



Duties and Responsibilities of The Benefits Protection Team Leader

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DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

- The Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL) is responsible for coordinating and supporting DAV's grassroots efforts, legislative agenda and resolution process at the local level.
- BPTLs are also responsible for advocating for local issues that are not in conflict with resolutions adopted at the national level or with department policies, at the direction of the department commander.

DAV NATIONAL POLICIES FOR BPTL

The following national policies should guide all BPTL legislative advocacy efforts:

- **DAV National Constitution**, Article II – Purpose: “...to advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans...”



DAV NATIONAL POLICIES FOR BPTL

- **DAV National Bylaws**, Article 2-- Policy, Section 2.1 –
Nonpartisanship: “This Organization shall be non-political and non-sectarian and the name of this Organization or name of any subdivision thereof shall not be used in representing the desires or wishes of its membership in any political, sectarian or labor dispute, except as provided hereinafter... the forgoing shall not prevent this Organization or any subdivision thereof from participating in political issues which have a direct bearing upon the welfare of America’s disabled veterans.”



DAV NATIONAL POLICIES FOR BPTL

- **DAV National Bylaws**, Article 2-- Policy, Section 2.2 – **Legislative Activities**, Para. 1: “No member shall appear before any legislative body or speak in the name of the DAV taking a position contrary to a standing resolution.”
- **DAV National Bylaws**, Article 2-- Policy, Section 2.2, Para. 2: “No federal legislation shall be sponsored or endorsed by a National Officer or any member on behalf of or in the name of the DAV National Organization ...unless it has been approved by a National Convention or by the National Executive Committee, except as otherwise provided in para. 3 of this Section.”



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

BPTL's should:

1. Be signed up for DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN)
2. Encourage others to join DAV CAN at <https://dav.quorum.us/>
3. Distribute legislative alerts at DAV meetings and encourage members to take action through DAV CAN.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL



Develop a local grassroots network—Benefits Protection Team members made up of DAV and Auxiliary members, family and friends.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND OTHER BENEFITS

- Support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation.
- Support legislation to increase disability compensation.
- Support legislation to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances.
- Oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.
- Support legislation to provide service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures.
- Support legislation to protect total disability based on Individual Unemployability benefits and ensure it remains available for all eligible veterans regardless of age or receipt of any other federal benefits.
- Support oversight of the VA's practices used in evaluating disability claims for residuals of military sexual trauma.
- Support legislation to improve and reform Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- Support an Increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs Burial Allowance for Service-Connected Veterans and Provide Automatic Annual Adjustments.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- Support program improvement and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs and suicide prevention.
- Support enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans.
- Support equity in access to services and benefits for racial and ethnic minority service-connected veterans.
- Support the rights and benefits earned by service-connected Native American and Alaska Native veterans.
- Provide comprehensive dental care to all service-connected disabled veterans within the VA health care system.
- Enhance long-term services and supports for service-connected disabled veterans.
- Strengthen and protect the VA health care system.
- Ensure a safe, secure and effective electronic health record for veterans that allows the VA to fulfill core missions of patient care, research and training.
- Support effective recruitment, retention and development of the VA health care system workforce.
- Ensure timely access to quality VA health care and medical services.
- Support modernizing VA health care infrastructure.
- Support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers of severely wounded, injured and ill veterans from all eras.
- Support VA research into the medical efficacy of cannabis for treatment of service-connected veterans.
- Support improvements in provider training and beneficiary travel benefits for veterans seeking specialized treatment programs and care for military sexual trauma.
- Support humane, consistent pain management programs in the veterans health care system.
- Support VA medical and prosthetic research programs.
- Support sufficient funding for VA prosthetic

and sensory aids and timely delivery of prosthetic items.

- Support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DOD health care copayments for service-connected disabled veterans.
- Adequately fund and sustain the Readjustment Counseling Service of the VA and its Vet Center Program.

GENERAL ISSUES

- Support sufficient, timely and predictable funding for all VA programs, benefits and services.
- Support elimination of employment licensure and certification barriers that impede the transfer of military occupations to the civilian labor market.
- Support legislation to improve and protect education and employment benefits for disabled veterans and their survivors.
- Protect veterans from employment discrimination when receiving health care for service-connected conditions.
- Account for those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died while serving our nation.
- Support legislation to strengthen and protect Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.
- Extend space-available air travel to caregivers and dependents of eligible veterans.
- Support the continued growth of Veterans Treatment Courts for justice-involved veterans.
- Support veterans' preference in public employment.

