

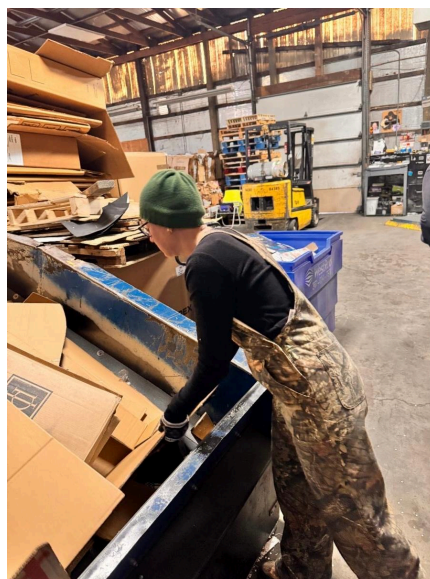


Message from the Commander

Welcome to the very first DAV Chapter 28 newsletter.

As chapter leadership, we're proud to launch this new way to stay connected with our members, volunteers, and community. Our mission remains simple and strong: ensuring veterans and their families receive the support, advocacy, and respect they have earned. This newsletter is one more way we keep that promise—together.

Rex Ritchie
Commander, DAV Chapter 28



Annual DAV Christmas Party December 13th, 2025

DAV Chapter 28 welcomed members and guests to its annual Christmas Party in December, celebrating the season with fellowship, gratitude, and community.

The well-attended event included food, giveaways, and an opportunity to recognize the commitment of those who support veterans year-round. The evening highlighted the chapter's dedication to serving veterans and strengthening community connections.

Recycling for a Cause: Community Backs DAV

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 28 held a successful cardboard recycling fundraiser on Christmas Eve, collecting more than six tons of cardboard through the combined efforts of dedicated community partners, DAV members, and DAV Auxiliary members.

The fundraiser highlighted strong community support and teamwork while helping advance the chapter's ongoing mission to serve veterans and their families throughout the region.

Honoring Service as America Approaches Its 250th Anniversary

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, the nation reflects on two and a half centuries of freedom, sacrifice, and service. From the founding of the republic to today's all-volunteer force, veterans have stood at the forefront of defending the principles on which the country was built.

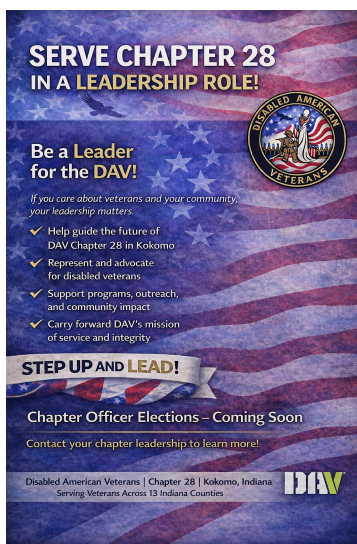
For organizations like the Disabled American Veterans, America's 250th anniversary is more than a celebration—it is a reminder of the ongoing responsibility to care for those who have served. Honoring this milestone means ensuring veterans receive the benefits, recognition, and support they have earned, not just in words, but through action.

As the country looks toward this historic moment, DAV continues its mission to keep America's promises to veterans and their families, ensuring that service and sacrifice are never forgotten.



DAV Chapter 28 Honoring America's 250th

As America marks its 250th anniversary, DAV Chapter 28 is renewing its commitment to serving local veterans and their families. Throughout the year, the chapter will continue fundraising efforts that directly support veterans in our community while preparing for new community events planned for the spring and summer. These activities reflect DAV Chapter 28's dedication to honoring service not only through remembrance, but through meaningful action.



DAV Chapter 28 Seeks Future Leaders

DAV Chapter 28 is seeking members interested in leadership as officer roles are realigned to support growth and shared responsibility. Interested members may submit a leadership application to Senior Vice Commander Terry Baumfalk.

DAV Chapter 28 Aligns Elections With State and National Model

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 28 has begun its annual chapter election process this January at the direction of Commander Rex Ritchie.

In response to the chapter's expanded service area, continued growth, and increased mission responsibilities, Senior Vice Commander Terry Baumfalk established a Nominations and Elections Committee to oversee the process.

The committee-based approach aligns Chapter 28's elections with the models used at both the DAV Department and National levels, ensuring transparency, consistency, and strong governance as the chapter continues serving veterans and their families across the region.



