

National Service Foundation

2024 Annual Report

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A message from the National Service Foundation President

Dear Friend, It's easy in today's climate to feel frustrated or overwhelmed by the confusing rhetoric and debate surrounding veterans benefits. Instead of bowing to those feelings, I remain filled with gratitude for each of you and your steadfast support.

Because of you, DAV can weather the storms of bureaucracy. We firmly believe that helping veterans is a nonpartisan area of concern for all Americans. We remain committed to providing programs and services that assist, aid, maintain, care for, support and rehabilitate our sick and injured veterans, as well as their families, caregivers and survivors.

Your contributions help us fill the void left when politics overcome practicality. A perfect example of our commitment and your supportive partnership is the DAV Transportation Network. In 1987, the government stopped covering the costs of veterans' rides to and from their Veterans Administration medical appointments. In response, DAV established the Transportation Network to address this shortfall. To this day, a nationwide corps of volunteers and coordinators provide tens of thousands of veterans with free rides to their Department of Veterans Affairs medical appointments each year.

As Past National Adjutant Dale Adams said, "One DAV member helping one disabled veteran; that is the bedrock of DAV."

Yes, your generosity is the bedrock of our organization. Because of you, our benefits advocates can go to work every day knowing they have the latest training and tools available to them; our volunteer drivers can cover hundreds of thousands of miles a year getting veterans to their medical appointments; and our chapters can fund service projects that help veterans, caregivers and families in their communities.

Helping veterans is at the core of who we all are. Thank you for your work to preserve that mission and that calling.



Andrew Marstall Andrew H. Marshall President

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. To help them heal, the Foundation is ensuring it provides them with a lifetime of support.

Veterans helping veterans

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.

National Service Foundation

Originally incorporated in 1931, the DAV National Service 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 enhancing 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 to do our part to ensure those changed in service 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.

DAV's commitment to helping our fellow veterans reinforces the common bond of military service shared by all veterans, no matter which conflict or era they served in. We've all faced the challenges of transitioning to civilian life and securing benefits earned through service.

That's why the work DAV does continues to be vital. Polling by the Pew Research Center has shown that nearly half of post-9/11 veterans say they've experienced difficulty transitioning to civilian life after the military.

Veterans shouldn't have to struggle on their own after sacrificing in uniform. DAV is here to provide benefits advocates to expertly guide veterans to a successful transition and set them up for long-term success.

Yet, many veterans never receive the benefits they earned. Many are simply unaware of what is available to them. Some can't apply on their own because their injuries are too severe. In the case of women who've served, studies have shown that some don't even recognize themselves as veterans and, based on their experiences, don't pursue the benefits they earned. Among the underserved are veterans in rural communities and those who become so frustrated dealing with government bureaucracy that they give up before achieving justice for the sacrifices they made on our behalf.

But DAV stands ready to help them all. It has a long history of advocating for veterans to get the care and benefits they have 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 receiving training and education throughout their careers to keep them at the leading edge of their field.

In 2024, DAV submitted over 561,000 new claims on behalf of veterans for over 1.5 million specific injuries and illnesses. To advocate for veterans and their families, DAV's service program took over 3.1 million actions, such as representing claimants in hearings and appeals for benefits, reviewing and developing records, providing professional advice and responding to inquiries, and establishing new claims for earned benefits. DAV also retains virtual capabilities, including its toll-free hotline, to meet the needs of as many veterans as possible.



DAV benefits advocates are highly trained specialists in the claims process. All of them are veterans themselves and goes through a year of specialized, on-the-job training. They continue to receive training and education throughout their careers. CLAIMS Over 561,000 new claims filed for

over **1.5 million** specific injuries and illnesses on behalf of veterans

SERVICE PROGRAM

Over

3.1 million actions to advocate for benefits

for veterans and their families

Program services overview

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK



More than 235,000 no-cost rides

586,000+ hours 9.3+ million miles

Since 1987, drivers have traveled more than

761 million miles

transporting over

20 million veterans

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. Trust funds support DAV departments and chapters that lack the financial resources needed to implement and maintain critical service projects for veterans and their families at the local level. Initiatives 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; hospital service coordination; department or chapter service officer programs, including service school expenses; and assistance for initiatives combating veteran homelessness. New and unique veterans service initiatives are also supported. In 2024, the Trust awarded grants of approximately \$1.2 million to chapters and departments.

Transportation

In 2024, the Trust helped chapters and departments purchase 70 new vehicles, which were donated to the VA as part of the DAV Transportation Network program. The Transportation Network allows ill and injured veterans to access lifesaving care at VA medical facilities and is one of the most vital services our organization offers.

