



# 2025 Mid-Winter Conference

Washington, DC

Feb. 23–26



**DAV**<sup>®</sup>  
KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
AMERICA'S VETERANS

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

DAV Mid-Winter Conference Registration,  
Administered by Commanders & Adjutants Association  
DAV Headquarters Office

8 a.m.–7 p.m.  
Arlington Registration  
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Alexandria

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

DAV Mid-Winter Conference Registration,  
Administered by Commanders & Adjutants Association  
DAV Headquarters Office

7 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Arlington Registration

9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Alexandria

### DAV Mid-Winter Opening Session

Welcome Remarks

- Kirk Johnson, President, Commanders & Adjutants Association
- Doug Collins, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Daniel Contreras, National Commander
- Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant
- Christopher Easley, Auxiliary National Commander

9–11:30 a.m.  
Salons III-IV

### Benefits Protection Team Legislative Workshop

- Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director
- Jon Retzer, Deputy National Legislative Director for Health
- Marquis Barefield, Assistant National Legislative Director
- Naomi Mathis, Assistant National Legislative Director
- Joseph Lemay, Associate National Legislative Director
- Shamala Capizzi, Associate National Legislative Director

*Please join the the national legislative team for an update on DAV's 2025 legislative priorities for the 119th Congress.*

1–3 p.m.  
Salons III -IV

### Membership Workshop

- Doug Wells, National Membership Director

*Join National Membership Director Doug Wells and the Interim Membership Committee as they share important updates and tools related to DAV's membership programs and recruitment efforts.*

3:15–4:15 p.m.  
Salons III-IV

### Benefit Protection Team Leaders Grassroots Advocacy: Sharing Best Practices and Tips on Resolution Writing

- Jon Retzer, Deputy National Legislative Director for Health
- Marquis Barefield, Assistant National Legislative Director
- Naomi Mathis, Assistant National Legislative Director
- Joseph Lemay, Associate National Legislative Director
- Shamala Capizzi, Associate National Legislative Director

*Grassroots Advocacy: Sharing Best Practices and Tips on Resolution Writing.*

4:30–5:45 p.m.  
Salons III-IV

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

### DAV Headquarters Office

8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Alexandria

### Service Workshop

- Jim Marszalek, National Service Director
- Scott Hope, Deputy National Service Director for Training
- Justin Hart, Assistant National Service Director
- Steve Wolf, Assistant National Service Director
- Matt Jahn, Assistant National Service Director

*The 2025 National Service Workshop will include presentations by the National Service Staff providing valuable insights into the newest initiatives related to Department of Veterans Affairs Claims processing.*

9–10:15 a.m.  
Salons III-IV

### VAVS Workshop

- John Kleindienst, National Voluntary Services Director
- Oscar Olguin, Assistant National Voluntary Services Director

*Join National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst and Assistant National Voluntary Services Director Oscar Olguin to discuss Volunteer Initiatives to include DAV Community Impact Day.*

10:30–11:30 a.m.  
Salons III-IV

### Inspector General Workshop

- Ed Hartman, Inspector General
- Ryan M. Burgos, Deputy Inspector General

*This workshop will provide information pertaining to the acceptable expenditure of DAV funds, and the responsibilities of members to ensure financial accountability within the chapter.*

12:45–1:45 p.m.  
Salons III-IV

### Employment & Entrepreneurship Workshop

- Lamarr Couser, National Employment Director
- Jeremy Yost, Assistant National Employment Director

*Please join our National Employment department as they recap their efforts from 2024 and share how DAV plays a vital role in ending veteran and spouse unemployment as well as underemployment.*

2–3 p.m.  
Salons III-IV

### Communications Workshop

- Rob Lewis, National Communications Director

*This seminar focuses on the tools available for DAV chapters and volunteer coordinators to conduct outreach at the local level. Learn the best practices and effective strategies for tools including DAV PSAs and publicity kits. Additionally, the seminar offers a focused approach to working with local media in order to amplify DAV's message. Discuss the tools and resources available to help you amplify your outreach and to achieve DAV's publicity goals in your local community.*

3:15–4:15 p.m.  
Salons III-IV

### Outreach Workshop

- Dan Clare, Chief Communications & Outreach Officer

*Communicating DAV's core messages can be challenging—especially for member leaders who have focused on one area of the mission for a long time. In this seminar, we'll talk about how to distill DAV outreach efforts. We'll also get an update on DAV Patriot Boot Camp for founders in the veteran and military community.*

4:30–5:30 p.m.  
Salons III-IV

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

DAV Headquarters Office

8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Alexandria

## Presentation of DAV Legislative Program

Tuesday, February 25 | 10 a.m.

Cannon House Building, Cannon Caucus Room

Please plan to arrive and be seated by 9:30 a.m.



### National Service Foundation

- Andy Marshall, President

### Charitable Service Trust

- J. Marc Burgess, President

### Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial Foundation

- Dennis Joyner, President

### National Commander's Reception

sponsored by

# ORACLE

## Health

2 p.m.

Salons V-VI

(immediately following NSF Meeting)

Salons V-VI

(immediately following CST Meeting)

Salons V-VI

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Salons III-IV

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

DAV Headquarters Office

8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Alexandria

### National Executive Committee

- Daniel Contreras, National Commander

9 a.m.