Modernizing Veterans Benefits for America's 250th

As the nation marks America's 250th birthday, the Disabled American Veterans is urging Congress to modernize veterans' benefits by ending the outdated practice that prevents some disabled veterans from receiving both their full military retirement pay and VA disability compensation—something DAV has long described as unfair.

DAV continues to champion bipartisan legislation known as the Major Richard Star Act, which would eliminate the current offset and



Indiana Senate Bill 136 Aims to Protect Veterans Seeking Benefits

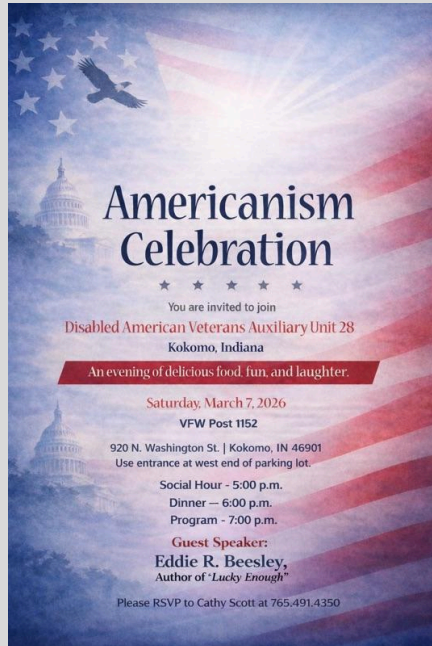
Disabled American Veterans is closely monitoring Indiana Senate Bill 136, legislation designed to strengthen protections for veterans seeking assistance with VA benefits and compensation claims. The bill addresses concerns over third-party companies charging excessive or misleading fees to veterans for benefits help that is often available at no cost through accredited service officers.

If passed, Senate Bill 136 would help ensure veterans are protected

allow eligible veterans to receive both benefits without reduction. The bill has been introduced in the 119th Congress and is currently being considered by congressional committees, though it has not yet been scheduled for a floor vote.

The effort reflects a broader push among veterans' organizations and lawmakers to update federal policy so that those who served are fully supported as the country celebrates 250 years of independence and service.

from predatory practices while preserving access to trusted, accredited assistance. DAV supports efforts that safeguard veterans' earned benefits and promote transparency, accountability, and fairness for Hoosier veterans and their families.



Americanism Celebration Honors Patriotism and Service

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 28 invites members and the community to an Americanism Celebration honoring patriotism, service, and shared values. The event will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at VFW Post 1152 in Kokomo.

The evening will feature fellowship, good food, and an engaging program celebrating American ideals. Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., with the program starting at 7:00 p.m. The featured guest speaker will be Eddie R. Beesley, author of *Lucky Enough*, who will share reflections aligned with the spirit of the celebration.



Volunteerism at the Heart of DAV Chapter 28

Volunteerism is a vital part of how Disabled American Veterans Chapter 28 serves local veterans, and one of our most consistent opportunities to help is our weekly cardboard recycling fundraiser held at KCS LLC.

This ongoing fundraiser relies on volunteers to help collect, break down, and process cardboard, turning recycled materials into meaningful financial support for veterans and their families in our community. Just as important, it provides a simple, hands-on way for people to give back.

Volunteers do not need to be DAV or DAV Auxiliary members to participate. We welcome community members of all backgrounds—students, families, civic groups, and individuals—who want to support veterans through service. Whether you can help occasionally or on a

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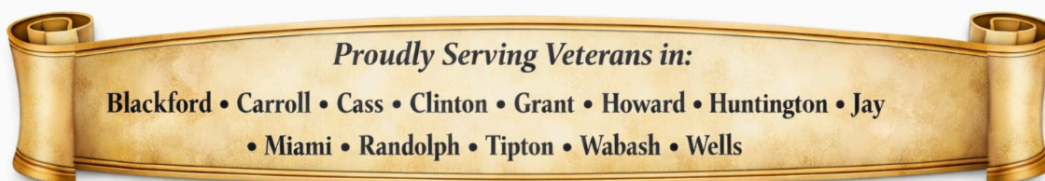
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regular basis, your time makes a real difference.

DAV Chapter 28 is proud to offer volunteer opportunities that are open, inclusive, and impactful. If you're looking for a way to serve veterans locally, we invite you to join us and be part of the mission.





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