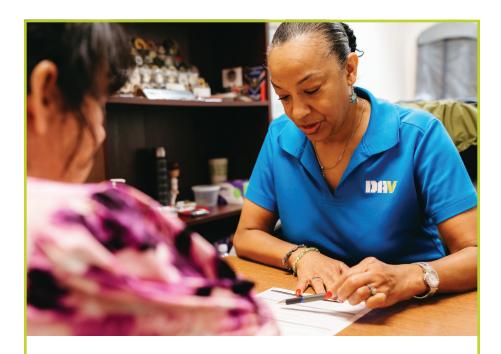
DAV, Auxiliary and nonmember volunteers logged over 586,000 hours to keep this program running last year. These individuals drove over 9.3 million miles, providing more than 235,000 no-cost rides for veterans. Without this service, many veterans would go without the care they need.

Hospital service coordinators

The Transportation Network wouldn't be able to function without the efforts of DAV hospital service coordinators. Around the country, 133 hospital service coordinators match volunteer drivers with transportation requests from veterans, as needed. Thanks to the continued efforts of hospital service coordinators, Transportation Network drivers have traveled more than 761 million miles transporting over 20 million veterans since the program began in 1987.

State and local service officer programs

To ensure as many veterans as possible can get assistance with their claims, nearly 230 state-level department service officers and 2,695 chapter service officers support DAV's primary mission of benefits advocacy in their local communities. Working with these volunteers is often the first interaction veterans and their families have with DAV and is instrumental in ensuring veterans are represented in their fight to achieve justice for service-connected disabilities. These claims are forwarded to accredited DAV national service officers for professional development to help ensure veterans and their families receive the benefits they earned.



Thousands of chapter- and department-level service officers support DAV's mission of advocacy in the local community, ensuring as many veterans as possible get assistance with their claims.

BENEFIT ADVOCACY

Nearly **230** state-level department service officers and

2,695 chapter service officers support DAV's primary mission of benefits advocacy in their local communities

Program services overview continued

HOMELESSNESS

In 2024, **32,882 veterans**

experienced homelessness

THE FOUNDATION

Over **\$5 million** disbursed to assist vital services to veterans and their families



Homeless veterans assistance

The Foundation helps support programs to combat veteran homelessness, an epidemic that has affected far too many of our nation's heroes. During the 2024 national point-in-time count, the Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that 32,882 veterans experienced homelessness on a single night in January, which is a 7.5% decrease from 2023 and the fewest number of veterans since HUD started reporting these numbers in 2019.

Even a single veteran without a home is too many. That's why the Foundation supports efforts to bring veterans from 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. The VA also recently announced that it permanently housed 47,925 veterans in 2024, surpassing its goal of 41,000 by 16.9%. Through efforts such as these, the estimated number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has declined by more than 55% since 2010.

DAV National Service Program

Throughout 2024, the Foundation disbursed over \$5 million to assist the national organization in providing vital 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 provide essential supplies as well as up-to-date tools, resources and training to our benefits advocates, allowing them to focus on providing the best service to veterans who come to DAV for help.

Contributors to the Foundation are truly humbling in their compassion and generosity. During 2024, the Foundation's supporters donated more than \$4.9 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 \$6.2 million, or 95%, of total expenditures that went toward direct program services for veterans and their families last year. Fundraising and administrative costs accounted for just 5% of total expenditures.

Even throughout a continued 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 \$181.6 million in 2024. At year-end, the Foundation reported over \$188.6 million in net assets, which helps to ensure the longevity of services to our nation's heroes.

For a complete breakdown of the Foundation's financial statement, go to Page 15.

Recognizing our supporters

t is with sincere appreciation that we recognize donors who have given so generously to support the DAV National Service Foundation. Within these pages, you'll view varying levels of exceptional generosity and recognition of donors who achieved special giving thresholds in 2024.

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. Our 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 provided 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 annually in the Foundation's Honor Roll of Benefactors.



We recognize your support for veterans!

Donate **\$100**

or more in a year and be a part of our donor recognition program



Honor Roll of Benefactors

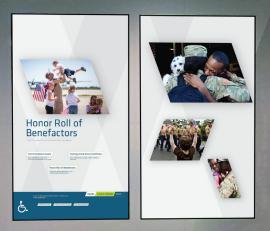




Donor Wall

The Honor Roll of Benefactors can be viewed on the Donor Wall at DAV's headquarters, online by scanning the code or visiting nsf.dav.org/donor-recognition.





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 the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors and Honor Roll of Benefactors.

Keeping our promise to America's veterans and their survivors, families and caregivers is a daunting, though sacred, charge. It's a mission that DAV can't do alone. The individuals and organizations who support the Foundation share our commitment to ensuring justice is accessible to those who have shouldered the burden of our national defense. Because of these supporters, we are able to continue to fulfill our promise for many years to come.

The Foundation recognizes donors 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 earns donors a spot on the Honor Roll of Benefactors that can be viewed on the Donor Wall at DAV's headquarters or located at nsf.dav.org/donor-recognition.

