

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



National Service Foundation

On cover: Airmen from the 139th Airlift Wing, Missouri Air National Guard, are greeted by family members at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, St. Joseph, Missouri. (Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Crane/Air National Guard)



National Service Foundation

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Dear Friend,

For more than a century, the enduring legacy and vision of DAV founder and World War I Army veteran Judge Robert S. Marx have continued far beyond what he could ever have imagined at our founding in 1920. Marx sparked the flame for veterans advocacy that would ultimately yield an organization that assists more than 1 million veterans and their families in meaningful ways each year.

At our very roots, DAV members, volunteers and supporters are unified by one mission: keeping the promise made to the brave Americans who have served. It's because of their commitment that now, 100 years later, Judge Marx's legacy and vision endure. Supporting this vision, the DAV National Service Foundation exists to ensure veterans have access to free, professional assistance in securing the benefits they earned. This is especially important for the men and women who have come home ill or injured as a result of their military service.

DAV, at its core, is a community of veterans helping veterans. We fight for and protect the rights, benefits and quality of life our fellow service members have earned—this is the least we can do to guarantee their sacrifices are acknowledged and honored.

In the transition from military to civilian life, veterans face obstacles they often cannot foresee. At DAV, we work tirelessly to provide assistance to veterans during this often difficult and uncertain time, helping them access basic needs like health care for service-connected medical conditions, find stable and fulfilling employment, and discover new purpose and community among their fellow veterans.

We are focused on preventing veterans and their survivors from falling through the cracks. By providing support to DAV's mission of service through the Foundation, we are able to walk alongside them and provide them with the best tools possible each step of the way.

To our Foundation supporters, we want to extend our most sincere appreciation and gratitude. Without you, the past 100 years of DAV wouldn't have been possible. Your aid, generosity and support through the DAV National Service Foundation continually make a difference and change the lives of millions of veterans and their families by helping empower veterans to build successful, meaningful lives after their service.

With deep appreciation and devotion,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur H. Wilson'.

Arthur H. Wilson
President





PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JON ALDERMAN/AIR NATIONAL GUARD



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The DAV National Service Foundation develops financial resources for the assistance, aid, maintenance, care, support and rehabilitation of ill and injured veterans and their families. In doing so, the Foundation offers direct services while also contributing to the established service programs of DAV offices nationwide.

Within these pages, veterans who have served and sacrificed in our armed forces are featured. While many were injured physically, all have carried with them the emotional scars of trauma experienced in the line of duty. In order to help them heal, the Foundation is ensuring it provides them with a lifetime of support.



After a deployment, Staff Sgt. Miguel Molina, a loadmaster with the 187th Airlift Squadron, reunites with his wife and child at the Wyoming Air National Guard Base in Cheyenne. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman/Air National Guard)

THE DAV NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

Since DAV (Disabled American Veterans) was founded in 1920 as an organization of veterans helping veterans, it has served the nation's ill and injured heroes tirelessly and has become the most trusted advocate for this population.

Incorporated originally in 1931 as the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation, the DAV National Service Foundation was formally renamed and concurrently reincorporated in 1986. The Foundation's core mission is to support DAV's daily work to meet the most significant and immediate needs of veterans, which includes providing free, professional assistance with disability claims; no-cost transportation to and from medical appointments; assistance finding meaningful employment and navigating earned benefits; and other vital services imperative to the quality of life of veterans and their families.

Increasing public awareness about DAV's mission to help veterans is an extremely important component of what we do. When we are able to open the hearts and minds of the American people, they better understand the needs of ill and injured veterans and their families, enabling us all to help do our part to ensure they are properly cared for in the long term. It's also essential that veterans understand the services available at no cost to them and their families. Your support of the Foundation allows us to be there whenever our sick and wounded veterans need us.



VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

DAV is an organization of veterans dedicated to helping their fellow veterans. The reason for this is rather simple: We have all experienced similar challenges and fought to secure the benefits earned through service. Moving from military to civilian life proves a significant challenge for many veterans. In 2019, a Pew Research Center poll showed that 47% of post-9/11 veterans had difficulty transitioning to civilian life after the military. That's why what we do is so vital.

When all is said and done, we don't want to see any veterans struggle or be on their own after their lives are forever changed in service. It is just too important. DAV is here to provide both a friend and a benefits expert to guide veterans to a successful transition and set them up for long-term success.

