

2017 King and Tomah Days Big Success

DAV/DAVA 69th Annual King Day was held on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The enthusiasm of DAV and DAV Auxiliary members brought sunshine and warmth to the lives of King Veterans Home residents despite the cool weather.

Activities commenced at 10:00 am with an oldies Karaoke show. At 11:00 am Dinner in the Park was served. The Neenah Community Band played from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. The Introduction of the new DAV and DAV Auxiliary Officers followed.

The Master of Ceremonies was Don McGowan, the DAV VAVS Representative at King. Attendees were welcomed by Sandra Schoen, Executive Director of Olson Hall located at the King Veterans Home. Remarks were made by Mike Hert, DAV State Junior Vice Commander and DAV Auxiliary State Commander Jean Berna.

Door Prizes worth \$1000 were distributed to attendees and residents. DAV and DAV Auxiliary members visited the residents of King who are non-ambulatory, bringing them gifts and spending time with them.

Organizers of the event were Don McGowan; Rose Williams, DAV Auxiliary VAVS Representative; and the King Day Committee.

One of the event organizers, Rose Williams said, “It is always great for the Auxiliary to support and participate on King Day and all events at King that support veterans.”

She concluded, “Next year will be the 70th DAV/DAVA King Day. We are exploring new ideas to make it an extra special event and anticipate a huge turnout by DAV and DAV Auxiliary member to help celebrate this historic milestone.”

Put it in your planner – next year’s DAV/DAVA King Day will be June 24, 2018.

Previously on June 17, 2017 the 3rd Annual DAV Day at Tomah VA was held. The event was organized by Rob Hilliard, DAV VAVS Representative at Tomah VA with help from his Deputy Curtis Gibeaut and numerous volunteers.

The DAV volunteers were led by DAV Wisconsin Commander Lenny Shier and his grandchildren, Katie and James Rabe. DAV volunteers acted as escorts and greeters with the Tomah VA residents and their attending family members.

Music for the occasion was provided Kountry Knights.

Representing Tomah VA at the event was Jessica Hennessy, Assistant to the Medical Center Director, who joined the DAV volunteers by interacting with the Tomah VA residents and their attending family members.

The event's main organizer, Rob Hilliard stated, "Weather great! Turnout great! Good time was had by all. Family members really liked the interaction done by DAV volunteers and Jessica at the tables. Everyone left with a feeling of appreciation – volunteers, residents and their family members."

The event once again showed "Service is DAV's focus."

King Day Photos



(L-R) Rose Williams, DAV Auxiliary State Judge Advocate; Patty Davis, State Auxiliary Adjutant; Jean Berna, State Auxiliary Commander; Linda Gresbach, State Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander.



Dancing up a storm are Julie Hert and George Gilles. George is District 3 Commander and a long time DAV Chapter 17 member while Julie is DAV Auxiliary Unit 17 Commander.

Tomah VA Day Photos



DAV State Commander Lenny Shier with Curtis Gibeaut, Deputy DAV VAVS Representative and grandchildren, James and Katie Rabe.



Commander Lenny Shier and volunteer Ervin Mulkey-- High Five for job well done! Mulkey will be a VA Summer Games participant.



James Rabe, grandson of Commander Lenny Shier, helping carry a Tomah resident's plate to his table.



Rob Hilliard, DAV VAVS Representative with Jessica Hennessey, Assistant to the Medical Center Director. Jessica was official Representative for Tomah VA at the picnic and joined DAV volunteers in greeting Tomah VA residents and attending family member at their tables.

(King Day photos contributed by Rose Williams, DAVA State Judge Advocate and Mike Hert, DAV State Junior Vice Commander; Tomah VA Day photos contributed by Lenny Shier, DAV State Commander and Rob Hilliard, DAV VAVS Representative at Tomah VA.