To those individuals listed, DAV offers its most sincere appreciation. The kindness of the Foundation's benefactors will never get overlooked, as it's 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'll 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 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 section of the Donor Wall at DAV's headquarters and online at nsf.dav.org/donor-recognition/honor-roll-of-benefactors.

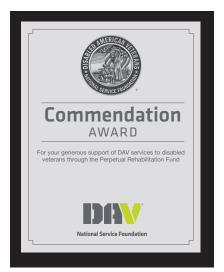
Commendation Award

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 section of the Donor Wall at DAV's headquarters, in the printed annual report and online at nsf.dav.org/ donor-recognition/honor-roll-of-benefactors.

3CM Inc Jason M. Allard American Legion Auxiliary Unit 853 William A. Barth Rodger A. Bayer Jacquelyn J. Belschner John H. Blanke Craig L. Bowers Al Boxley Vicky D. Boyce Bernard C. Brady Melissa Burgoyne William Butler Joseph W. Bynum **Barney Cearley** Josephine Certo Carl H. Chaffee Charitysmith Nonprofit Foundation Sopan N. Chaudhari Civic Association of Heritage Harbor Homeowners Virginia Clough Consumer Bankruptcy Association Peter L. Cooledge Thomas Cox Arthur F. Deardorff **Devenport Brothers** John F. Donovan Paul T. Elder EnReturn Grand Chapter Of Texas O.E.S. I Marcia Hall Carev D. Hambrick Jr. Donald B. Hente Barbara Hinchcliffe Pamela Hook Corla J. Hough

James K. Hoyt Andrew A. Huntoon Lowell E. Jacoby Jim and Diane McCarthy Foundation John Hannan #42, IL Richard L. Jones Linda King Lori Kopacz Robert & Ann Kurtz Thaddaeus J. Labuda Jim & Karen Lackritz Patrick Laing Thomas I. Lancaster Kenneth Lattman Sue Lavarone Mickey Lawler Garvis R. Leak Darryl Lender Mildred E. & Ray Lentz Marine Draftsman Association UAW Local 571 Chris McAndrews Lawrence W. McCarthy Joe E. McDaniel Kathryn Morea John A. Moses John O. Mulford Daniel A. Nelson Stephen Nelson Thomas J. Nelson Charlotte Neumann Sharon S. O'Donnell Orange Blossom Gardens #150, FL Kirk A. Pavlick **RC4WD** Inc **Riverheart Family Dentistry** Miguel Rodriguez





James E. Rose Arthur Rudnick Lois Rufer Doris J. Schmieg Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 73 Ann R. Smith Marion G. Smith Richard M. Spicer John G. Stinson-Wilge Ronnie E. Summers Sandra Thomas Tuscaloosa #1, AL Unico National, Inc David T. Ward Arno A. Warnke William R. Whitmore Charles L. Yarbrough David Yargar Elizabeth A. Ziegler

Levels of exceptional generosity

Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors

The following exceptional supporters of the DAV National Service Foundation achieved recognition on the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors for total contributions that reached the levels shown below during 2024.

2024 Inductees

The Colonel Robert G. Moreland Charitable Fund	. ,
Phoenix #1, AZ	
DAV of Minnesota Foundation, Inc.	\$65,000
Stanly CO #12, NC	\$62,500
Summit County #35, OH	\$30,200
Edmund Nowakowski	\$27,124
Department of Georgia	\$26,465
Tiblets G. Gidey	\$24,320
Bay Pine Holiday Island #13, FL	\$22,200
Guy C. Tripp	\$20,000
Joanne I. West	\$20,000
Albert and Linda Rosecan Charitable Foundation	\$15,000
DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc	\$15,000
James A. Procunier	\$11,000
Louis M. Capra	\$10,430
Leonidas Ferreras	\$10,000
Jim & Marilyn Foster	\$10,000
Granville Eckert	\$10,000
Adreani Foundation	\$6,000
Lyle E. Wehling	\$5,500
Lewis B. Wilson III	\$5,400
Delmer R. Rucker	\$5,115
Blue Bonnet #20, TX	\$5,100
DAV Department Of Michigan Charitable Foundation	\$5,000
Ephraim & Wilma Shaw Roseman Foundation	\$5,000
Arnold B. Kapnick I	\$5,000
David Lenz.	\$5,000
Donna L. Meilahn	\$5,000
Douglas B. Schwark	\$5,000
Department of Idaho	\$5,000

Bronze Level

Donors achieve Bronze Level recognition for cumulative giving at various tiers ranging from \$5,000 to \$499,999. 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 section of the Donor Wall at DAV's headquarters, in the printed annual report and online at nsf.dav.org/donor-recognition/honor-roll-of-distinguished-donors.

