

## Affiliation Guide

### DAV

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense and is dedicated to one, single purpose — building better lives for all of our nation's veterans and their families.

All DAV assistance is free and includes, among other services: (1) professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service, (2) veteran transportation for medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and (3) making donations of time and money to fulfill needs at the VA or other veteran support groups.

We commend you for volunteering to help our veterans and hope that you affiliate with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to help us continue our mission.

The DAV National website: <http://www.dav.org/>

Local DAV Chapter 17 website:

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/sc/17/default.aspx>

Nationally, the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program honors young volunteers who are dedicated to serving veterans. The top scholarship is \$20,000, second is \$15,000, third is \$10,000, fourth is two at \$7,500 each, and fifth is three scholarships at \$5,000 each. Scholarships can be awarded to any volunteer who is age 21 or younger and has volunteered for a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center during the previous calendar year. All volunteer hours must be credited to the Disabled American Veterans.

Local Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17 annually awards scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to eligible high school seniors of Dorchester District Two and Berkeley County. Any child or grandchild of a living member of the DAV is eligible.

More information about the scholarships can be found at the respective web site.

## MARINE CORP LEAGUE

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

Website: <http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/>

Marine Corps League National Scholarship available in  
2014: [http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/index.php?module=ContentExpress  
&func=display&ceid=75](http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/index.php?module=ContentExpress&func=display&ceid=75)

The Marine Corps League and Aux, also contributes to the “James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship”

## **BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

Blinded Veterans Association work to promote the welfare of blinded veterans so that, notwithstanding their disabilities, they may take their rightful place in the community and work with their fellow citizens toward the creation of a peaceful world, to preserve and strengthen a spirit of fellowship among blinded veterans so that they may give mutual aid and assistance to one another, and to maintain and extend the institution of American freedom and encourage loyalty to the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the states in which they reside.

### **Field Service Program**

BVA employs seven full-time staff members as National Field Service Officers strategically placed in different geographical areas throughout the United States. Their goal is to locate and assist blinded veterans in overcoming the challenges inherent in sight loss. Since all of the Service Officers are legally blind veterans themselves, they can be effective role models in demonstrating that fellow veterans can take charge of their lives. National Field Service Officers are responsible for linking veterans with local services, assuring that the newly blinded take advantage of VA Blind Rehabilitation Services, and assisting them with VA claims when necessary. When blinded veterans are ready to return to the workforce, BVA National Field Service Officers can assist them with resources for employment training and placement.

### **Kathern F. Gruber Scholarship and Thomas H. Miller Awards**

Spouses, dependent children, and grandchildren of blinded veterans are eligible for the annual Kathern F. Gruber Scholarship and Thomas H. Miller Awards to assist them with their higher education tuition. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit through an application process that is evaluated by a committee. Gruber and Miller scholarships are for one year only but recipients can re-apply and receive the award up to four times. The blinded veteran family member is not required to be a BVA member for the spouse or child to receive a scholarship. Qualifications for both programs are the same except for an added emphasis on music and fine arts for the Miller award.

## UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

We are a 100 plus year old lineage, heritage, service organization which emphasizes commitments to the community and to veterans especially. We provide donations and time to Wounded Warriors, returning units, deployed troops, state veterans nursing homes, and VAMCs across the country. UDC currently has VAVS Committee members in approximately 33 VAMCs, including the Charleston VAMC. We would be proud to have any unaffiliated volunteer provide hours in our organization's name. Please visit our website at <http://www.hqudc.org/>. UDC offers 36 undergraduate and 7 graduate level scholarships at the General (national) level and many more on the state level. We monetarily support the Parke Scholarship which provides scholarships for VA youth volunteers.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILARY

The American Legion Auxiliary, in the spirit of *Service, Not Self*, honors the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. We award scholarships, provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy, and provide meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities.

Our website is: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/>

We offer the **Children of Warriors** scholarship for daughters, sons, grandsons, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, and great-grandsons of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion. These scholarships are awarded to 15 students annually who excel in academics and volunteer in their communities.

## PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members - veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

Website information: [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)

The PVA Educational Scholarship Program was founded in 1986, since that time, we have awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant must be either a Paralyzed Veterans member, the spouse of a Paralyzed Veterans member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support.
- Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.
- Applicant must be accepted and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited US college or university.
- Previous award recipients may apply.