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**TO:** National Officers  
Department Commanders and Adjutants  
Department Benefits Protection Team Leaders  
Interim Legislative Committee

**FROM:** Joy J. Ilem, National Legislative Director

**DATE:** January 2, 2025

**SUBJECT: DAV 2025 Mid-Winter Conference**

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In anticipation of a successful mid-winter conference, we look forward to seeing department delegations in person Feb. 23–26 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

A [tentative agenda](#) for the DAV 2025 Mid-Winter Conference has been posted on the DAV website under “Events,” and you are urged to start making your plans to attend this important event.

One of the most effective forms of lobbying is a personal visit with your elected officials. Therefore, we encourage you to make arrangements to visit with your members of Congress and their staffs. The national legislative team will be on-site ahead of your meetings to brief you on our 2025 Critical Policy Goals and legislation affecting veterans benefits and health care.

We also urge those who cannot attend the mid-winter conference to schedule local meetings with lawmakers before or after the event. When you make appointments with your elected representatives, they may ask what topics or issues you would like to discuss during the meeting. You can forward DAV’s summarized 2025 Critical Policy Goals [here](#).

The full version of our 2025 Critical Policy Goals will be posted on DAV’s website in February. Printed copies to leave behind at your Capitol Hill meetings will be available in the hotel at the registration desk and at the **Benefits Protection Team Workshop**, scheduled for **1–3 p.m.**

**Sunday, Feb. 23.** Please join us at the workshop for an update on current legislative issues and priorities for 2025—the first session of the 119th Congress. The achievement of our advocacy goals depends greatly on grassroots participation and your efforts to educate and inform elected officials about DAV’s priorities. [Click here](#) for guidelines to help you prepare for, schedule and follow up after meetings with members of Congress.

Once you make your appointments with your elected officials, we request that the following information be provided to the legislative department no later than **Wednesday, Feb. 12**, via email to [LegislativePublic@dav.org](mailto:LegislativePublic@dav.org).

- The names and titles of DAV/DAV Auxiliary members attending conference.
- Dates, times and room numbers of any in-person congressional appointments, either member or staff appointments.
- A list of any other planned activities with members of Congress.

January 2, 2025

The national commander has been invited to testify before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees at **10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25**. DAV members will be permitted to attend the hearing in person, but we also plan to have the event livestreamed at the hotel for those with mobility challenges.

The commander's reception will be held from **6:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 25** at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Please invite your elected officials and their staffs to attend.

Stay tuned for additional updates as information becomes available. I look forward to seeing each of you in February at DAV's 2025 Mid-Winter Conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joy J. Ilem', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joy J. Ilem  
National Legislative Director

JJI:lmb