Legislative Department

DAV National Headquarters
DAV Department Admin Training and Orientation
October 18, 2023
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National Service & Legislative Headquarters
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National Legislative Department

Primary Responsibilities:

• Advocate for reasonable, responsible legislation to assist ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors
• Meet with members of Congress and their staffs
• Review veteran-related bills and draft legislation
• Develop key legislative priorities and priority goals each Congress, and issue campaigns based on DAV resolutions
• Participate in roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill, formal presentations and events
• Provide Congressional testimony on behalf of DAV members
National Legislative Department

• Develop relationships, interface with the Executive Branch/the Administration (president, VA officials, and policy experts)

• **GOAL**: To advance DAV’s highest legislative priorities and policy goals
Executive Branch

- Following passage of veterans’ legislation, **bill signing**
- President invited to attend national convention
- **DAV** is seen as **leader** among the nation’s **VSOs** (veterans service organizations)
- Because of our advocacy, who we are and what we do, **DAV** is **well respected**
- **Non-partisan organization**, and cannot support or oppose candidates for office
- Work in a **BI-PARTISAN** manner
Executive Branch/Departments

In addition to working with Congress, we work with various federal agencies:

• Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), health care, benefits programs and specialized services
• Department of Labor (DOL), veteran employment issues
• Department of Defense (DOD), war-related injuries and illnesses
DAV Resolutions

Resolutions are key to our advocacy efforts

• We need resolutions to support or oppose legislation
• DAV departments consider proposed resolutions at their state conventions
• Resolutions approved at the department level are submitted for consideration at the national convention
Annual Process: Resolution Submission

- Approved resolutions from DAV departments
- Sent to national adjutant
- Reviewed by National Legislative Department
- Distribution into various convention committees

Must Submit 14 days before national convention
Resolution Process:
Consideration and Disposition

National Convention Committees
4 Primary Resolution-based committees

- Legislation and Veterans Rights
- Hospital and Voluntary Services
- Employment
- General Resolutions and Membership
Resolution Process: Convention Committees

Each committee has **two advisors**, appointed by the national adjutant.

**Delegates (and alternates)** are selected by the 21 Districts to serve on convention committees.

**Advisors** (subject matter experts) are present at the convention committee meetings to **facilitate discussion**, provide expertise and guidance on issues.

**Delegates** are responsible for voting on and **adoption or rejection** of each **resolution** under their jurisdiction.

Resolutions adopted by convention committee(s) are read and **approved by the convention** (made up of delegates to the convention).

Resolutions adopted at national convention become **DAV’s Legislative Program**.

Delegates (and alternates) are selected by the 21 Districts to serve on convention committees.
DAV Legislative Program

• Made up of resolutions that are approved each year at DAV’s national convention
• Resolutions cover a wide variety of veterans issues: health care; benefits; employment; cemetery
• Adopted resolutions become our mandate/guide on:
  • Policy decisions and positions on legislation; and
  • Testimony before Congress
Independent Budget

• DAV is a **foundating member** of the Independent Budget, along with VFW and PVA (1986)

• A **Policy and Budget** document covering a variety of veteran issues

• IB budget and policy recommendations are considered by Congress—hearings held

• **Includes critical issues for each Congress:** key legislative priorities/summary of issues and recommendations
Purpose of DAV’s Mid-Winter Conference

• Legislative focus/Critical Policy Goals
• Legislative Seminar—brief our Benefit Protection Team Leaders
• DAV members are encouraged to meet with their elected officials in D.C.
• DAV national commander delivers testimony before Congress
Mid-Winter National Commander’s Presentation
Grassroots Advocacy

Benefits Protection Team Leaders
Grassroots Advocacy

Benefits Protection Team Leaders

• Play a **Key Role** in DAV advocacy efforts
• **Build relationships** with elected officials
• Support **DAV legislative priorities**
• Part of **DAV CAN**—Commander’s Action Network

https://www.dav.org/dav-benefits-protection-team/
Advocate for Legislation

• To find the Advocate page, click under the “Get Involved” tab.

• Clicking on the “Advocate For Legislation” link will take you to the legislative advocacy web page

www.dav.org
DAV Advocacy Web-Page

- Taking Action – DAV CAN Alerts
- Veterans Legislation
- Talking points on key issues
- Resource Page – DAV resolutions, testimony, issue briefs, webinars, Independent Budget
DAV Advocacy Website

DAV CAN—Commander’s Action Network

- Sign-up for DAV CAN at dav.quorum.us
- Your resource for staying informed and getting involved on veterans’ issues
- Advocacy campaigns/action alerts
- Key legislation

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DAV’s National Legislative Department

Act Now!

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dav.quorum.us---
Advocate for DAV Online

Social Media
• facebook.com/DAV
• youtube.com/disabledamericanveterans
• twitter.com/davhq
• instagram.com/davhq
• flickr.com/photos/thedav
• linkedin.com/company/48969
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