Support the legislative efforts of DAV and your department.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL



2024 Critical Policy Goals 118th Congress, 2nd Session

- 1. Correct inequities for veterans receiving compensation benefits and provide parity in benefits for survivors**
DAV will fight for concurrent receipt of earned compensation and military payments without offsets and parity with other federal programs for survivors receiving Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits.
- 2. Ensure the faithful implementation of the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic-exposure benefits**
Thousands of disability claims have been submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) following the passage of the PACT Act (P.L. 117-168), but far too many veterans who have suffered from toxic and environmental exposures still do not qualify for benefits. Our nation must ensure these veterans receive the care and benefits they have rightfully earned.
- 3. Establish equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans**
The VA must ensure these veterans have access to benefits and timely, high-quality and specialized health care services to the same extent as their veteran peers. The VA must provide a safe, welcoming and harassment-free environment at all its health care facilities.
- 4. Provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans**
The VA must have a comprehensive geriatric and extended care program that includes a broad range of care options and supportive services—from home-based primary care to long-term institutional care to assist a rapidly aging veteran population, particularly veterans with service-connected conditions.
- 5. Bolster mental health resources to ensure reduction of veteran suicides**
Despite increased resources for VA mental health services and targeted efforts, rates of suicide among veterans have increased. By improving lethal means safety efforts, enhancing care for veterans in crisis and requiring training for community partners, the VA can help to reduce suicide for at-risk veterans and ensure all veterans have timely access to needed mental health services.
- 6. Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high-quality care to veterans**
The VA must remain the primary provider and coordinator of care to ensure the best health outcomes for veterans, particularly veterans with service-connected conditions who rely on the VA for all or most of their care. This will require new investments to hire and retain clinical staff, rebuilding health care infrastructure and modernization of information technology systems.

Be prepared to discuss DAV legislative issues and alerts at DAV meetings



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

Disseminate legislative (national, state and local) information to department and chapter members.



www.facebook.com/DAV



www.instagram.com/davhq/



[www.youtube.com/c/
disabledamericanvete
rans](https://www.youtube.com/c/disabledamericanveterans)



www.flickr.com/photos/thedav/sets/



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

Coordinate a DAV presence at congressional town hall meetings to communicate DAV positions to elected officials whenever possible.

Get to know your federal elected officials and their staff.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

Keep up with state/local issues affecting injured and ill veterans and their families.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL



Develop relationships with state legislators and state Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

Keep informed about DAV's positions on legislation introduced by federal elected officials.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL



Notify DAV legislative staff about federal issues we need to be aware of that affect DAV members or their families and survivors.

Notify DAV legislative staff of developing trends in local issues that affect DAV members and other service disabled veterans.

Notify DAV legislative staff of federal congressional field hearings being held locally and, if requested to testify, seek assistance from DAV legislative staff.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL



The Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation and welfare of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions:

1. High-quality hospital and medical care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's armed forces.
2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.
3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.
4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.
5. Adequate compensation to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
6. Enhanced outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people understand and respect the needs these veterans encounter as a result of their disabilities.

It therefore follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents which are based upon other than wartime service-connected disability.

We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

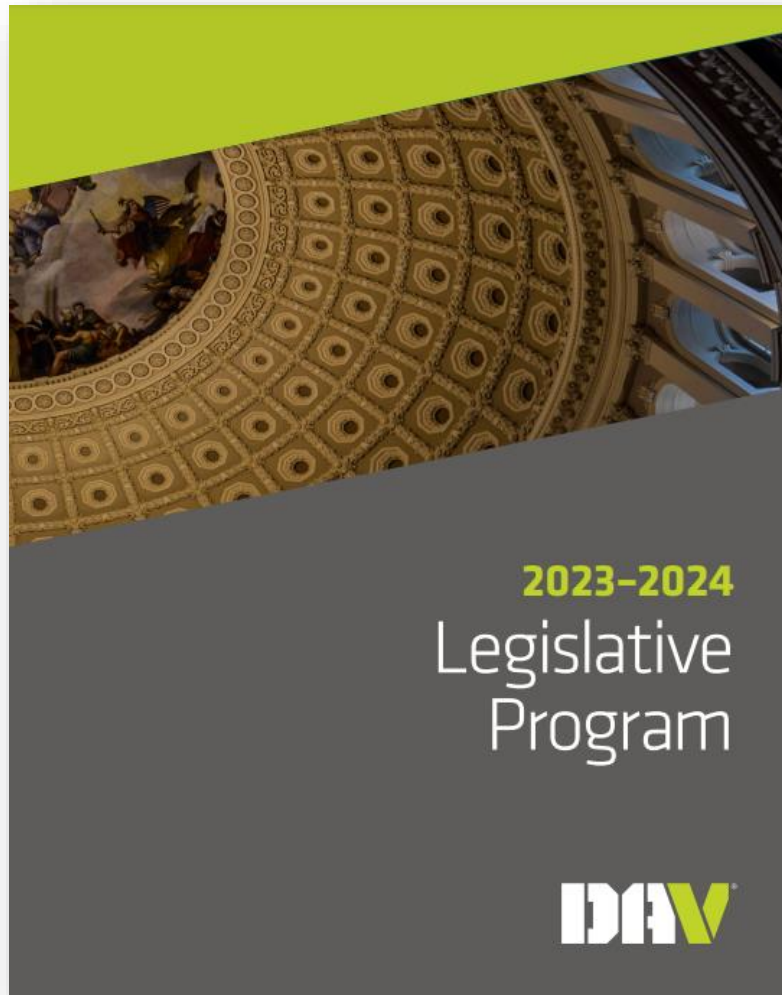
While our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, their surviving spouses and dependents, we shall within the limits of our resources assist others in filing, perfecting and prosecuting their claims for benefits.