For a variety of reasons, some veterans never receive the benefits they earned. Many are unaware of what is available to them; others are unable to apply due to the severity of their injuries. In the case of women who've served, studies show many do not even recognize themselves as veterans, which prevents their pursuit of earned benefits. Other veterans may live in rural areas or otherwise lack transportation to meet with a claims specialist.

In 2020, DAV pivoted extensively to mitigate the isolation and negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic might have on veterans' health and quality of life. In-person

Although local offices closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, DAV benefits experts never stopped helping veterans with their VA claims and appeals. Veterans and their families were able to reach DAV experts through the website and a newly established national hotline while offices were closed.



U.S. Air Force Maj. Kimberly Riggs shares a lighter moment with soldiers of the Paktia Provincial Reconstruction Team Security Forces Platoon at Forward Operating Base Gardez, Afghanistan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Weismiller/Air Force)

services for veterans had to be halted due to safety precautions and mandated office closures. While this could have severely affected veterans' access to their benefits, DAV introduced a new toll-free hotline in April to ensure veterans had a way to directly connect with our service officers. This yielded 153,096 claimant contacts that may otherwise not have been possible.

DAV has a long history of advocating for veterans to get the care and benefits they earned. As veterans themselves, DAV benefits advocates not only have firsthand experience with the claims process but also spend a year in specialized on-the-job training. They continue to undergo training and education throughout their careers to keep them at the leading edge of their field.

Many women veterans don't recognize themselves as veterans, which hinders them from seeking earned benefits.

PROGRAM SERVICES OVERVIEW

THE COLUMBIA TRUST

The National Service Foundation's Columbia Trust is a restricted fund that provides direct support to help veterans and their families at the state and local levels. Through the Trust, funds are channeled to DAV departments and chapters that lack the financial resources needed to implement and maintain critical service projects for veterans and their families. Programs supported by the Trust are evaluated extensively to ensure service projects exhibit a compelling need and funds are used in the most efficient way possible.

Grants awarded from the Trust focus on four areas of service: transportation for veterans to and from Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities; costs associated with department hospital service coordinators; costs associated with department or chapter service officers, including service school expenses; and assistance for initiatives combating veteran homelessness. New and unique veteran service initiatives are also encouraged. During 2020, the Trust awarded grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to chapters and departments throughout the nation.

TRANSPORTATION

In 2020, the Columbia Trust helped chapters and departments purchase 111 new vehicles, which were donated to the VA as part of the DAV Transportation Network program. Providing one of the most vital services our organization offers, DAV and its Auxiliary members and nonmembers volunteered more than 675,000 hours to keep this program running. These individuals logged over 9.6 million miles, providing more than 243,000 no-cost rides for ill and injured veterans to and from VA medical facilities for appointments. Last year, COVID-19 restrictions affected normal Transportation Network operations and limited access to VA medical facilities; however, as conditions normalize, it is anticipated the need for this service will only increase.

In 2020, DAV volunteer drivers spent more than **675,000 hours**

logging over **9.6 million miles**

providing **no-cost rides** for ill and injured veterans to VA medical facilities.

Since the program's inception in 1987, DAV departments and chapters have donated **3,558** vehicles and Ford Motor Co. has donated **239** vehicles at a cost of nearly **\$89 million**.



Nearly
13%
of America's homeless
population is made
up of **veterans**.

Source: National Coalition
of Homeless Veterans

Various booths offer aid to at-risk veterans during a Department of Veterans Affairs annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the North Charleston Armory in South Carolina. (Photo by Airman 1st Class George Goslin/Air Force)

HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS

At 228 VA medical centers around the country, 155 DAV hospital service coordinators matched volunteer drivers with transportation requests from veterans, as needed. In doing so, they contributed to the strong and steady presence of DAV at VA medical facilities. The efforts of the hospital service coordinators have made the Transportation Network the success it has been since 1987.

DEPARTMENT AND CHAPTER SERVICE OFFICERS

Department and chapter service officers support DAV's primary mission of benefits advocacy in their local communities. They are often instrumental in helping veterans and their families fill out claims for VA benefits, which are forwarded to DAV national service officers for professional development to help ensure veterans and their families receive the benefits they earned.

HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE

The Foundation helps support programs to end veteran homelessness, an epidemic that has affected far too many of our nation's heroes. During last year's national point-in-time count, it was estimated that 37,252 veterans experienced homelessness on a single night in January, marking less than a 1% increase over 2019.

The Foundation provides funds to bring veterans in off the street and into VA facilities, where they are provided a free hot meal, medical and dental care, health screenings, warm clothing and access to benefits information. Through efforts such as these, the estimated number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has declined by nearly 50% since 2010.

