



DAV Resolutions: Our Voice for Disabled Veterans, Survivors and their Families

January 25, 2024

First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and **to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**”

Simply speaking, the First Amendment to our Constitution gives a course of action to anyone who has ever thrown up their hands in frustration and disgust and cried,
“There ought to be a law!”



RESOLUTIONS

Our petition to the government to take a course of action that we feel to be in the best interests of America's service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

1. Importance of DAV Resolutions
2. The DAV Resolution Process
3. Writing New Resolutions and Existing Resolutions

Importance of Resolutions



Importance of Resolutions

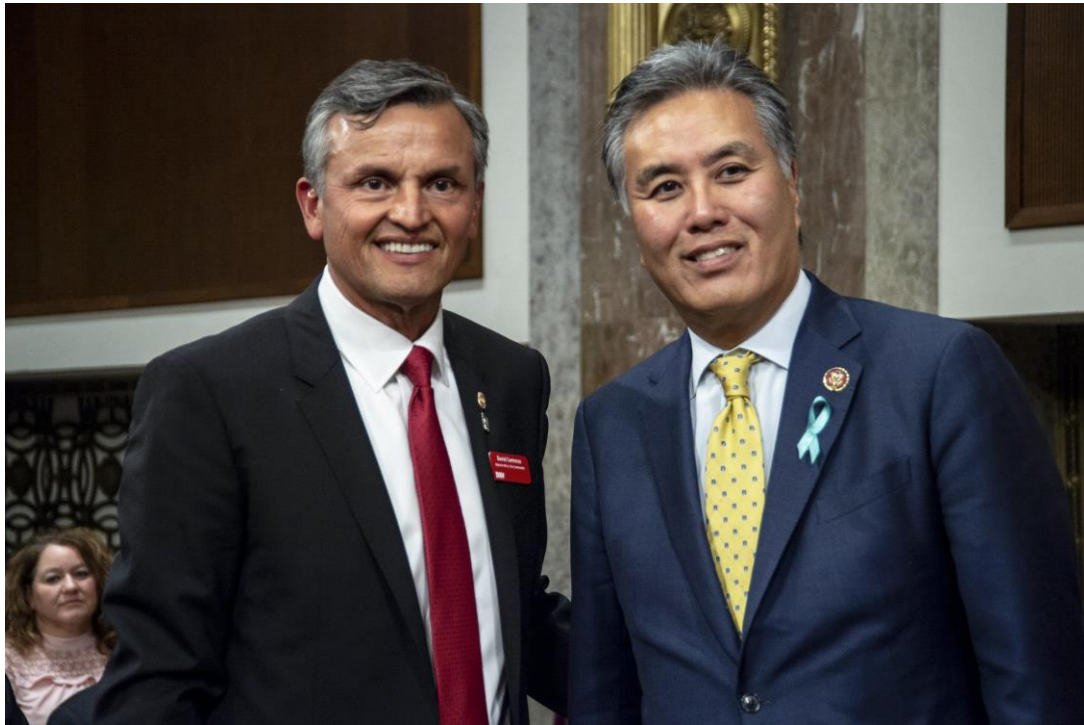
The DAV National Constitution and Bylaws states that the sole authority for our national legislative agenda lies with our annual national convention.



Importance of Resolutions

A resolution shapes DAV's stance on critical veterans' issues and policy concerns, locally and nationally. It is our collective voice to improve and protect veterans' benefits, health care, eligibility and access.

Importance of Resolutions



Resolutions allow DAV to engage our grassroots, national legislative team and national leadership to advocate for policies and legislative proposals.

Importance of Resolutions

2023 DAV CAN

- 50 Alerts based on resolutions
- Over 660,000 emails to Congress on legislation based on DAV resolutions
- Over 500 Elected Officials contacted





Resolutions have the power
to improve the veterans
community.

Are you in?

The DAV Resolution Process



The DAV Resolution Process



**Who can
write and introduce
resolutions?**

The DAV Resolution Process

Chapters, committees and each department can write resolutions. Resolutions can involve issues locally, at the state or federal/national level.



The DAV Resolution Process

What is the difference between a local/state resolution and a federal or national resolution?



