



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 400 West
Washington, DC 20005
tel 202-554-3501

TO: National Executive Committee
Past National Commanders
Department Commanders and Adjutants
All Employees

FROM: Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: March 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Death of Past National Commander Al Linden

It is with deep sadness that I advise of the death of Past National Commander Albert "Al" Linden, Jr. He passed away Feb. 18 at 88 years old.

A service-connected disabled Army veteran, Al was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant immediately after graduating college in 1959 and subsequently completed basic training, jump school, Ranger training, and flight school. He volunteered for combat duty in Vietnam in 1965.

While serving with the 121st Aviation Company, his aircraft was struck by enemy fire, leading to the loss of his right leg below the knee. For many, that injury would have been the end of their military career. For Al, it was not the end of anything.

He then became the first leg amputee in Army history to return to flight status and went on to fly over 300 missions while logging over 400 hours of combat flight time. He earned the Purple Heart, multiple Air Medals, and the Legion of Merit before retiring as a major in 1969.

Although his time in uniform ended, his service did not.

Al poured his energy into serving his fellow veterans through DAV. As adjutant of the Department of Florida, he trained hundreds of service officers who would go on to help thousands of veterans secure the benefits they earned. He was elected National Commander in 1985 and held numerous leadership positions within the veterans community and through his career in civil service.

Al is survived by his wife of 68 years, Patricia, and their son, Joseph.

Al will be remembered for his steady stewardship of our mission, unwavering commitment to his fellow veterans, and lifetime of dedicated service. His legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched through his work with DAV and beyond. We extend our deepest condolences to Patricia and the Linden family during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry A. Jesinoski', with a period at the end.

Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant

BAJ:mth