

VAVS

Department of Veterans Affairs
Voluntary Service
National Advisory Committee

"Dedicated to Voluntary Service to the Nation's Veterans"

Service Member Organizations

American Ex-Prisoners of War
America Gold Star Mothers
The American Legion
American Legion Auxiliary
American Red Cross
AMVETS
AMVETS Auxiliary
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
Blinded Veterans Association
Disabled American Veterans
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
Forty and Eight
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
Knights of Columbus
Korean War Veterans Association
Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.
Marine Corps League
Marine Corps League Auxiliary
Masonic Service Association of North America
Military Order of the Cootie
Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary
Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.
Military Women Across The Nation (MWAN)
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
National Society Sons of the American Revolution
Paralyzed Veterans of America
The Salvation Army
Sons of the American Legion
United Daughters of the Confederacy
United Veterans Services
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Associate Service Member Organizations

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
Catholic War Veterans
Corporation for National and Community Service
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, (1861-1865)
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association
Ladies Auxiliary to the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.
National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century
Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.
Soldiers' Angels
United Auto Workers

Donor Member Organizations

Air Compassion for Veterans
Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL), Inc.
Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project
The Silver Star Families of America

Associate Donor Member Organizations

Honorary Member

Catholic War Veterans Ladies' Auxiliary
Sons of AMVETS
I.B.P.O. Elks of the World, Inc.
Women Marines Association
Women's Army Corps Veterans Association

To: VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC)
Members

CC: Director Voluntary Service Office (10B2A)

From: Ron Rolfes, VAVS NAC Executive Committee Chairperson

Date: September 2, 2015

Subj: VAVS NAC Volunteer of the Year

This memorandum serves as the call for nominations for VAVS NAC Volunteer of the Year awards. Nominations are accepted for two awards (1 male and 1 female), which will be presented during our 2016 VAVS National Advisory Committee meeting.

Please read the enclosed award criteria for nominating volunteers whose achievements meet the necessary requirements. Also enclosed is the nomination support form to be completed as part of the nomination preparation process. Please distribute these requirements to your Lodge, Post, or Chapter so they may submit their candidates to you.

Your organization should select your two candidates (1 male and 1 female) and send them with their nomination letters to:

E-Mail: VHACO10B2AStaff@va.gov.

Or,

VACO Voluntary Service Office (10B2A)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Organizations that set earlier deadlines in order to have time to judge their nominees should communicate the date of their deadline to the VAVS VACO and field staff to ensure timely receipt of nominations or supporting documentation.

All nominations must be submitted by December 31st each year. Nominations postmarked after December 31, 2015, will not be considered.



VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year

This Award Program permits the NAC to honor members who have given extraordinary service to our Nation's Veterans.

The Executive Committee of the NAC coordinates this program. The Executive Committee (EC) works closely with the NAC and a selection committee established for reviewing nominations.

Nominees for this award must participate in established VAVS assignments, serve as an RS volunteer and meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Volunteer with hospitalized Veterans;
- 2) Volunteer with Veterans at Outpatient Clinics;
- 3) Volunteer with Veterans in Community Living Centers;
- 4) Volunteer with Homeless Veterans;
- 5) Volunteer with Veterans and Veterans groups in the community;
- 6) Host Veterans' functions in the Lodge, Post, Chapter, i.e. Memorial Day, July 4th and Veterans Day observances, etc. that qualify as a VAVS assignment;
- 7) Host Veterans' functions outside the Lodge, Post Chapter i.e., fishing trips, day at the races, sporting events, etc. that qualify as a VAVS assignment;
- 8) Visit Veterans confined to their homes as a VAVS assignment;
- 9) Adopt-A-Veteran.

Those eligible for the award are: NAC member organizations with emphasis on VAVS Representatives, Deputy Representatives, members who visit the VA Medical Centers, Community Living Centers, etc. or work at Lodge, Post Chapter veteran functions either within or outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter. **Nominees must participate in established VAVS assignments and serve as an RS volunteer.**

There will be two recipients (1 male and 1 female) per year.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN NARRATIVE FORMAT WITH NAME AND NAC ORGANIZATION IN THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER.

The narrative is not to exceed 500 words and must be submitted to the EC Chairman by December 31st of each year on organization letterhead. Letters of recommendation may be submitted with the narrative. VA Staff making recommendations for this award must send the nomination to the National Representative of the organizations to which the nominee is a member for preliminary judging. Failure to do so will invalidate the nomination.

The Selection Committee with the assistance of the EC will select the recipient. The awardees will be presented with a suitably inscribed plaque at the annual meeting of the NAC.

NAC Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Support Form

Name of Volunteer _____ Male _____ Female _____ Year _____

Organization _____ VA Facility _____

Nomination Submitted by _____ Date Prepared _____

Purpose: This form should be completed as part of the preparations for submitting a nomination for any volunteer who is being considered for the NAC Volunteer of the Year Award. This award recognizes volunteers who have given extraordinary service to our nation's veterans. Two award recipients (one male and one female) are selected each year by the Executive Committee of the VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee (NAC).

Nomination Procedure: The required format for nomination submissions is letter style, between 300-500 words. It is recommended that a completed copy of this form be attached to the nomination letter as a supporting document. Letters of support from local VA facilities are also allowed to accompany each submission. All local nominations must be submitted to the affiliated volunteer's National VAVS Representative who will select the organization's candidate to be forwarded to the VA Voluntary Service Office on the national letterhead of the nominating organization.

Criteria: Nominees for this award must participate in established VAVS assignments, serve as a regularly scheduled volunteer and meet one of the criteria listed below. To assist in development of the formal nomination letter, complete each of the sections below, as applicable for the potential nominee, making sure to clearly distinguish between current volunteer activities and past volunteer activities.

Criterion	Description of Volunteer Activities in Year of Nomination (Current)*	Description of Volunteer Activities in all preceding years*
a. Volunteer with hospitalized Veterans.		
b. Volunteer with Veterans at outpatient clinics.		
c. Volunteer with Veterans in community living centers.		

*Use additional sheets if necessary

NAC Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Support Form

Criterion	Description of Volunteer Activities in Year of Nomination (Current)*	Description of Volunteer Activities in all preceding years*
d. Volunteer with homeless Veterans.		
e. Volunteer with Veterans and veterans groups in the community.		
f. Host Veterans' functions outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter, e.g., Memorial Day, July 4 th .		
g. Veterans Day observances, etc., that qualify as a VAVS assignment.		
h. Host veterans' functions outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter, e.g., fishing trips, day at the races, sporting events, etc., that qualify as a VAVS assignment.		
i. Visit Veterans confined to their homes as a VAVS assignment.		
Criterion	Description of Volunteer Activities in Year of Nomination (Current)*	Description of Volunteer Activities in all preceding years*

*Use additional sheets if necessary

NAC Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Support Form

j. Adopt-A-Veteran.		
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Additional Considerations	Description of Volunteer Activities in Year of Nomination (Current)	Description of Volunteer Activities in all preceding years
<p>Other factors involving VAVS assignments the nominator believes are noteworthy.</p>		