THE DAV NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

Throughout 2020, the Foundation disbursed nearly \$4.4 million to assist the national organization in providing essential services to veterans and their families. Mostly, this support aided DAV's National Service Program, which delivers no-cost professional claims service to veterans throughout the nation.

These funds also helped DAV benefits advocates with the supplies and equipment—such as laptops; desktop scanners, headsets, webcams and speakers; office furniture; copiers and printers; and reference manuals—that are critically needed to complete their mission.



Navy Midshipman 4th Class Graham Brothers greets his mother at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, during liberty call, which signifies the end of the academy's boot camp-style orientation. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brianna Jones/Navy)

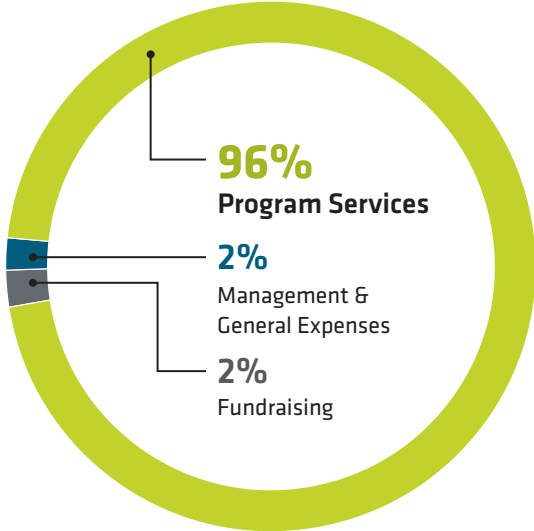
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Contributors to the DAV National Service Foundation are truly humbling in their compassion and generosity. During 2020, the Foundation's supporters donated over \$1.6 million in contributions and bequests.

Veterans can be best honored through wise stewardship of each dollar entrusted to the Foundation. The Foundation clearly demonstrated its unwavering commitment to this model through the \$6 million, or 96%, of total expenditures that went toward direct program services for veterans and their families last year. Fundraising and administrative costs accounted for just 4% of total expenditures.

Even throughout a period of economic uncertainty and a turbulent securities market, prudent investment strategies and fastidious management have continued to guide the Foundation. Because of careful management, the Foundation's investments totaled \$160.8 million in 2020. At year-end, the Foundation reported \$163.1 million in net assets, which helps to ensure the longevity of services to our nation's heroes.

2020 Expenses



DAV National Service Foundation

2020 FINANCIALS

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Support	
Contributions—Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 879,888
Contributions—Donor Purpose Restricted—The Columbia Trust	\$ 671,900
Bequests	\$ 58,238
Total Support	\$ 1,610,026
Revenue	
Interest & Dividends Income—Net	\$ 3,226,948
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Investment Securities	\$ 7,710,700
Total Revenue	\$ 10,937,648
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 12,547,674

EXPENSES

Program Services	
Grants—The Columbia Trust	\$ 1,651,175
Appropriations—DAV National Service Program & Other Service Programs	\$ 4,380,489
Total Program Services	\$ 6,031,664 – 96%
Supporting Services	
Management & General	\$ 117,740 – 2%
Fundraising	\$ 105,421 – 2%
Total Supporting Services	\$ 223,161
Total Expenses	\$ 6,254,825
Excess of Support & Revenue over Expenses	\$ 6,292,849
Change in Unrealized Appreciation of Investments	\$ 8,392,389

NET ASSETS

Change in Net Assets	\$ 14,685,238
Net Assets—Beginning of Year	\$ 148,391,894
Net Assets—End of Year	\$ 163,077,132
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 85,012,999
Total With Donor Restrictions	\$ 78,064,133
Total Net Assets—End of Year	\$ 163,077,132

The complete financial statements have been audited and received an unqualified statement. A copy of the audited statement is available upon request.



RECOGNIZING OUR SUPPORTERS

It is with sincere appreciation that we recognize donors who have given so generously to support the DAV National Service Foundation. Within these pages, you will view varying levels of exceptional generosity and recognition to donors who achieved special giving thresholds in 2020. The Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks for all gifts, no matter the amount, as each one plays an important role in the advocacy and rehabilitation of injured veterans across the nation. These generous supporters are the reason why the Foundation can execute its mission and continue to benefit veterans and their families.

PERPETUAL REHABILITATION FUND

The Foundation's Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund is designed to ensure funds are available to serve America's veterans and their families of today, tomorrow and well into the future.