The DAV Resolution Process

A local issue resolution will be one that deals with an issue covered by local or state jurisdiction. Some examples are:

- Property tax exemption
- License plates (disabled veteran or handicapped)
- Hunting and fishing licenses
- Reduced/free tolls or express passes

The DAV Resolution Process

A local or state resolution **should not** be submitted to the National Legislative Director.

Instead, refer to your department policies for addressing local or state resolutions that are approved at your department conventions.

The DAV Resolution Process

A federal or national resolution will be one that relates to federal programs under the jurisdiction of the United States government, specifically the Department of Veterans Affairs.



The DAV Resolution Process



- VA compensation benefits
- VA education & employment
- VA health care
- VA national cemeteries

After department approval, **these must be submitted** to the National Legislative Director.

The DAV Resolution Process

All national or federal resolutions approved by
your department must be submitted to the
National Legislative Director
14 days prior to national convention.

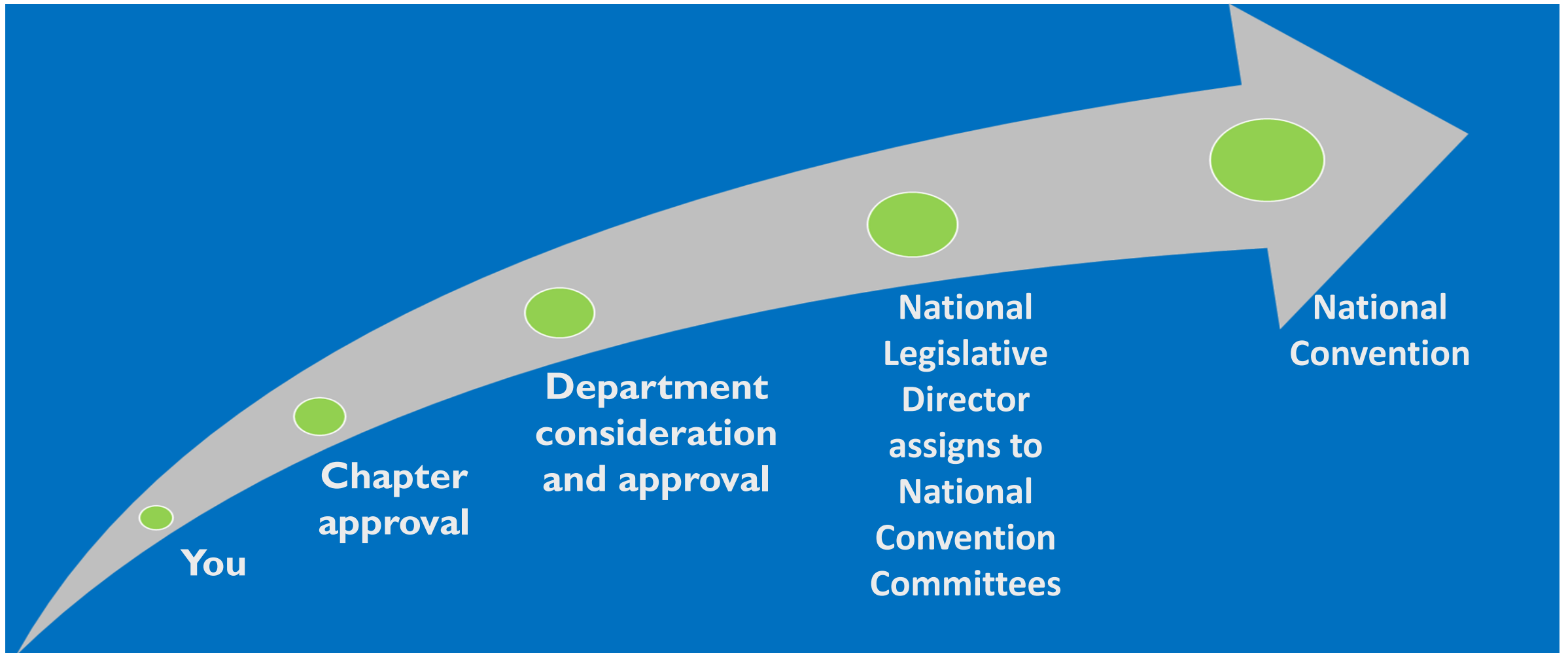
This year that is July 20, 2024!
resolutions@dav.org

The DAV Resolution Process



**How does the DAV
resolution process
work?**

The DAV Resolution Process



Writing Resolutions



Writing Resolutions

How can you, your chapter and your department help?



