**Community Service**

Participating in community service is a wonderful way to network and to give back. Family support programs can enrich and enhance the life of every member of the veteran’s family by providing the necessary help needed to be a successful family unit. By learning more about services offered by the organizations below you can provide necessary information for not only your family but also to help other veterans and their family.

The DAV helps more than a million veterans every year by providing necessary services through their many programs. These programs include helping vets acquire information needed to fill out the necessary forms and filing claims for VA disability benefits. They also provide employment and entrepreneurship programs as well as transition programs. The DAV offers $110,000 in scholarships annually. The monies can be used toward any accredited institution of higher learning, including universities, colleges, community colleges and vocational schools. Also, many of the local chapters and units provide medical transportation to the VA hospitals. To gain a full scope of the DAV’s many programs, visit their website <https://www.dav.org>.

DAV Auxiliary also offers many of the same programs as the parent organization, DAV. DAVA purposes are to provide services to disabled veterans and their families. They provide medical transportation, volunteering at the local VA hospital, or the local veterans assistance program. The veterans assistance program is called Say *‘Thank You’ to Veterans.* This programprovides services such as shopping or running errands for veterans, doing yard work, painting a veteran's homes, just to name a few.

 DAVA offers a similar Scholarship Program to service the need of a veteran’s family who must meets established guidelines for a scholarship. They provide funds for the student enrolled in accredited college, university, or vocational school. A full-time student may qualify for a scholarship up to $2,500 and a part-time student may qualify for a scholarship up to $750. In addition, the DAVA has established, to meet the changing need of the veteran and their family, a tuition reimbursement program. This provides education opportunities at facilities other than accredited colleges/universities when funds are available.

DAV Auxiliary has re-developed their emergency service program to assist surviving spouses of service-connected disabled veterans in time of dire financial needs. Assistance, an one-time offering up to $500 per calendar year, for unpaid utility bills, mortgage/rent, medical bills, etc. to help lessen the load went in financial crisis. Payments will be payable directly to the establishment on behalf of the surviving spouse. For additional information, contact DAV Auxiliary national headquarters at 833-368-1220, or dava@dav.org.

DAVA for Kids Grant is a new program developed in December of last year. This grant was created to help children of injured and ill veterans to attends programs such as camps, participate in extracurricular activities, and to help with extenuating circumstance of an eligible child. To learn or apply visit <https://www.davauxiliary.org>.

The Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) offers many programs similar the programs that the DAV and DAVA. Service is provided by 34 offices for the veteran and family. DVS is organized into seven service sections:  benefits; veteran and family support; veterans education; transition and employment; care centers; veterans cemeteries; and the Virginia War Memorial.  To learn more about the many benefits offered, visit their website <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/>

**Additional resources**

<https://dav.quorum.us/home/>

**https://www.dav.org/about-dav/legislation/**

<http://www.va.gov/survivors/>
<http://www.va.gov/opa/persona/dependent_survivor.asp>
<http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap13.asp>
<http://www.va.gov/survivors/faqs.asp>
<http://www.va.gov/SURVIVORS/Contact_Us.asp>
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp>
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp>
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current_rates_survivor_pen.asp>
<http://www.veteransaidbenefit.org/va_help_surviving_spouse.htm>
<https://www.caring.com/questions/veterans-widow-benefits>

Respectively submitted,

 Patricia McNabb

 1st JR Vice