Many gifts are given to honor DAV national service officers, departments, chapters, Auxiliary units and individual members, and some are made in honor or memory of friends and family. Moreover, some gifts are given as part of living trusts, life insurance policies or other estate plans. As a component of our appreciation, the Foundation has established a program to recognize those who have donated \$100 or more during a given year, and these gifts are reflected in the Foundation's Honor Roll of Benefactors annually.

Virginia National Guard soldiers assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division return home after serving on federal active duty. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Terra C. Gatti/Army National Guard)

SUPPORTING VETERANS



HONOR ROLL OF BENEFACTORS

The National Service Foundation's Honor Roll of Benefactors was established in 1986 as the Judge John B. McClernan Grand Memorial Honor Roll and The Honor Roll. It recognized DAV department and chapter donors. The program eventually evolved into an all-inclusive donor recognition program and was renamed Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors and Honor Roll of Benefactors.

If it weren't for the continued, outstanding support of the individuals and organizations who contribute to the Foundation, veterans and their families simply would not be able to access the same level of unparalleled and vital services needed for progress. Each of these individuals—every veteran and family member—owes thanks to the supporters of this Foundation. The Foundation's Honor Roll of Benefactors is only one small expression of gratitude for their part in helping to keep the nation's promise to veterans.

Caring for our nation's injured heroes is a progressively challenging task that requires incredible compassion and understanding on a personal level. What follows is a tribute to the individuals and organizations who have answered the call to aid in this meaningful mission. If you know someone who has made an important contribution, do not hesitate to thank that person for the commitment and support. Individuals who are part of a contributing organization—be it a DAV chapter, Auxiliary unit, department or other group—can take pride in knowing that their contributions greatly affected others, and in a significant way.

The Foundation recognizes donors—both individuals and organizations—based on the generous contributions received annually and, in total, over time. A contribution of \$100 or more in cumulative giving will be recognized in the year in which the donor meets that threshold. This benchmark establishes an individual fund within the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund and earns donors a spot on the Honor Roll of Benefactors Virtual Wall located at nsf.dav.org/donor-recognition.

To those individuals listed here, DAV offers its most sincere appreciation. The kindness of the Foundation's benefactors will never get overlooked, as it is their support that has helped to change the lives of countless veterans and their family members. The support enables DAV to provide continual services to those who've served.

On the next few pages, you will see listings for various awards, along with a description of what Honor Roll members have done to achieve those awards. These individuals have years to achieve a given goal and are an example of what others can accomplish if they begin working toward one now. We have made every effort to ensure that each listing is accurate. If we have inadvertently made an error or omitted any individual or organization, please accept our sincerest apologies.

DISTINGUISHED DONOR CERTIFICATE

Donors with a lifetime giving total of \$250 to \$999 achieved during a given year will earn the Distinguished Donor Certificate and be recognized on the Honor Roll of Benefactors Virtual Wall.

COMMENDATION AWARD

Donors with a lifetime giving total of \$1,000 to \$4,999 achieved during a given year will earn the National Service Foundation Commendation Award and be recognized on the Honor Roll of Benefactors Virtual Wall and in the printed annual report.

Electrical Consultants, Inc.
Lowerison Family Trust
C.A.B. Services, Inc.
LDJ Enterprises
Bench Rest Rifle Club of St. Louis
Bell Power Systems LLC
Martin Luther Lutheran
Church of Chicago
Margot N Sjodin Revocable Trust
Graham & Cook Insurance Agency
Spirit of Life Chorus
United Automobile
Workers of America
The Colonel Robert G. Moreland
Charitable Fund
Investors Capital Group
Flexspace 360, LLC
Robert E. Dods Family Foundation
Classic Automotive Group
Stein Rich Family Foundation
Bernice Blaske
William E. Bonwell, II
Catherine A. Brownell
Jaime Camero
Vernon Cardosi
Roger E. Caron
Robert J. Cook

Gordon M. Darbro
Gary Paul George Dimtroff
Micheal Doherty
George R. Dunakin, Jr.
Randall B. Emeterio
Norma A. Fahnestock
Sharon A. Feuchter
Jerry R. Foster
Anna Ghibesi
Ronald F. Gilchrist
William J. Hahn
Mrs. Crystal B. Hicks
Todd Holmes
Virginia Howlett
Ronald P. Johnson
Jeanie B. Kasperski
Mrs. Deborah L. Kuske
Gary & Delores Lawson
Raymond Loranger
John C. Machajewski
MAJ Allen K. Martin
Albert F. McDonald
Jose Juan Melendez-Merced
Ralph G. Morin
James C. Moss
Roger J. Moss
Doris Myren



