

**Congratulations to NEC
Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant**

Tuesday, August 3, 2011

Good afternoon. We have accomplished a lot of great work at this National Convention. Thanks to you and your hard work, we have positioned our organization for another successful year in building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. It is my pleasure to recognize each of you for your service on the National Executive Committee and your truly remarkable devotion to disabled veterans and our mission.

Looking ahead at the next 12 months, you each know your responsibilities and obligations. Our mission of service is the key to our 90 years of success. Servicemembers who are now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and all of our veterans look to us for leadership in obtaining our nation's commitment to those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

As we have seen at this National Convention, we've had remarkable success with all our programs. Much of the credit falls to you for the wisdom and foresight in guiding us forward.

Your valuable experience and deep-felt dedication provide this committee with the foundation of leadership needed by our DAV. Everything you do to help our veterans and their families is appreciated by the thousands we serve each year.

We have a new generation of veterans who need us, but every one of them might not know us. It is crucial that we reach out to them. We must show them the purpose of the DAV and how they can help their fellow veterans as well as the veterans of previous wars.

This is a young and very bright generation of men and women who have a spirit of fellowship that is strong and the leadership skills to get the job done. It's our job to make sure they get to know the DAV and what we do.

And as we reach out to our newest generation, we must always keep in mind the courage and sacrifice of the veterans of our past wars. Their contributions to the DAV and dedication to our nation are second to none. We honor them best by serving them.

After some economic recovery last year, we found that this year we have again seen a dip in our nation's financial well-being. We're confident that the economy will be improving, but very little of the recovery has reached those who donate to the DAV.

Our contribution level may be off somewhat, but I can assure you that not one of our service programs will suffer. Service is our core mission, and we will continue to provide the best service for our veterans.

I am deeply appreciative that National Commander Samuels has reappointed me as your National Adjutant. Thank you, Commander, for the confidence you have in me. And I look forward to serving this organization and you in the year ahead.

As we begin this new year, let us all continue to serve with excellence in every action as we fulfill our vital mission of service.

I again offer you my most profound congratulations ... and my deepest thanks for assuming this role of leadership and responsibility. Thank you.

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