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

The Foundation is proud to highlight both The Colonel Robert G. Moreland Charitable Fund and Phoenix Chapter 1 in Arizona for meeting lifetime giving thresholds of \$107,884 and \$100,500, respectively, in 2024. They each earned their fourth bronze star.

BRONZE LEVEL HIGHLIGHTS

The Colonel Robert G. Moreland Charitable Fund



Phoenix #1, AZ





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

Silver Level

Donors achieve Silver Level recognition for cumulative giving at various tiers ranging from \$500,000 to \$999,999. 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 section of the Donor Wall at DAV's headquarters, in the printed annual report and online at nsf.dav.org/donor-recognition/honor-roll-of-distinguished-donors.

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.

This year, the Foundation is pleased to, once again, recognize Ernestine Schumann-Heink Chapter 2 in Kansas City, Missouri, which has displayed an overwhelming commitment to the Foundation since 1979. In 2019, the chapter became the first recipient of the Silver Level Star Award and has since earned additional stars at the \$650,000 and \$725,000 giving thresholds. The chapter earned its fourth star in 2024, with total lifetime donations exceeding \$847,000.

Chapter 2 Adjutant David Gerke said his chapter is fortunate to have the income to be able to give to the Foundation, and it's proud to do so to reflect the priority each member places on DAV's mission of taking care of veterans.

"It takes a special veteran to represent our brothers, sisters, survivors and families. Our benefits advocates are experts who put service above self. Those whose lives have been changed owe a debt of gratitude to the authentic patriots who support the Foundation's mission." -David Gerke

SILVER LEVEL HIGHLIGHT

Ernestine Schumann-Heink Chapter 2, MO





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
$\star \star$	\$650,000
$\star \star \star$	\$725,000
$\star \star \star \star$	\$800,000
$\star \star \star \star \star$	\$875,000

Levels of exceptional generosity continued

GOLD LEVEL HIGHLIGHT

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP







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 section of the Donor Wall at DAV's headquarters, in the printed annual report and online at nsf.dav.org/donor-recognition/ honor-roll-of-distinguished-donors. 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.

The Foundation is honored to highlight the Washington, D.C.-based law firm Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP. In 2013, the firm 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 lifetime contributions now exceeding \$3 million. This remarkable achievement earned the firm its third Gold Level award in 2024.

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. Thomas Sullivan, who is a counsel with the Veterans Pro Bono Assistance Program at Finnegan, said it's been a rewarding experience to not only help disabled veterans through the court system but also contribute to the work DAV does for veterans by donating the equal access to justice fees the firm collects to the Foundation.

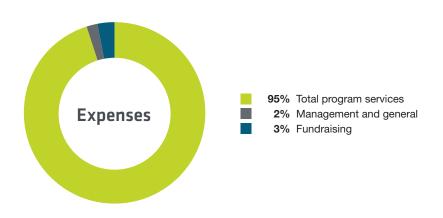
"It is with immense pride that Finnegan has topped the \$3 million mark in our ongoing support of the National Service Foundation over the last 16 years. Our relationship with DAV and its mission is very important to the firm, and we look forward to the future together."

-Thomas Sullivan

2024 financials

Support and Revenue

Support:	
Contributions-without donor restrictions	1,304,374
Contributions – donor purpose restricted the Columbia Trust	1,026,478
Bequests	2,602,373
Total support	\$4,933,225
Revenue:	
Interest and dividends income-net	4,865,289
Gain (loss) on sale of investment securities	2,901,378
Total revenue	\$7,766,667
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$12,699,892
Expenses	
Program services:	
Grants-Columbia Trust	1,158,587
Appropriations-DAV National Service Program and other service programs	5,031,958
Total program services	\$6,190,545
Supporting services:	
Management and general	139,945
Fundraising	189,893
Total supporting services	\$329,838
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,520,383
Excess of support and revenue over expenses	
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	10,946,556
Net Assets	
Change in total net assets	17,126,065
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$171,486,530
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$188,612,595



Complete financial statements have been audited and received an unqualified statement. A copy of the audited statement is available online at nsf.dav.org/resources.

Governing board

PRESIDENT Andrew H. Marshall Florida

VICE PRESIDENT Barry A. Jesinoski Kentucky

SECRETARY/TREASURER Joseph W. Johnston Florida

ADMINISTRATOR Bridgette G. Sorrell DAV National Headquarters Erlanger, Kentucky DIRECTORS Daniel Contreras California

Stephen E. Whitehead Minnesota

Michael T. Elmore Missouri

Delphine Metcalf-Foster California

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER **Nancy G. Espinosa** Utah

National Service Foundation

Nonprofit Status

The DAV National Service Foundation is a tax-exempt organization, and all contributions made to it are taxdeductible. 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).



DAV NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION 860 Dolwick Drive Erlanger, KY 41018 877-426-2838, press 6

nsf.dav.org

This report is available online at nsf.dav.org/resources.