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TO: National Officers
Department Commanders and Adjutants
Department Benefits Protection Team Leaders
Interim Legislative Committee

FROM: Joy J. Ilem, National Legislative Director

DATE: December 6, 2022

SUBJECT: DAV 2023 Mid-Winter Conference

In anticipation of a successful mid-winter conference, we look forward to seeing department delegations in person from Feb. 26–March 1 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

A [tentative agenda](#) for the DAV 2023 Mid-Winter Conference has been posted on the DAV website under “Events,” and you are urged to start making your plans to attend this important event. We have all had to rely on technology and virtual communications to stay connected over the past couple of years, and we know everyone is eager to return to a more regular order of business. While things are still in flux in Washington, D.C., and in Congress, DAV is proceeding with regular conference preparations, and the national legislative team will be on-site to brief you on critical federal policies and legislation affecting veterans benefits and health care for the year ahead.

While we have all learned to advocate with social distancing, one of the most effective forms of lobbying is—and will remain—personal visits with elected officials. As we do each year, we encourage you to take advantage of free time on Feb. 27, and the morning of Feb. 28, to visit with your members of Congress and their staffs, if possible. However, if a member’s office is only scheduling virtual meetings during that week, we encourage you to utilize that option to share DAV’s legislative agenda. You should also feel free to schedule virtual meetings before or after the conference. When you are making appointments with your elected representatives, they may ask what topics or issues you would like to discuss during the meeting. You can read and download a summary of DAV’s 2023 Critical Policy Goals [here](#).

The full version of our 2023 Critical Policy Goals will be posted on DAV’s website in February, and printed copies to leave behind at your Capitol Hill meetings will be available in the hotel at the registration desk and at the **Benefits Protection Team Workshop**, scheduled for Sunday, **Feb. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m.** Please join us at the workshop for an update on current legislative issues and priorities for 2023—the second session of the 117th Congress. The achievement of our advocacy goals depends greatly on grassroots participation and your efforts to educate and inform elected officials about DAV’s priorities. [Click here](#) for guidelines to help you prepare for, schedule and follow up after meetings with members of Congress.

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DAV and Auxiliary members who are unable to attend the mid-winter conference are encouraged to arrange meetings with elected officials at their local offices during the week of Feb. 27, to reinforce the message we will be communicating on Capitol Hill. Again, if they are not scheduling in-person meetings, please try to arrange a virtual conversation with the officials or their staffs. We hope you will stress the importance for all DAV and Auxiliary members in your state to support our legislative efforts locally.

Once you make your appointments with your elected officials for an in-person or virtual meeting, we request that the following information be provided to the national legislative team by close of business on **Tuesday, Feb. 14**, via email to legislativepublic@davmail.org:

1. The names and titles of DAV and Auxiliary members attending the mid-winter conference.
2. The city or congressional district number and, if known, where each attendee is from.
3. Dates, times and room numbers of any congressional appointments, either member or staff appointments. Please also indicate whether the appointment is in person or virtual.
4. A list of any other planned activities with members of Congress.

Information about attendance is provided to House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee members who express interest in knowing who will be attending our conference from their state so that attendees can be recognized during the joint hearing.

While we do not yet have confirmation from Congress regarding specific details for the **National Commander's Testimony**, we do expect Commander Parsetich will be invited to make his presentation before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on **Tuesday, Feb. 28**. We do not know at this time if DAV members will be permitted to attend the hearing in person, so we are making contingency plans to have the event live-streamed at the hotel should that be necessary for us to watch it together. We will keep everyone informed as we learn more and ask that you be flexible with your plans. The Commander's Reception will be held **Feb. 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Please do invite your elected officials and their staffs to attend.

As always, thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to seeing each of you in February at the DAV 2023 Mid-Winter Conference.



Joy J. Ilem
National Legislative Director

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