Writing Resolutions



By writing, introducing, approving and submitting federal or national resolutions to the National Legislative Director each year.

Writing Resolutions

Before you start to consider resolutions,
make sure that you have read the
DAV Statement of Policy.

This clearly defines our mission and will help keep
your resolutions on point.

Writing Resolutions/Statement of Policy

This nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation and welfare of its wartime disabled.

- High-quality hospital and medical care
- Adequate compensation for service-connected disabilities
- Vocational rehabilitation and education
- Employment and preferential job placement
- Adequate compensation to surviving spouses and dependents.
- Enhanced outreach to ensure all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned

Writing Resolutions/Statement of Policy

DAV will NOT take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits based upon other than wartime service-connected disability.

Writing Resolutions

There are two ways you can help.

- 1. Submit an existing or current resolution**
- 2. Write a brand new resolution**

Writing Resolutions

Submit current resolutions

We can only support or oppose issues that we have resolutions for, so we generally need most existing resolutions to be introduced each year.

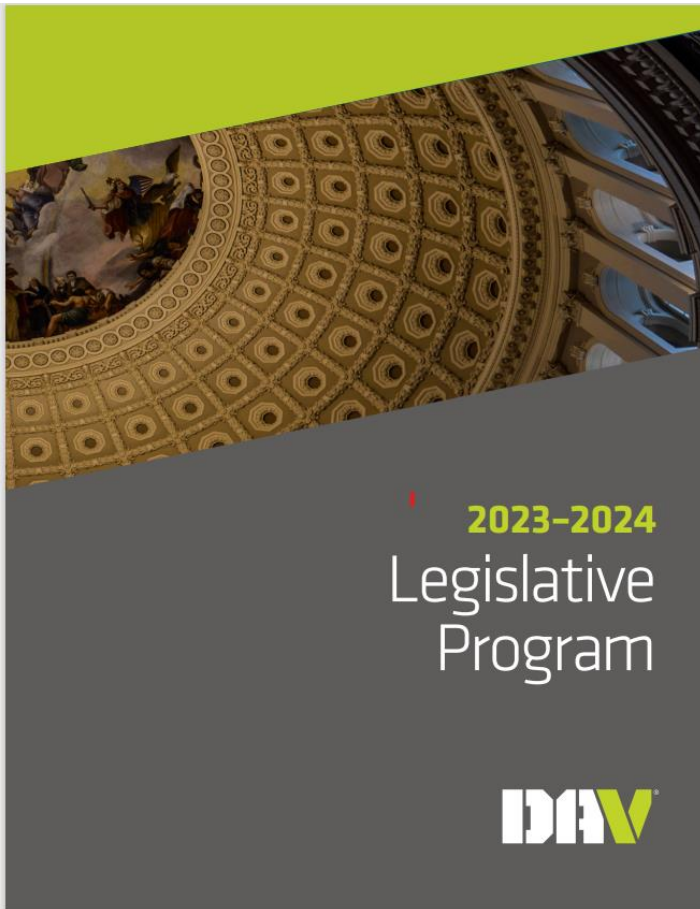
Writing Resolutions

In many cases, we need some of the existing resolutions to be submitted for the upcoming year; however, we ask that you refrain from submitting the entire resolution book. Consider those that are important for you and your fellow members.

