



Auxiliary

Making a Difference

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Diane J. Franz

National Commander

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary



Diane J. Franz was elected National Commander at the DAV Auxiliary's 2019 National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Ms. Franz joined the DAV Auxiliary as a senior life member in 1995. Her membership in the DAVA began as a Junior member in Erie, PA, through her father, who was 100% disabled. Her father was a Corporal in the US Army and stationed in Washington, DC, attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an MP. His disability was a result of meeting that took place in Canada. Both her parents were very active in the DAV and DAVA, both holding offices, both elected and appointed. Diane rejoined the DAVA after moving to Orlando.

She is a life member in Central Florida Unit 16. She has been an active member, serving as Unit Adjutant/Treasurer, Chaplain, Senior Vice, Commander, SEC, Alternate SEC, and Chairman of Membership, Ways and Means, VAVS, and Legislative. She is presently Unit Treasurer. She volunteers for the local Chapter for their fundraisers and special projects. She is also the coordinator of the monthly Bingo/birthday parties at the VA CLC at Lake Nona. At the State level, she has served as the 3rd, 2nd, & 1st Jr. Vice, Sr. Vice, Commander, Assistant State Adjutant, Membership, Mae Holmes, Community Service, SSR, Legislative Chairs, and is presently the VAVS Representative at the Orlando VA, State Adjutant, and Advisor to State Commander. And at the National level, she has served on the State History Book, Legislative, Community Service, Nominating, and Mae Holmes Committees, and Americanism, Legislative, Membership, and Mae Holmes Chairman. She also served as District 7 Alternate NEC 2008-2009 & 2010-2011; NEC 2011-2013, National Finance Committee 2011-2013.

Diane was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, the youngest of 3 girls. Attend parochial schools until mid-sophomore year. In the summer of her junior year of high school, she participated in the research project conducted by Gannon University titled "Lake Erie Pollution and Plankton Study" and continued on weekends during the fall semester. She graduated from Fairview High School and attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and majored in Nursing, with a minor in Med-Tech.

She married her late husband Paul in the fall of 1972. They have one son, Mark Ryan and his wife Sharon. She has 2 grandsons, Owen and Wyatt who became Junior members the day were born.

Diane volunteered with their son's school activities through graduating College. She was also involved in Mark's scouting activities, advancing to a Commissioner in the Oneida County Council. After the family was transferred to Orlando, she became actively involved in the NJROTC at Cypress Creek High School. She is still involved with CCHS-NJROTC as coordinator of the Annual Awards given at the Military Ball since 1995. She enjoys going to all the parks in Orlando with Mark, Sharon, Owen, and Wyatt; she is an avid reader, especially history; learning new skills for the computer; and taking care of her Lab/German Short Hair Pointer rescue dog, Heidi.