KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

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TO: Department Commanders and Adjutants

FROM: Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: September 28, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night

This memorandum provides information for department commanders and adjutants regarding DAV's participation in Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Night. Since the inaugural Military Appreciation Night in 2001, Golden Corral has donated more than 6.8 million complimentary meals to veterans and generated more than $21.5 million in contributions to support DAV's mission.

The 2026 Military Appreciation Night will take place on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 4 p.m. to close. **Veterans do not need to provide military identification or proof of service to receive a complimentary buffet and beverage.**

Golden Corral generously allows DAV to fundraise at its restaurants leading up to and during the event. DAV chapters will be paired with Golden Corral locations, as outlined in the attached spreadsheet and are invited to fundraise inside Golden Corral restaurants.

As in previous years, Golden Corral will also conduct a round-up initiative. During the campaign period, which will begin on Oct. 26, Golden Corral cashiers will ask patrons if they would like to round-up their checks for DAV. This year's round-up initiative has been extended and will conclude on Nov. 29. DAV representatives are permitted to fundraise in restaurants past Military Appreciation Night on Nov. 11, but it is not a requirement.

Department and Chapter Responsibilities:

- Department leaders are responsible for determining which local chapters will participate and ensuring each location is assigned adequate DAV representation. Please inform Victoria (Short) Taylor as soon as possible if the Military Appreciation Night 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 two contribution boxes directly to Golden Corral restaurants to collect donations. The boxes may be displayed from Oct. 26 through Nov. 29; however, the boxes must be available to the public during Military Appreciation Night.
- Golden Corral will provide stickers to guests who donate during Military Appreciation Night to thank them for their contributions. Members are encouraged to personally thank and acknowledge donors as well.
- Golden Corral encourages its restaurant teams to plan creative activities surrounding Military Appreciation Night. The extent of each restaurant's participation will be determined by the owner or management team and the chapter's ability to accommodate any requests.

Important Dates

- **Oct. 14:** Departments and chapter representatives are assigned and submitted to Victoria (Short) Taylor at vtaylor@dav.org.
- **Oct. 26–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.
- **Nov. 12-Nov. 29:** Opportunity to fundraise after Military Appreciation Night concludes. This is optional and not a requirement.

Donation Process

Each evening, Golden Corral general managers will provide a donation form to document the amount raised that day. Assigned DAV representatives are expected to be present, collect the donation box and account for all contributions.

The Golden Corral general manager and DAV representative must both review and sign the donation form, confirming that they agree on the amount raised. The DAV representative must always remain in possession of the funds, and two separate DAV members must verify the total amount collected.

Once the funds have been verified, assigned DAV members are responsible for promptly delivering all donated funds to their respective department adjutant. Unless a department's bylaws establish specific requirements for 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 on Wednesday, Nov. 11, or during the campaign period leading up to or following the event—are considered part of the department's fundraising event.

Please note that departments, chapters and other subordinate units may not conduct fundraising activities at Golden Corral restaurants as part of this event beyond accepting donations in DAV provided contribution boxes.

Golden Corral's Round-Up Initiative

Beginning on Oct. 26, Golden Corral cashiers will ask patrons if they would like to round up their checks for DAV. This year's round-up campaign will be extended through Nov. 29. Golden Corral representatives are responsible for collecting and submitting these donations to the department officer authorized to receive mail. **DAV chapter representatives should not assist with the round-up initiative.**

Point of Contact

Please reach out to **Victoria (Short) Taylor, digital engagement and outreach manager,** concerning questions or submitting chapter pairings, at feedback@dav.org or 859-442-2048.

Since 2001, Golden Corral has dedicated time and effort to promoting Military Appreciation Night and helping DAV achieve a successful outcome.

With your diligence and combined efforts, I am confident this year's Military Appreciation Night will be another successful event for your department and its members. Thank you for working closely with your local Golden Corral restaurant to build strong relationships within your communities.



Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant

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