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TO: National Executive Committee
Past National Commanders
Department Officers
All Employees

FROM: Barry A. Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: August 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Staff Promotion

With the concurrence of National Commander Dan Contreras, I am pleased to announce the following new appointments effective Aug. 6, 2024:

Jon Retzer

Assistant National Legislative Director Jon Retzer has been appointed Deputy National Legislative Director for Health at our Washington Headquarters.

In this capacity, he will support DAV's advocacy efforts regarding care provided by the Veterans Health Administration in the Department of Veterans Affairs and work to advance legislation and policies critical to the positive healthcare outcomes of disabled veterans.

A native of Fridley, Minnesota, Jon served in the U.S. Army infantry from 1991 to 1995 and continued his service with the Army National Guard until his medical separation in 1999.

Jon's DAV career began in 2003 as a National Service Officer Apprentice in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was first promoted to Assistant Supervisor of the Fort Snelling National Service Office and then to Supervisor. In 2017, he was appointed Assistant National Service Director, where he served until his appointment as Assistant National Legislative Director in 2022.

He is a life member of Chapter 39 in Anoka, Minnesota. He and his wife, Jan, reside in Crofton, Maryland, with their two sons.

Ryan Burgos

National Employment Director Ryan Burgos has been appointed Deputy Inspector General at DAV National Headquarters.

In this capacity, he will assist the Inspector General to ensure compliance with our National Constitution and By-Laws; protect and preserve the integrity and good name of DAV; and ensure compliance for solicitation and fund raising activities conducted by DAV state level departments, chapters and subordinate entities.

Ryan joined the DAV professional staff as a National Service Officer Apprentice in Hawaii in 2011 and was later promoted to supervise the national service office in Waco, Texas. He was appointed Assistant National Employment Director in 2022 and National Employment Director in 2023.

A Texas native, Ryan is a disabled veteran of the Iraq War who served in the U.S. Air Force from 2005-2007 and the U.S. Army from 2007-2011. He is a member of Chapter 19 in Erlanger, Kentucky.

He holds Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in business management from University of Phoenix – Hawaii in Kapolei. He and his spouse, Bonnie-Lee, have three children.

Lamarr Couser

Assistant National Employment Director Lamarr Couser has been appointed National Employment Director at DAV National Headquarters.

In this capacity, Lamarr will lead DAV's efforts to connect veterans with meaningful careers by spearheading the organization's career fair program and assisting with other efforts that promote hiring and connecting veterans with resources and benefits.

He joined DAV in 2007 as a National Service Officer Apprentice in Baltimore before becoming a Senior National Service Officer in Washington, D.C., in 2011. He went on to supervise the service office in Baltimore for nine years until being appointed Assistant National Employment Director in 2023.

A service-disabled veteran of the Navy, Army National Guard and Army, Lamarr served in Somalia, Iraq and Kuwait. He retired from the Maryland Army National Guard in 2014.

Lamarr has been an active DAV member, serving as the Department of Maryland Commander in 2013 and Judge Advocate in 2009. He is a life member of Chapter 33 in Odenton, Maryland.

DAV continues to be blessed with strong and capable leaders who are willing and prepared to take on unique assignments when called upon. Commander Contreras and I have every confidence that they'll bring their decades of combined experience to these new roles in order to better assist the men and women who served.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry A. Jesinoski".

Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant