



David L. Schnair Award

The David L. Schnair Award recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions of committed volunteers. BVA established the award in 1994 in memory and in honor of World War II veteran David Schnair, a member of the BVA Board of Directors and a Volunteer National Service Officer for nearly five decades.

Although he was not a founding member of the organization, David Schnair pioneered BVA's efforts beginning in the 1950s. He was both a longtime Director of District 1 and a dedicated volunteer of the New York Regional Group in the Manhattan VA Regional Office. His efforts greatly contributed to the success of what was formerly known as the Association's Field Service Program. His commitment has been recognized by BVA and other organizations.

A true role model, David was known for his passion for assisting blinded veterans to obtain the benefits they had earned through their military service. For that reason, he was a wealth of knowledge and information for those needing his expertise. He was well connected in both the veteran and blindness communities, thus enhancing his effectiveness in serving blinded veterans. He was recognized for his outstanding work by VA, other organizations serving the blind, and the State of New York.

The criteria for nominating candidates for the David L. Schnair Award consist of the following:

- The candidate must be a BVA member or a member of the BVA Auxiliary with at least one year of consistent and outstanding service as a BVA volunteer.
- The candidate must understand the VA system.
- The candidate must be an asset to the BVA volunteer program and blinded veterans.
- The candidate must be affiliated with VA Voluntary Services.
- The candidate must demonstrate a presence in community activities and successfully represent BVA as a spokesperson.
- The candidate must demonstrate consistency in submitting monthly reports.

Chiefs of Volunteer Services, Visual Impairment Service Team Coordinators, District Directors, Regional Group Presidents, and fellow ambassadors may nominate individuals for the Schnair Award with a letter highlighting their volunteer service and its results. The letter should also include the approximate total number of VA volunteer lifetime hours the candidate has logged.

Please submit the letters, postmarked on or before the final Friday in April, to:

Blinded Veterans Association
Attn: National Service Director, Veterans Benefits & Policy
1101 King Street, Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Or online [here](#).

The National Service Director, Benefits & Policy, will review the nominations and consult with candidates' Regional Group Presidents prior to submission to the panel for final selection.

The recipient of the David L. Schnair Award receives a complimentary registration to the national convention at which the recognition is presented as well as a modest stipend donated by the New York Regional Group.