



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

Washington Headquarters
1300 I Street NW, Suite 400W
Washington, DC 20005
tel 202-554-3501

TO: Department Commanders and Adjutants

FROM: Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: August 25, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night

This memorandum provides detailed information for all department commanders and adjutants regarding DAV's participation in the 25th Anniversary of Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Night. Since the inaugural Military Appreciation Night in 2001, Golden Corral has donated nearly 6.7 million complimentary meals for veterans and generated over \$20.5 million in contributions to support DAV's mission.

Overview of Military Appreciation Night

Military Appreciation Night occurs on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 from 4 p.m. to close. **No military ID or proof of military service is required to receive the free buffet and beverage.**

Golden Corral generously allows DAV to fundraise at their restaurants. DAV chapters are paired with a Golden Corral location, outlined in the attached spreadsheet.

Additional information:

- Department leaders are responsible for determining which local chapters will participate and ensuring each location is assigned adequate DAV representation. Please inform [Victoria Short](#) as soon as possible if the point-person for your department is not the adjutant or commander.
- Chapters are responsible for working with their paired Golden Corral location. (If a specific location is given to more than one chapter, chapters are expected to work together.)
- DAV National Headquarters will provide a contribution bucket directly to Golden Corral restaurants to collect donations. The bucket can be displayed from Oct. 27 to Nov. 11; however, the bucket must be available to the public during Military Appreciation Night.
- Golden Corral will provide stickers for guests who donate during Military Appreciation Night to thank them for their contributions. Members are also encouraged to thank and acknowledge a donor's contribution.
- Golden Corral encourages team members to plan creative events surrounding the night. The extent to which each restaurant participates is determined by the owner/management team and each chapter's capacity to accommodate their requests.

Important Dates

- **Oct. 3:** Departments and chapter representatives are assigned and submitted to Victoria Short at vshort@dav.org. **Please note, this is an earlier date than in recent years.**
- **Oct. 27–Nov. 11:** Chapters will fundraise and set up informational booths in Golden Corral restaurants.
- **Nov. 11:** Military Appreciation Night is held from 4 p.m. to close.

Donation Process

Each night, Golden Corral general managers will provide a donation form to document the amount raised that evening. The assigned DAV representatives are expected to be present, collect the bucket and account for all contributions. Both the Golden Corral general manager and the DAV representative should sign off and agree on the amount raised. Please remember that the DAV representative must remain in possession of the funds at all times and two separate members should agree upon the total amount.

Once that process is complete, assigned DAV members are responsible for promptly delivering all donated funds to their respective department adjutant. Absent any requirements outlined in a department's bylaws specific to the event, each department will determine how and in what amounts the donated funds will be used or distributed for service programs.

All funds collected during this campaign, whether collected solely on Monday, Nov. 11, or collected leading up to or after, are considered part of the department's fundraising event. Please note that departments, chapters and other subordinate units are not permitted to conduct any fundraising activities at Golden Corral restaurants as a part of this event beyond accepting donations in DAV buckets.

Golden Corral's Round-Up Initiative

At Military Appreciation Night, Golden Corral cashiers will ask patrons if they would like to round up their check for DAV. Golden Corral representatives are responsible for collecting and submitting those donations to your department's officer authorized to receive mail. DAV chapter representatives will not need to assist in this initiative.

Point of Contact

Please reach out to **Victoria Short, marketing outreach manager**, concerning questions or points of contact for the restaurants in your state, at vshort@dav.org or 859-442-2048.

Since 2001, Golden Corral has dedicated time and effort to promote the event and ensure DAV has the most successful outcome possible. With your diligence and combined efforts, I am confident that this year's Military Appreciation Night will be another great event for your department and its members. Thank you for working closely with your local Golden Corral restaurant to build rapport and community. Please offer our gratitude for their hospitality and generosity.

With sincere appreciation,



Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant