

National Headquarters 860 Dolwick Drive Erlanger, KY 41018 tel 859-441-7300 toll free 877-426-2838 dav.org Washington Headquarters 1300 | Street NW, Suite 400W Washington, DC 20005 tel 202-554-3501

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 29, 2024.

- 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)
- · Local Veterans' Employment Representative
- Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist
- · DAV and Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year

Attached is the document for each of the awards providing the 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 who 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.

Barry A. Jesinoski

National Adjutant

BAJ:dsb



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. 29, 2024.



The following governing rules are to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for an 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 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.
- 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 naticonvawards@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.

Deadline:

Each nomination, with all supporting material, must be received no later than Feb. 29, 2024.



National Commander's Awards Outstanding Local Veterans' Employment Representative and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist GOVERNING RULES

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.
- 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 **naticonvawards@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 publicize these activities.

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.

Award winners will be notified and award will be shipped to them.

Deadline:

Each nomination, with all supporting material, must be received **no later than Feb. 29, 2024**.



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 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.
- More than one nomination for each award may be submitted by a department or other submitting entity.
- 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 natlconvawards@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. 29, 2024** to be considered for the DAV Patriot Employer of the Year and other special recognition.

	2024 National Commander's Award Nomination Form						
		Department of			<u></u>		
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 Nominee's Name Work Address Home Address), F, I D, F, I C, D, F, I), F, H, 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 				
Dat	Date of Birth/ Place of Birth				Marit	al Status	
Spo	Spouse's Name Children						
ectio		Name				Title	
		Naine					
ecti	onewo ail			Home	Home	Cell	
Dat		d 🗆 Commissioned			-		
	/ Membership (Select on Member Chapter	e if applicable) Number Not Eligible for Membersh			State		
Nar Cor	npany Name						

2024 National Commander's Award Nomination Form, cont'd

 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

2024 National Commander's Award Nomination Form, cont'd

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 _

Submitted by					
Name		Title			
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. 29, 2024. Email your submission to **naticonvawards@dav.org**, or mail it to the address below.

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



National Headquarters 860 Dolwick Drive Erlanger, KY 41018 tel 859-441-7300 toll free 877-426-2838 dav.org Washington Headquarters 1300 | Street NW, Suite 400W Washington, DC 20005 tel 202-554-3501

DAV and DAV Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year Awards

The DAV Volunteer of the Year Awards are awarded annually by DAV in recognition of extraordinary volunteer dedication to the needs of ill and injured veterans through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) or Local Veterans Assistance (LVAP) programs.

Only DAV and DAV Auxiliary members who have contributed hours through the programs above are eligible for this prestigious award. An award will be presented to an outstanding volunteer from both the DAV and DAV Auxiliary at the DAV National Convention. Each of the two (2) winners and their companion will receive round-trip airfare (lowest non-refundable fare), hotel accommodations, and per diem for three days. In addition, all individual nominees receive a certificate recognizing their contributions.

We encourage your whole-hearted participation in the nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award. Department commanders and voluntary service program managers should submit nominations to this office no later than February 29, 2024.

Please return completed forms for one DAV and one DAV Auxiliary volunteer to DAV National Headquarters. Department commanders with more than one VA facility in their state may submit one DAV and one DAVA volunteer from each facility. Please feel free to copy the nomination forms as needed or if you have any additional questions contact Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst at vavs@dav.org or (859) 442-2056.

Thank you for your efforts in making 2024 a year to remember. What better way is there to honor volunteers who do so much for America's ill and injured veterans! We look forward to hearing from you no later than February 29, 2024.

Barry A. Jesinoski National Adjutant

JMB:dsb



2024 Hospital and Voluntary Services Award Nomination Form Volunteer of the Year

This nomination is for: 🗌 DAV 🛛 🗆 DAV Auxiliary

Nominee's Name			Date of Birth	/	
Address					
Phone	Email				
VAMC Name					
VAMC Station Code	City			State	
VAVS Program Manager					
NOTE: THE NOMINEE MUST BE A DAV OR DAV AUXILIARY MEI					
Please answer the following questions. (Attach additional s	·				
1. Total years as a volunteer:					
2. Lifetime volunteer hours:					
3. How does the volunteer directly improve the lives of vetera	ans:				
4. How does the volunteer's assignment directly affect patier	nt morale?				
5. In what ways does the volunteer positively affect other vol	lunteers?				
6. Please explain why the volunteer's assignment is valuable	to you.				
7. The volunteer's dependability is: 🗆 Fair 🛛 Good 🗆] Excellent				
8. The volunteer's assignment is: 🔲 Between 8 a.m. and 5	p.m. 🗌 After 5 p.m.	□ Weekends	🗆 On call		
9. Average hours volunteered per week:					

2024 Hospital and Voluntary Services Award Nomination Form

Volunteer of the Year for: 🗌 DAV 🛛 DAV Auxiliary

Nominee's Name ____

10. Please describe any special aspects of the volunteer you are nominating.

Approved by (requires at least one signature)

DAV Department Commander

VAVS Program Manager

Date

When submitting your nomination, please include the following items:

□ Recent photo of nominee, suitable for publicity purposes. 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
- □ Nominee's signed consent (below)
- □ **Optional:** Photos of the nominee volunteering

Consent Form

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

Signature

Date

Please submit your nomination by February 29, 2024 to the Voluntary Services Department via email at **volunteerawards@dav.org** or via postal mail at the address below.