Since this represents the principle upon which our organization was founded and since it is as sound at this time as it was in 1920, we hereby reaffirm this principle as the policy for the Disabled American Veterans.

Ensure that resolutions considered by chapters and the department are consistent with DAV's Statement of Policy.



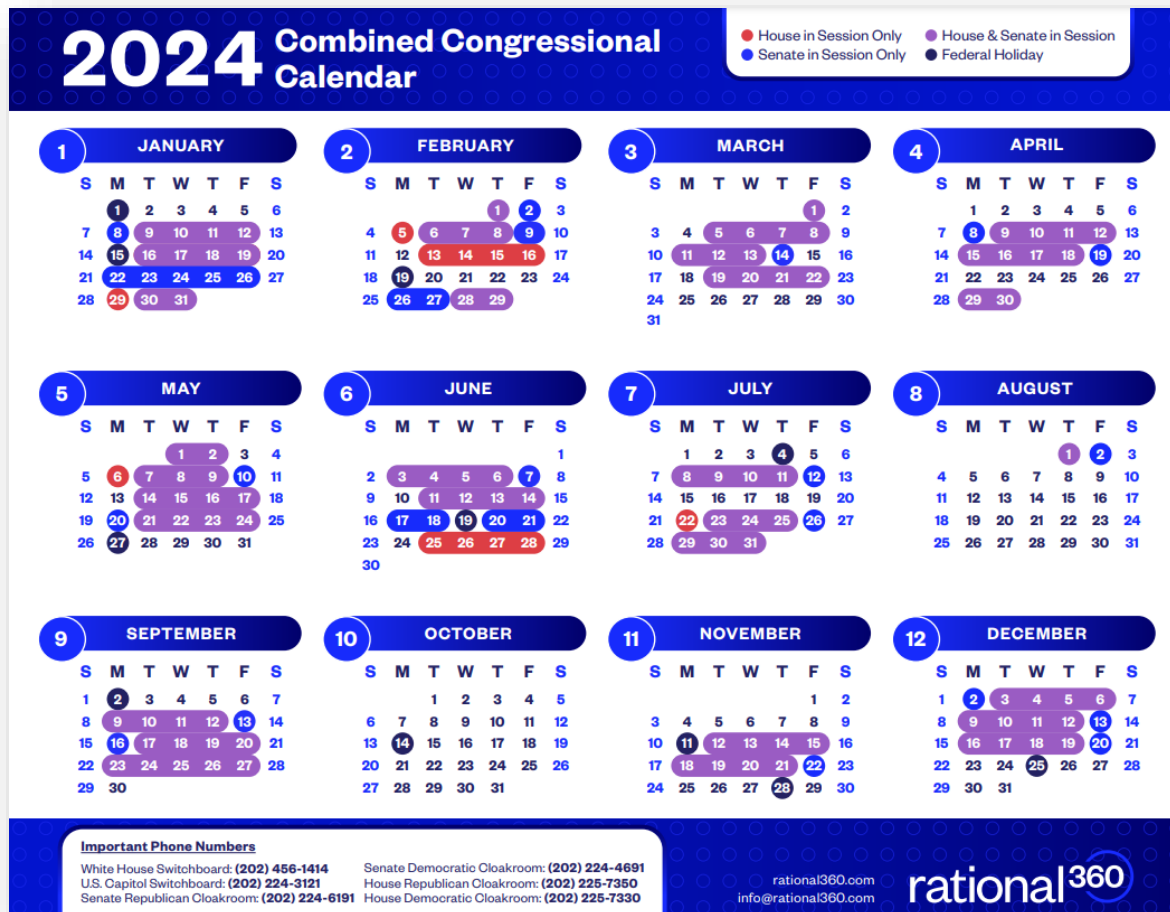
DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL



Encourage members to bring forth new resolutions in support of DAV's mission.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL



Help schedule and coordinate congressional meetings for DAV members coming to Washington, D.C., for DAV's mid-winter conference.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL

Have DAV and Auxiliary members not attending the mid-winter conference contact the local office of their legislators and provide them with DAV's Critical Policy Goals during the week of the conference.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BPTL





Thank You!

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