Writing Resolutions

Current resolutions can be found on the DAV website:

<https://www.dav.org/about-dav/legislation/dav-resolutions/>

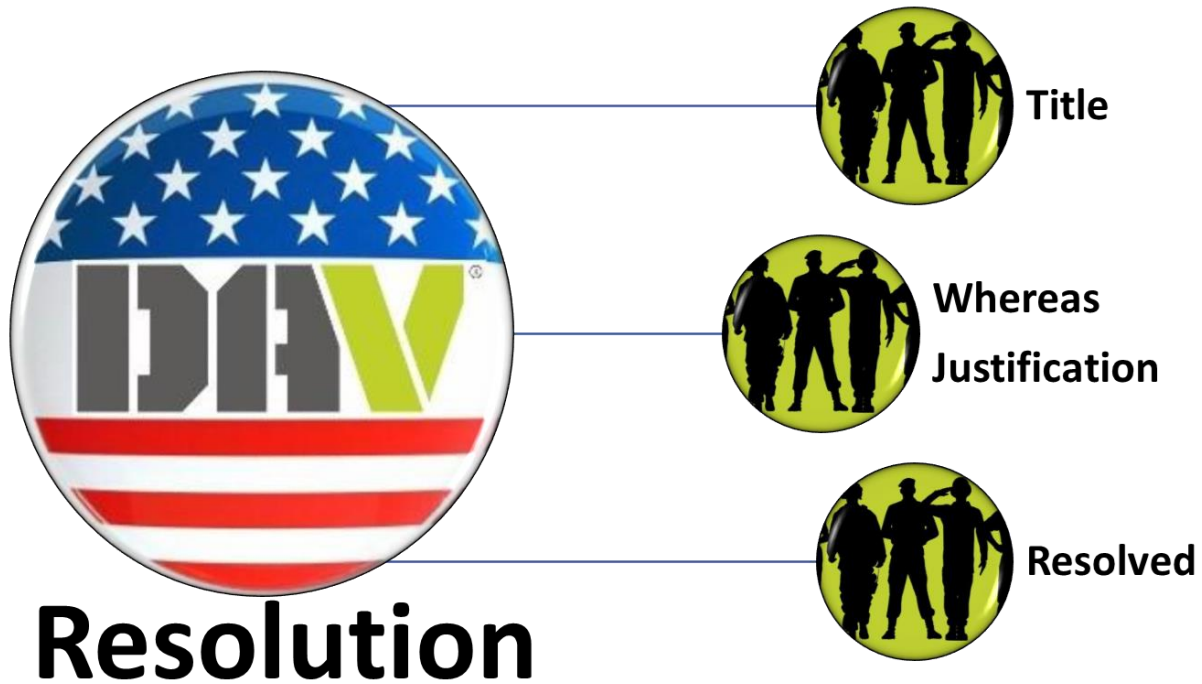


Writing Resolutions

I know many of you have thrown your hands up and cried, “**There ought to be a law**” when dealing with VA on your own behalf or on behalf of others.

Channel this and consider writing a new resolution, as new resolutions assist us in supporting more and more bills/policies.

Writing Resolutions



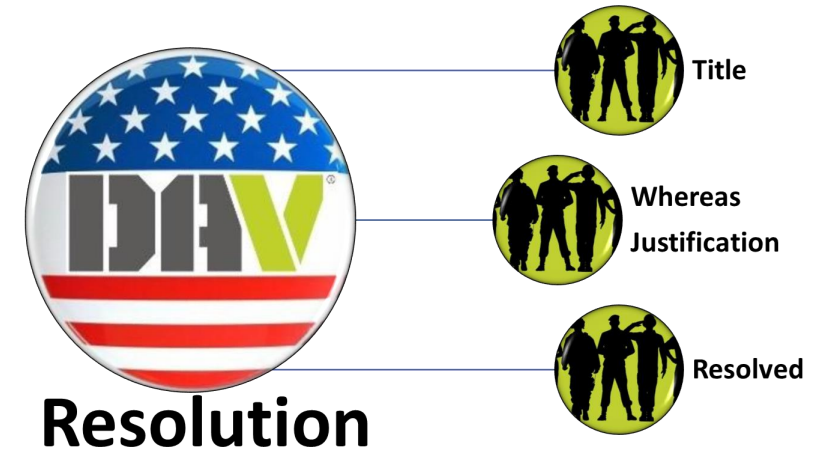
The best way to deal with the proper construction of a resolution is to first break it down into its three component parts.

