Disabled American Veteran of the Year ☐ DVOP Specialist ☐ LVER
☐ Patriot Employer – Small ☐ Patriot Employer – Midsize ☐ Patriot Employer – Large

Nominee/Company Name _____

Section F

Nominee's Achievements *(attach additional sheet if needed)*

Nominee's Involvement with DAV and Community Groups *(attach additional sheet if needed)*

Section G

Please limit your responses to 350 words. Attach additional sheets as needed.

Company's Veteran Recruiting and Hiring Efforts

Career Building, Retention and Development Efforts

Community Involvement

Additional Information *(optional)*

Section H

Attach additional sheets as needed.

Service-Connected Disabilities *(include description of how disabilities were incurred)*

Non-Service-Connected Disabilities *(include description of how disabilities were incurred)*

How Nominee Overcame Disabilities

2022 National Commander's Award Nomination Form, continued

Award: ☐ VHA ☐ VBA ☐ NCA ☐ Disabled American Veteran of the Year ☐ DVOP Specialist ☐ LVER
☐ Patriot Employer – Small ☐ Patriot Employer – Midsize ☐ Patriot Employer – Large

Nominee/Company Name _____

Section I

Submitted by

Name

Title

Company Name (Patriot Employer of the Year only)

Address

Phone

Approved by *(requires at least one signature if submitted by a DAV representative)*

DAV NSO

Department Adjutant

Department Commander

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

In addition to this application, please include the following items with your nomination:

- ☐ Nominee's resume *not necessary for Employer of the Year nominations*
- ☐ Narrative explaining why the nominee was selected
- ☐ Recent photo of nominee, suitable for publicity purposes. For Employer of the Year nominations, a photo of the CEO/owner. Acceptable formats include:
 - (1) Glossy print, at least 4" x 6"
 - (2) CD/USB drive containing a JPEG image measuring at least 4" x 6" and 300 ppi or higher
- ☐ Company logo in full-color, vector format (PDF, EPS) *Employer of the Year only*
- ☐ Nominee's signed consent (below)

Consent Form

I, _____, hereby authorize DAV to use my name, photo and biographical information in connection with the National Commander's Awards.

Signature

Date

Please submit your nomination by Feb. 28, 2022. Email your submission to **natlconvawards@dav.org**, or mail it to the address below.

DAV National Headquarters
ATTN: National Convention Awards
860 Dolwick Drive
Erlanger, KY 41018