



MEMBERSHIP

**ANNUAL REPORT OF ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE DAV 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION
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Nearly a decade ago I stood before our convention and reported on the future of membership as we moved to embrace the 21st century. We discussed social and demographic change, our declining pool of eligible members resulting from the end of the military draft, and multiple deployments for our now all-volunteer military.

Sadly in 2007, I announced the loss of World War II veterans nationally was over 1,000 each day as reported by VA. The nationwide attrition has impacted our ranks, with more than 3,000 DAV members passing monthly.

They represent our Greatest Generation and the foundation of this organization and others. They drew the blueprints that give us the respect we receive on Capitol Hill and the veteran community, a legacy you and I inherited.

It is not within us to squander what was handed down to us. We are DAV. We have been, for over nine decades, the organization that evolves to meet the needs of its members among ever changing demographics and social changes to ensure all veterans are able to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity.

DAV Membership continues to play a vital role as agents of change. With 52 state-level Departments and 1,370 active Chapters nationwide, we closed the 2013-2014 membership year with 1,279,391 veterans in DAV, exceeding our membership goal.

The state of DAV's membership is good! This marks the second consecutive year that all DAV state-level departments reached or exceeded goal, and 83 percent of our Chapters either met or exceeded goal.

This would not be possible without your help, the dedicated among you who are not afraid to ask the question, "Are you a member of DAV?" DAV's hard working corps of nNational sService oOfficers remain the backbone of DAV's recruiting efforts. Along with their other major commitments of service to veterans and their families, they contributed 11,202 part and full life members as well as 96 DAV Auxiliary members.

There are 75 dedicated members who also contributed to our ranks this year. Together, they brought 11,001 part and full life members as well as 3,225 DAV Auxiliary members into our organizations.

When a veteran benefits from our services, he or she is more likely to join. It is for that reason, I believe, that we have been able to maintain and build upon our memberships while our fellow established veterans service organizations face declining ranks.

The DAV 2013/2014 recruiter of the year, who is credited with recruiting 129 part and full life members, is Mr. Ron Voegeli from Beaufort, South Carolina, Chapter 12.

Your top NSO recruiter, with 240 part- and full-paid life members is Daniel I. Knabe, of the St. Louis National Service Office.

In the area of Division top recruiters, our NSOs took top honors for 2013-2014 they are:

Division I (over 35,000 members); Samuel E. Denham, Department of Virginia
Division II (18,000 – 34,999 members); Kwan Cortez Tillman, Department of Michigan
Division III (10,000—17,999 members); Daniel I. Knabe, Department of Missouri
Division IV (5,000 – 9,999 members); Darrell Brandon McKinney, Department of Maine
Division V (less than 5,000 members); Eric J. Van Emmerik, Department of South Dakota

In the Division race for Commanders of the Year the winners are:

Division I - Richard Valdez, Department of California
Division II - Robert B. Hartley, Jr., Department of Minnesota
Division III - Richard W. Polk, Department of Missouri
Division IV - Virgil A. Hagel, Department of Nebraska
Division V - Helen Parr, Department of South Dakota

The Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is presented to the Department that closes the year with largest increase in new members. This year's award recipient has taken this trophy home for the past six consecutive years.

The Department of Texas takes top honors. Commander Timothy W. Lindsey Department of Texas will receive this award on behalf of his great state's continued efforts.

The Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the department that completes the year with the highest percentage increase of fully paid life members over goal.

This year's winner is the Department of Nebraska, represented by Past Department Commander Vergil Hagel.

Since 1994, DAV has recognized the success of its members who have signed 100 or more new members for three consecutive membership years with a gold lapel pin and entering their names into the Membership Recruiters Hall of Fame. This years inductees are:;

Daniel I. Knabe, Missouri
Kwan Cortez Tillman, Michigan
Leonard K. Harris, Missouri
Karl C. Ford, Arizona
David M. Fitzgerald, Massachusetts

Each year six recruiters, three members and three National Service Officers who've signed 100 or more members are randomly selected by the membership system and given the opportunity to select a prize of their choice from a list of wonderful gifts.

This year, the lucky winners are:

Life Member Ronald L. Voegeli, Beaufort, South Carolina
Life Member George Roso, McAlester, Oklahoma
Life Member Sheila A. Sanders, Jacksonville, Florida
NSO Trainee Samuel E. Denham, Washington D.C.
National Area Supervisor Leonard K. Harris, St. Louis, Missouri

Associate National Service Officer Karl C. Ford, Phoenix, Arizona

DAV has 1.2 million members and 75 of them this year asked the question, “Are you a member or would you wish to join?”

Our founders formed DAV because they saw a need and that need continues to exist and will continue to exist as long as there are men and women who stand up and bravely ask, “*Are you a member of DAV?*”

The fight to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served does not end at the VA’s rating board. It begins and continues on Capitol Hill where the ongoing battle calls for strength in numbers.

I thank all who have contributed to DAV’s legacy by supporting our membership recruiting efforts. We will continue to build and grow at a time when it is of the utmost importance.