



Washington Headquarters
1300 I Street NW, Suite 400 West
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dav.org

Biographical **INFO**

SCOTT HOPE

**National Service Director
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)**

Scott Hope was appointed national service director at Washington Headquarters in Washington D.C. for the nearly 1 million-member DAV in August 2025.

As national service director, Hope manages all activities of DAV's largest initiative, the National Service Program, which employs approximately 255 professional national service officers, 30 transition service officers and support staff in all our service offices nationwide. These service officers represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

Hope, a disabled Army veteran, began his DAV career in 2007 as a national service officer apprentice in Pittsburgh. He was promoted to assistant supervisor in 2009, supervisor in 2011 and national area supervisor in 2014. He served as deputy national service director for training since 2016 until this current appointment.

Hope served from 1997 to 2005 as a medical specialist and flight medic, with deployments to Bosnia and Honduras and two tours in Iraq.

A life member of Chapter 76 in Pittsburgh. He and his spouse, Sandy, and their son, Daxton, live in Laurel, Maryland.





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JON RETZER National Legislative Director DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

Jon Retzer, a service-connected disabled veteran of the U.S. Army and Army National Guard, was appointed as national legislative director of the nearly 1 million-member DAV in January 2026. He is based at DAV's Washington Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Retzer's DAV career began in 2003 as a national service officer trainee in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was first promoted to assistant supervisor of the Fort Snelling National Service Office and then to supervisor, where he served until his appointment as assistant national service director at DAV Washington Headquarters in August 2017.

In 2022, Retzer transitioned into legislative advocacy and joined DAV's legislative team as assistant national legislative director, working to shape policies that make a meaningful impact on the lives of veterans and their families. Retzer was appointed deputy national legislative director for health in August 2024 before being promoted to deputy national legislative director in May 2025, where he served until his current appointment.

A native of Fridley, Minnesota, Retzer served in the Army infantry from 1991 to 1995 and continued his service with the Army National Guard until his medical separation in 1999. He is a life member of Chapter 39 in Anoka, Minnesota.





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JIM MARSZALEK

**Executive Director, Washington Headquarters
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)**

Jim Marszalek was appointed executive director, Washington Headquarters in Washington D.C. for the nearly 1 million-member DAV in January 2026.

As executive director, he directs DAV's legislative and service programs, which provide free benefits assistance to over 200,000 veterans, their family members and their survivors each year. Between Washington Headquarters and all our service offices nationwide, Marszalek will help manage more than 400 professional and support staff. Marszalek will also serve as key spokesperson for DAV before Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the White House.



Marszalek, a Marine veteran, began his DAV career in 2001 as a member of Class XI at the DAV National Service Officer Training Academy in Denver. He has served in supervisory roles across the country and until he was appointed to service staff in 2011 and national service director in 2013. In August 2025, Marszalek was appointed assistant executive director of DAV Washington Headquarters, where he served until his current appointment.

A nationally recognized expert of veterans benefits and services, Marszalek was instrumental in advancing reforms of VA claims and appeals systems, including DAV's advocacy surrounding the Veterans Appeals and Modernization Act of 2017, and has testified before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs committees numerous times.

A life member of Chapter 76 in Pittsburgh. He and his spouse, Jillian, reside in Ashburn, Virginia, with their two sons.



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Biographical INFO

BARRY A. JESINOSKI National Adjutant/CEO DAV (Disabled American Veterans)



Barry A. Jesinoski, a service-connected veteran of the Persian Gulf War era, was appointed national adjutant for the nearly 1 million-member DAV in June 2023. As DAV's chief executive, Jesinoski leads the organization, overseeing all staff and operations for one of America's largest charitable institutions.

Before his appointment, he served as executive director of DAV National Headquarters in Erlanger, Kentucky, since August 2013. As executive director, he served as the organization's chief financial officer and chief operating officer, overseeing employment initiatives, voluntary services, communications, membership activities, fundraising, accounting, administration, human resources, information technology, outreach and logistics.

Jesinoski began his DAV career as a member of Class II at the National Service Officer Training Academy in Denver in 1995. Following graduation from the academy, he worked on the front lines of DAV's largest service initiative and represented veterans in their claims for benefits.

He rose from an apprentice in Seattle to supervise one of DAV's most prominent offices in San Diego in two years. In 2001, he was promoted to oversee benefits advocacy for an area encompassing California, Arizona, Oregon, Nevada and Hawaii. Later that same year, he was appointed to the national service staff and assigned to DAV's Washington Headquarters. The following year, he was promoted to assistant national service director.

In 2007, he was appointed deputy director of human resources and relocated to DAV National Headquarters before taking the lead as director in 2009. Then, in 2011, he returned to Washington, D.C., to lead DAV's service and legislative efforts as executive director and as DAV's principal spokesperson at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Congress and the White House. He served in that capacity until his current appointment in August 2013.