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



National Headquarters 860 Dolwick Drive Erlanger, KY 41018 tel 859-441-7300 toll free 877-426-2838 dav.org

DAV Scholarships

DAV is seeking nominations for youth volunteers who may be eligible for DAV Scholarships in 2024. This program is designed to encourage youth volunteers to become active in the DAV's Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) and/or the Department of Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS). It is vital that we continue to engage and involve youth in the benefits of volunteering, so we ask for your support of this scholarship program.

An electronic application and awards information can be found at www.davscholarships.org.

DAV scholarships are awarded to youth volunteers who are committed to serving our nation's veterans. This is the first year that the amounts have increased, ten scholarships are awarded totaling \$110,000 to help fund the recipients higher education.

Scholarships are awarded annually in the following amounts:

- One scholarship of \$30,000
- One scholarship of \$20,000
- One scholarship of \$15,000
- One scholarship of \$10,000
- Two scholarships of \$7,500
- Four scholarships of \$5,000

The 2023 top honor was awarded to an applicant who has spent the last 7 years volunteering at his local VA Medical Center. His goal is to use his degree to continue serving veterans in his local community. There are many ways scholarships can be earned and we hope for maximum participation so we can connect as many future leaders as possible to our nation's heroes, their families and survivors.

Eligibility:

- Scholarships can be awarded to any volunteer who is 21 or younger and has volunteered a minimum of 100 hours through the VAVS Program or DAV's LVAP.
- Applicants under the VAVS Program must credit their hours to the DAV or DAV Auxiliary.
- The scholarships can be used for any accredited institution of higher learning, including universities, colleges, community colleges or vocational schools.
- Scholarships must be utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining age 25 or within six years of receiving the scholarship, whichever is later.

DAV Scholarships Program Page 2

Applications:

- Applications for this award may be submitted by the following:
 - A voluntary services representative at a VA Medical Center
 - DAV chapters, DAV Auxiliary Units and all DAV and DAV Auxiliary representatives and deputy representatives
 - The youth volunteer may also complete an application
- Applications must be submitted with the full consent of the youth volunteer, or their guardian, authorizing DAV's use of their name, picture and story for publicity purposes. The consent form can be found on the application.
- Applications will be reviewed by DAV's National Voluntary Services Director, as well as the National Interim Hospital and Voluntary Services Committee. Recommendations will be made to the national commander for final selection.
- All submissions should include the application form, essay and supporting documentation that you would like to have considered by the selection committee.
- Applications should be submitted online at davscholarships.org. If you do not have access to enter the submission online, you can complete the attached application form.

Applicants are encouraged to solicit recommendations and information from the VA Medical Center Director, program managers, and other staff members who are directly involved with the VAVS Program in your facilities. With regard to LVAP, please solicit recommendations and information from the appropriate DAV state-level department, chapter or Auxiliary unit officials.

Deadline:

Applications for the 2024 DAV Scholarships are being accepted now through February 29, 2024. Any application received after the deadline will be held for the next award year.

National Convention Participation:

The top recipient will be presented with the award at the DAV national convention. Round-trip airfare (lowest coach, nonrefundable fare), hotel accommodations for two nights and meals per diem for up to three days will be provided for the recipient and a parent or guardian.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact our voluntary services staff at volunteerawards@dav.org or 888-480-6786.

John H. Kleindienst National Voluntary Services Director

JHK:dsb



2024 Hospital and Voluntary Services Award Nomination Form DAV Scholarships

Volunteer's Name		Date of Birth	/	/
Address				
Phone	Email			
Application submitted by $\ \square$ Self $\ \square$ Other				
If other, Name		Title		
Phone	Email			
Please answer the following questions:				
1. If known, how many months/years has the nominee volunte	ered? 🗌 Months	Years		
2. During the past year, where has the nominee volunteered?		5		
3. Is the student a member of any school clubs, National Honor	Society, sports, JROTC, etc?	🗆 Yes 🗀 No		

- If yes, please elaborate and list any awards the student has received.
- 4. How does the volunteer's presence impact the patients, volunteer program or activity? How does he/she directly affect patient morale and/or other volunteers?
- 5. Has the volunteer been responsible for introducing additional volunteers into the DAV VAVS or LVAP program? 🗌 Yes 🗌 No If yes, please elaborate.
- 6. Please describe any special aspects of the student volunteer.

2024 Hospital and Voluntary Services Award Nomination Form, continued DAV Scholarships

Name _____

7. How does the student volunteer plan to use the scholarship? What does the student volunteer intend to do to serve veterans in the future?

8. How did you hear about this scholarship?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

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

- Scholarship Nominations Only: Nominee's 750–1,000 word essay on "What volunteering has meant to me."
- **Optional:** Recent photo of nominee, suitable for publicity purposes. 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
- **Optional:** Photos of the nominee volunteering

Please submit your nomination by Feb. 29, 2024. Email your submission to **volunteerawards@dav.org**, or mail it to:

DAV National Headquarters ATTN: Voluntary Services 860 Dolwick Drive Erlanger, KY 41018

DAV NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF USE ONLY:

Hours Verified Verified By______

Signature of DAV National Headquarters Representative_____

Date _____