Robert F. O'Leary
LCDR David L. Osborn, USN Ret.
John R. Ouellet
John Privat
Philip & Sharon Probst
David Rogers
Allen & Phyllis Rubel
Danny R. Sanders
MAJ Grace Scruggs
Linda I. Shalom
Donald J. Stanley
Edgar S. Stinson
Roy G. Veal
Harold A. Wagner
Kevin R. Zellers
North Central Chapter 7, MN
Department of Tennessee

STAR AWARDS

BRONZE LEVEL

Donors achieve Bronze Level recognition for cumulative giving at various tiers ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000. Donors with a lifetime giving total of \$5,000 achieved during a given year will earn a Star Award plaque and be recognized on the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors Virtual Wall and in the printed annual report.

Donors can earn bronze stars to add to the plaque as contribution totals increase. Recognition on the virtual wall will also be updated to reflect the most current Bronze Level achievement.

Donors who achieved these thresholds prior to January 2020 received an engraved bronze plate, which was displayed on the wall at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The existing plates will remain on the wall and star updates will continue to be added as new giving thresholds are achieved. However, no new plates will be added to the wall; recognition will be virtual moving forward.



Donors receive a Bronze Level Star Award plaque upon achieving \$5,000 in cumulative giving. Bronze star updates can be earned for each of the following (cumulative) giving thresholds thereafter:

★	\$10,000
★ ★	\$25,000
★ ★ ★	\$50,000
★ ★ ★ ★	\$100,000
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	\$250,000

GRAND MEMORIAL HONOR ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED DONORS

2020 INDUCTEES

The following exceptional supporters of the Foundation achieved recognition on the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors for total contributions that reached the levels shown below during 2020.

Alfred C. Henry, Jr.	\$11,025
Linwood A. Robbins	\$10,400
Harry T. Hunsinger	\$10,000
American Legion Riders Post 246	\$5,969
Travis W. Jacox	\$5,900
Henry G. Rogers	\$5,300
Birmingham Hospital Chapter 73, CA	\$5,295
Dan A. Pine	\$5,100
Joseph F. Ryker	\$5,060
Poisson Cournoyer Carpentier Bacon Chapter 12, RI	\$5,000

SILVER LEVEL

Donors achieve Silver Level recognition for cumulative giving at various tiers ranging from \$500,000 to \$999,000. Donors with a lifetime giving total of \$500,000 achieved during a given year will earn the Silver Level award and be recognized on the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors Virtual Wall and in the printed annual report.

As contributions increase, donors can earn dark gray acrylic stars to add to the award. Recognition on the virtual wall will also be updated to reflect the most current Silver Level achievement.

Ernestine Schumann-Heink Chapter 2 in Kansas City, Missouri, has displayed overwhelming commitment to the Foundation since 1979 and, in 2019, the chapter became the first recipient of the Silver Level Star Award. The award featured two stars to represent cumulative giving of \$650,000 or more. The chapter's loyalty is reflected in its annual donations, which exceeded \$677,000 in 2020.



**Ernestine Schumann-Heink
Chapter 2, MO
\$677,020**

Donors receive a Silver Level Star Award upon reaching \$500,000 and earn a dark gray acrylic star for each of the following (cumulative) giving thresholds thereafter:

★	\$575,000
★ ★	\$650,000
★ ★ ★	\$725,000
★ ★ ★ ★	\$800,000
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	\$875,000

GOLD LEVEL

Donors achieve Gold Level recognition for cumulative giving at various tiers ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$4,999,999. Donors with a lifetime giving total of \$1,000,000 achieved during a given year will earn the Gold Level award and be recognized on the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors Virtual Wall and in the printed annual report. Subsequently, donors can earn a new Gold Level award at each \$1,000,000 threshold. Recognition on the virtual wall will be updated to reflect the most current Gold Level achievement.

In 2013, the Washington, D.C.-based law firm Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP was the first donor to receive the DAV National Service Foundation Exceptional Donor Award for its remarkable contributions to the Foundation. The firm's legendary generosity continues to this day, with its total contributions exceeding the \$2.6 million mark. In addition, Finnegan participates in DAV's pro bono program for veterans requiring legal representation at the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.



**Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, LLP
\$2,607,683**

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Nonprofit Status

The DAV National Service Foundation is a tax-exempt organization, and all contributions made to it are tax-deductible. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. It is exempt from tax under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(4). Contributions to the Foundation are deductible pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §170(c).



National Service Foundation

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