Salon IV

### Board of Directors

- Nancy G. Espinosa, Chairman

(immediately following NEC Meeting)

Salon IV

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## HOTEL INFORMATION

Overnight guests at the Crystal Gateway Marriott receive these negotiated perks:

1. Attendees booked within the DAV room block will receive a **\$5 coupon** at check-in to use at 15th & Eads or The Market.
2. **Free high-speed internet** in guest rooms. When accessing the internet, activate the high-speed option, accept the terms and the charge(s) will be removed from the room bill each evening.
3. Daily commuters who self-park in the hotel garage can receive a discount ticket in the DAV Headquarters Office. These charges should be adjusted daily on the room bill.
4. The restaurant at the Crystal Gateway Marriott (15th and Eads) is open for breakfast each day from 6:30–10:30 a.m. and dinner beginning at 4 p.m. They will be open for lunch to DAV attendees on Sunday, Feb. 23 and Monday, Feb. 24 from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

## Commanders & Adjutants Association Officers

2024–2025



PRESIDENT  
**Kirk Johnson**

VICE PRESIDENT  
**Paul Hermann, Jr.**

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
**Rita Aberegg**

PAST PRESIDENT  
**William Robinson**

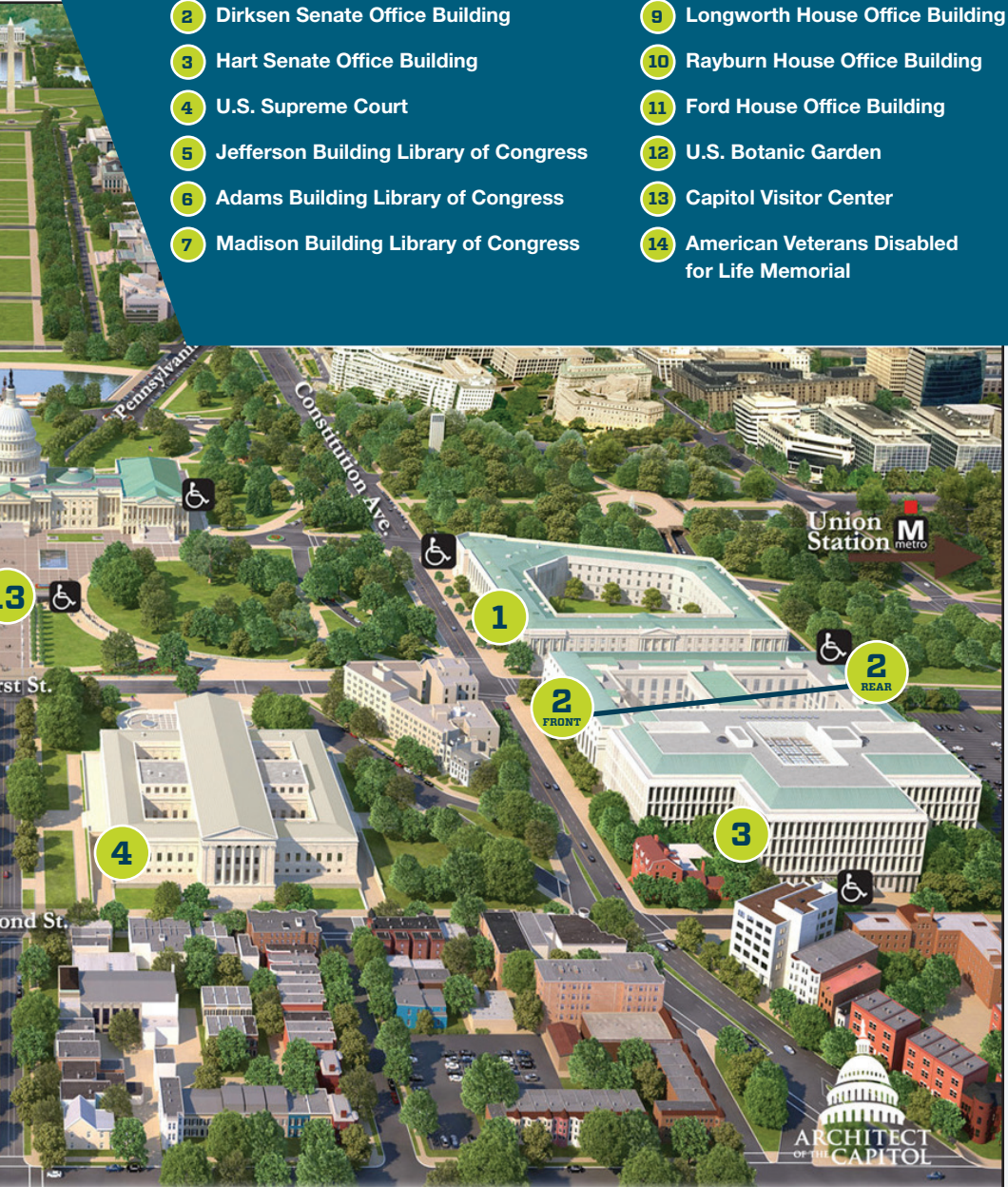
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
**Michael Elmore**  
**Lisa Gregory**  
**Betty Minus**  
**Debora Olson**  
**Hugo Perez**  
**Donald Peek, Jr.**

## In Case of Medical Emergency

- Dial “0” or “9-922” on the hotel phone.
- Individuals seeking treatment at the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center during normal working hours, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., should contact VA Medical Center, 50 Irving Street NW, Washington, D.C., at 202-745-8000.



- 1 Russell Senate Office Building
- 2 Dirksen Senate Office Building
- 3 Hart Senate Office Building
- 4 U.S. Supreme Court
- 5 Jefferson Building Library of Congress
- 6 Adams Building Library of Congress
- 7 Madison Building Library of Congress
- 8 Cannon House Office Building
- 9 Longworth House Office Building
- 10 Rayburn House Office Building
- 11 Ford House Office Building
- 12 U.S. Botanic Garden
- 13 Capitol Visitor Center
- 14 American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial



# Mission Statement

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

This mission is carried forward by:

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically;
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level departments and local chapters; and
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.



For more information scan the QR code or visit [davcan.org](https://davcan.org).