Jesinoski is focused on improving efficiencies and aligning DAV's efforts and collaboration across the organization's departments. He's initiated several DAV programs, such as the transition service program, the employment and entrepreneurship departments, service officer certification training, the case management system, the results management office and the most significant IT infrastructure project in the organization's history. He also led the site selection and construction of DAV's new national headquarters. Internally, he's championed benefit enhancements, such as a performance and retention program, flexible work schedule, accelerated PTO allotments, and bereavement and parental leave.

Through his leadership, DAV's outreach efforts have quadrupled in scope, fundraising has been diversified, and every department in his purview has taken on new initiatives aimed at achieving strategic objectives and modernizing the delivery of services.

A native of Ottertail County, Minnesota, Jesinoski was medically discharged from the Marine Corps in 1993. He earned his initial Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification from the Human Resources Certification Institute in 2008.

He lives in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, with his wife and two sons.



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COLEMAN NEE

National Commander

DAV (Disabled American Veterans)



Coleman Nee, a service-connected disabled Marine veteran, was elected national commander for the nearly 1 million-member DAV at the organization's 2025 national convention in Las Vegas. Nee also currently serves as an advisor on DAV's national board of directors. He has previously served as the DAV National Executive Committee representative of District 1 from 2017 to 2019. He was elected by that body to serve on DAV's board of directors for the same period.

Nee served as secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services from 2011 to 2015, overseeing a \$120 million budget that included the commonwealth's municipal veteran benefits programs, the Veterans and Gold Star Families Annuity Program, long-term care facilities and cemeteries.

During Nee's tenure, the department created a number of new initiatives to increase access to services for Massachusetts veterans, including the more than 47,000 returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He oversaw the creation of the Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment (SAVE) program. This first-in-the-nation initiative supports veterans and their families coping with the stresses of returning from war and assists them in obtaining veterans benefits and services. His team instituted many new veteran workforce development programs and student veteran support services. He led new outreach and case management efforts that helped significantly reduce the number of veterans and families experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts. Nee also oversaw management of the Massachusetts Women Veterans Network, one of the most successful women veteran advocacy organizations in the nation.

Before his service with the commonwealth, Nee worked in public policy development, public relations, commercial, nonprofit and private-sector management for over 20 years. He is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C.

Nee is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and a DAV life member of Chapter 3 in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Nee is a Boston native and resides in the city's Cape Cod neighborhood with his family.



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Biographical INFO

B. CODY VANBOXEL

**Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer, National Headquarters
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)**



Cody VanBoxel, a service-connected disabled veteran of the Iraq War, was appointed executive director and chief financial officer for the nearly 1 million-member DAV in June 2023. He is employed at DAV National Headquarters in Erlanger, Kentucky.

As executive director and chief financial officer, VanBoxel oversees employment and entrepreneurial initiatives, voluntary services, fundraising, accounting, membership activities, caregiver support, administration, information technology, communications, outreach, human resources, facilities and logistics critical to DAV's mission of support for disabled veterans and their families.

Prior to this current appointment, he was appointed to assistant executive director in 2021. In this role, he worked closely with the executive director to oversee and guide numerous programs, services, and departments. VanBoxel worked as a leader and mentor to assist in guiding several important initiatives efficiently and through to completion. One of his proudest, being his assistance in the acquisition of DAV Patriot Boot Camp.

In 2017, VanBoxel was appointed to the position of national human resources director, where his responsibilities included advising the executive director and providing executive oversight for the company's human resource initiatives. He participated in strategic planning, organizational change, leadership development, talent acquisition, diversity, executive compensation, performance development and benefits. He served as chairman of the DAV National Headquarters Health and Safety Committee and provided direct oversight of all facility construction and maintenance operations. He was also instrumental in the construction and design of the new DAV National Headquarters.

Prior to directing HR, VanBoxel served as assistant national human resources director from August 2015 to October 2017.

He began his career as a national service officer apprentice at the DAV National Service Office in Washington, D.C., in 2011. He subsequently transferred to Philadelphia, an office he ultimately supervised before his first appointment to DAV National Headquarters.

A native of Hambden, Ohio, VanBoxel enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 2003 as an electronics maintenance technician. In 2005 he was accepted to the very selective Marine Security Guard program and subsequently served in West Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. He spent nearly all of 2007 on duty in Iraq providing specialized security to Department of State and Multi-National Force - Iraq headquarters. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in January 2009.

VanBoxel attended Western Governors University, earning a bachelor's of science degree in business management. He is also a Society of Human Resources Management Senior Certified Professional.

VanBoxel is a life member of DAV Chapter 19 in Northern Kentucky. He and his wife Giedre have three children and reside in Union, Kentucky.