Writing Resolutions

Part One

Title/statement of purpose

- Simple, clear and concise
- It can simply state the intent or purpose of the resolution

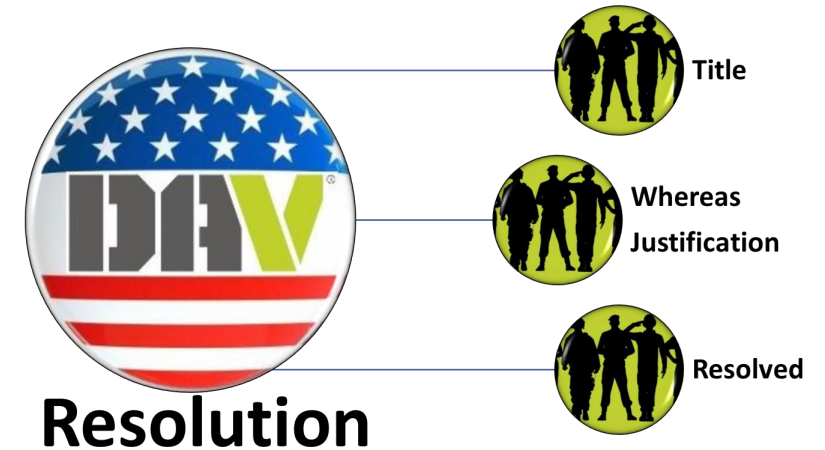


Writing Resolutions

Part Two

Whereas Clause or Justification

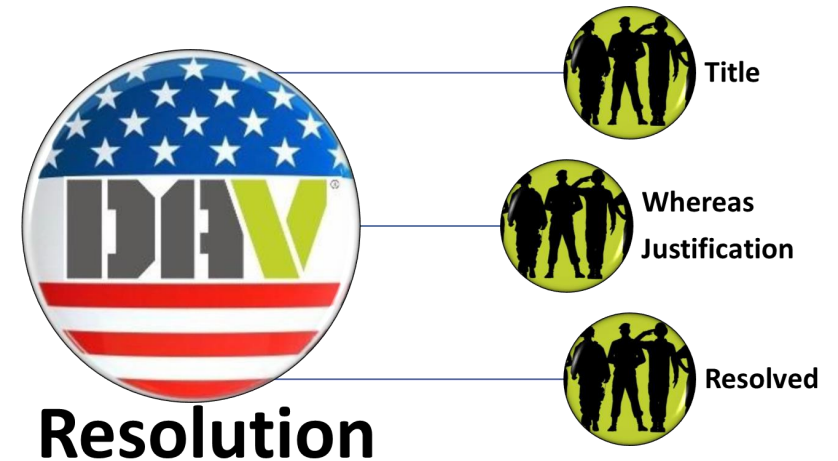
- Multiple whereas clauses
- Background or facts
- State the problem



Writing Resolutions

Part Three – Resolved clause

- Final declaration
- Course of action to achieve the purpose
- More than one resolved clause



Writing Resolutions



**Is there any
example of a
resolution based
on this format?**

Writing Resolutions

TITLE

Oppose Reduction, Taxation or Elimination of Veterans Benefits

WHEREAS veterans benefits are earned benefits paid to veterans and their families for their service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, veterans benefits are part of a covenant between our nation and its defenders; and

