



Auxiliary

Making a Difference

Biographical Information

William Craig Johniken
National Commander
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary



William Craig Johniken was elected National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary at the 2017 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Craig is the first male to serve in this capacity since the inception of the organization in 1922.

Mr. Johniken is eligible for membership through his wife, Teresa, a service-connected disabled veteran and DAV member since 1995, and his son, Tim, also a service-connected veteran.

A native of Texas, Craig began his career at the Texas Department of Transportation in 1979, and retired after 30 years of service in 2009. He is currently a sales representative for Roy Bing Supply, a position that has provided opportunities to communicate bingo fund raising efforts to many DAV Chapters and Units.

Craig's interest and involvement in DAV Auxiliary activities began long before he was eligible to join the organization. Volunteering at DAV and Auxiliary functions with event set-up, cooking, and cleaning afforded him the opportunity to participate in events with his wife and family. As time went on, the DAV and Auxiliary became a second family and sparked great interest in the mission of the organizations. When DAV Auxiliary membership eligibility was changed in 2005 to welcome male family members, Craig did not hesitate to join and was one of the first to do so!

Mr. Johniken served as a Unit Commander for three years, and was the 2011-2012 Auxiliary State Commander of the State Department of Texas. Nationally, Mr. Johniken was appointed as a member of the original strategic planning core committee formed in 2009, chairing the membership sub-committee. He also served on the Standard Operating Policies sub-committee. In 2012, he was elected to the office of National 4th Jr. Vice Commander and advanced through the chairs to his current position as National Commander.

"I'm honored to serve in this capacity and will continue to promote awareness of the DAV Auxiliary and its mission as well as emphasize the importance of supporting caregiver initiatives and volunteerism."

Mr. and Mrs. Johniken married in 1985 and have one daughter, Ashley Clark, their son, Tim Johniken, and three grandchildren: Will, Emma, and Ashton Johniken, all members of the DAV Auxiliary. Mr. and Mrs. Johniken reside in Lufkin, Texas.