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JOHN KLEINDIENST National Voluntary Services Director DAV (Disabled American Veterans)



John Kleindienst was appointed national voluntary services director for the nearly 1 million-member DAV in August 2014. He is employed at DAV National Headquarters in Erlanger, Kentucky.

As national voluntary services director, Kleindienst is responsible for a corps of DAV volunteers who, along with DAV Auxiliary volunteers, donate nearly two million hours a year to volunteer work at Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. He also directs the nationwide DAV Transportation Network, in which DAV hospital service coordinators arrange transportation for veterans who have no way to get to and from VA medical appointments. The network provides hundreds of thousands of rides for veterans across the country each year.

Kleindienst directs and coordinates activities involving the annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, co-presented by DAV and the VA, which employs sports such as skiing, sled hockey and other activities to promote physical rehabilitation and therapy for veterans struggling to overcome the impact of profound disability. The clinic is the largest rehabilitation event of its kind in the world.

Additionally, Kleindienst manages DAV activities regarding the National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic each year. As a co-presenter, DAV helps provide legally blind and eligible disabled veterans an opportunity to develop new skills and strengthen their self-esteem through adaptive golf and bowling events.

A native of Waco, Texas, Kleindienst enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1996 and was medically discharged in October 2003 as a result of service-connected injuries. He joined DAV's professional staff as a national service officer in February 2003 at DAV's National Service Office in Waco. Following service as a service officer in multiple U.S. locations, he was appointed deputy director of human resources at DAV's National Headquarters in June 2013 and served in that position until his current appointment.

A 1996 graduate of Connally High School in Waco, he is a life member of DAV Chapter 20 in Texas. He studied criminal justice at Coastal Carolina Community College while in the Marine Corps and attended McLennan Community College in Waco after his discharge.

He and his spouse, Melanie, reside in Burlington, Kentucky and have two children, Sean and MaKenna, and two grandchildren.



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Biographical **INFO**

RON B. MINTER

**National Caregiver Support Program Director
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)**

Ron B. Minter was appointed national caregiver support program director for the nearly 1 million-member DAV (Disabled American Veterans) in November 2024 at DAV National Headquarters in Erlanger, Kentucky.

As national caregiver support program director, Minter is responsible for leading the expansion of DAV Caregivers Support. His responsibilities include developing and deploying evidence-based programs and resources to empower caregivers. He also monitors outcomes and builds partnerships with healthcare providers, social services, community organizations, and other stakeholders to expand on the initiative's impact.



A service-connected disabled veteran, Minter enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1990. He was medically discharged in 1995 and began his career with DAV in 1999. Minter initially served in Waco, Texas and later supervised the national service office in Baltimore, Maryland.

Minter was appointed was appointed the national voluntary services director in 2011, where he served until returning to the national service office in Waco in 2014. In 2018, he was appointed to assistant national voluntary services director and was promoted to deputy national voluntary services director in 2023, where he served until his current appointment.

A life member of Chapter 3 in Waco, Texas, he and his wife Jennifer have one daughter, Chrissy.



Auxiliary

Making a Difference

Biographical **INFO**

MELISSA PIERCE

National Commander

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary



Melissa Pierce was elected National Commander for DAV Auxiliary at the 2025 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Melissa joined DAV Auxiliary as a life member in 1989. She began her membership as a junior member through her father, who was a Marine during the Vietnam War. During his three tours of duty in Vietnam, he received three Purple Hearts and was rated at 100% VA disability. He was also a lifetime DAV member. Her mother also served in the military and was a Navy nurse stationed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard at the base hospital. She is a lifetime DAV Auxiliary member. Both her parents were active in DAV and DAV Auxiliary.

Melissa is currently a member of Unit 20 in Des Moines, Iowa, and serves as senior vice commander. She also volunteers for many chapter and unit functions including bingo at the Des Moines VA Community Living Center, the back-to-school backpack events and Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day. Melissa is a past member of Unit 10 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At the unit level, Melissa has served as adjutant, junior vice commander and senior vice commander. At the state level, she has served as junior vice commander, senior vice commander and commander. Melissa is currently the Department of Iowa adjutant and has served in this position for the past 6 years. At the national level, Melissa has served as national VA Voluntary Services representative (2017-2021), 15th district alternate National Executive Committee (NEC) (2017-2019) and 15th district NEC (2019-2021). Melissa has been the National Caregiver Initiative chair since 2018.

Melissa was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is the second oldest of five children. She married her husband Dan in 1991. Melissa and her husband have two children, Danielle and Justin. Dan, Danielle and Justin are also DAV Auxiliary members.

Melissa has been the DAV hospital service coordinator at the Iowa City VA since March 2020. Prior to that, she was the director of data management and field services at Jefferson Davis Associates, where she worked for 27 years. In her spare time, she also works at Riverside Casino and Golf Resort.