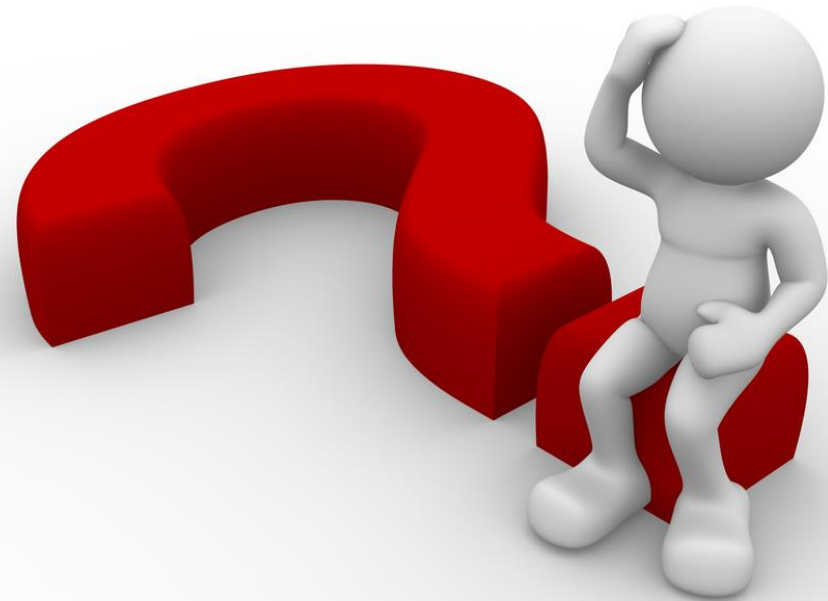
WHEREAS, certain government leaders have continued to attack veterans benefits in an attempt to tax those benefits, reduce them or eliminate them completely; and

WHEREAS, these attacks recur with regularity and serious intent; NOW

RESOLVED IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 6-9, 2022, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.

Writing Resolutions

**How would this
work in practice?**



Writing Resolutions



It starts with an idea. For example, zero percent or noncompensable evaluations for disabilities do not seem fair and consistent across the VA's Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

Writing Resolutions

The VA Rating Schedule:

- 0 percent for asymptomatic
- This does not always consider medication
- Nor does it consider braces or prosthetics
- What about employment interference

Writing Resolutions

The VA Rating Schedule:

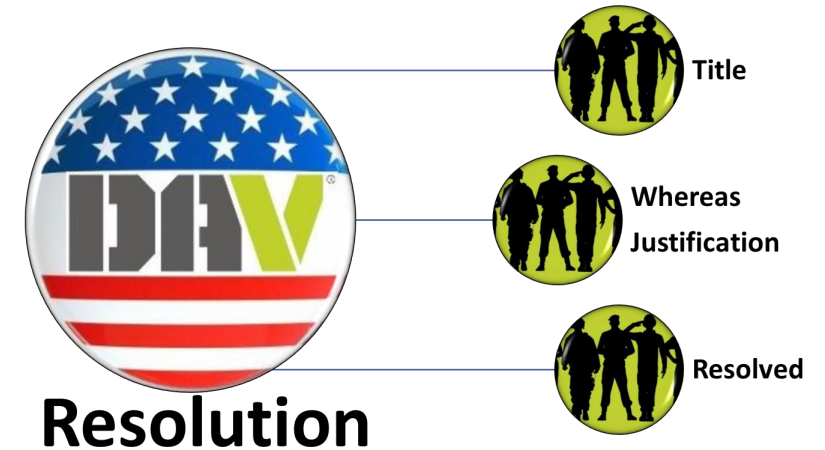
The VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a compensable rating of 10% for other disabilities that require medication only, such as chronic fatigue disorder, coronary artery disease or hypothyroidism.

Writing Resolutions

Part One

Title/statement of purpose

Support Compensable
Evaluations for Certain
Disabilities Currently at Zero
Percent

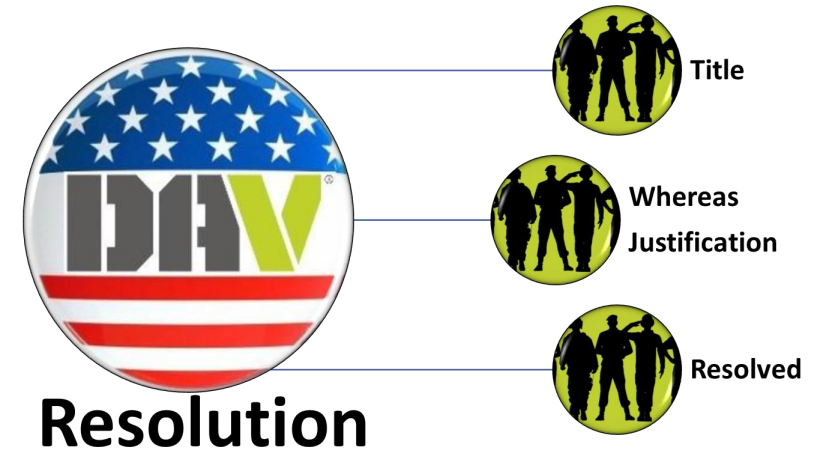


Writing Resolutions

Part Two

Whereas Clause or Justification

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities assigns a noncompensable rating for asymptomatic disabilities; and



Writing Resolutions

Part Two

Whereas Clause or Justification

WHEREAS, a noncompensable rating does not contemplate required medications, prosthetic appliances, or employment interference;

Writing Resolutions

Part Two

Whereas Clause or Justification

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a compensable rating of 10% for disabilities that require medication only, such as chronic fatigue disorder, coronary artery disease or hypothyroidism; NOW

Writing Resolutions

Part Three – Resolved clause

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV supports the assignment of a compensable evaluation (10%) for noncompensable disabilities that require medication, prosthetic appliances or show employment interference.

Writing Resolutions

TITLE

Support Compensable Evaluations for Certain Disabilities Currently at Zero Percent

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities assigns a noncompensable rating for asymptomatic disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a noncompensable rating does not contemplate required medications, prosthetic appliances or employment interference; and

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a compensable rating of 10% for other disabilities that require medication only, such as chronic fatigue disorder, coronary artery disease and hypothyroidism; NOW

RESOLVED, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 6–9, 2022, supports the assignment of a compensable evaluation of 10% for noncompensable disabilities that require medication or prosthetic appliances or show employment interference.

Writing Resolutions

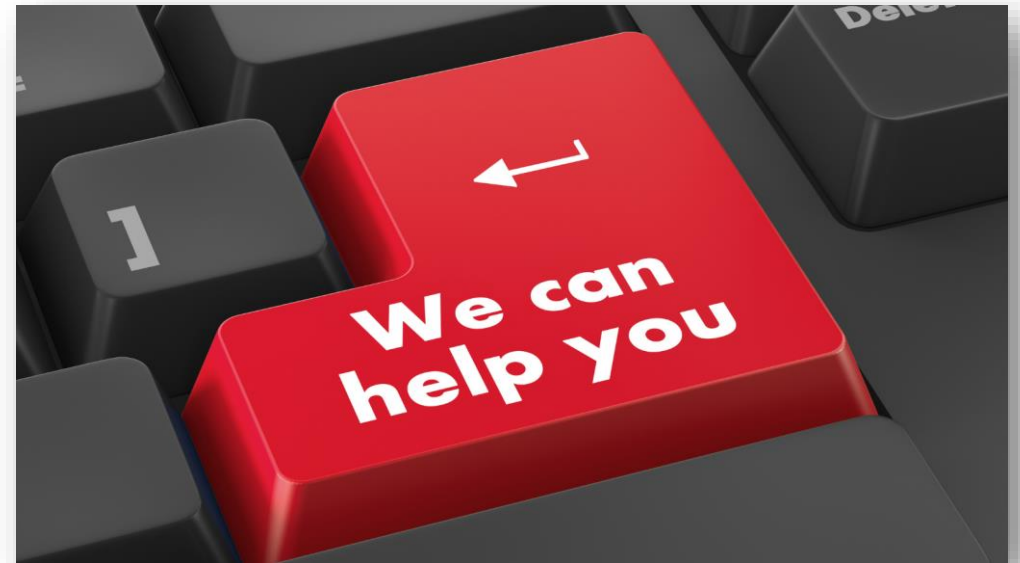
Potential Topics/Ideas

- Contaminated water at Hawaii bases
- VA Home Loan Guaranty
- VA long-term health care
- Employer incentives for hiring disabled veterans
- VA National Cemetery Administration

Writing Resolutions

If you need assistance with your resolutions at the chapter, committee or department level, please reach out to the legislative department for assistance:

202-554-3501



RESOLUTIONS

Recap of DAV Resolutions Webinar:

1. Importance of DAV Resolutions
2. The DAV Resolution Process
3. Writing New Resolutions and Existing Resolutions

**July 20, 2024
at
resolutions@dav.org**





Thank You!

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