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Monthly Newsletter  
January 2020

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
Bemidji, MN 56619



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**DAV Headquarters at**  
**5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN**  
**Monday, January 20th at 6pm**



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### CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER:	Mike Zimmerman - (218) 556-4633
SENIOR VICE:	Joe Vene - (218) 556-5478
JUNIOR VICE:	Gene Schwantes
ADJUTANT:	David Myers
SERVICE OFFICERS:	Scotty Allison
TREASURER:	Scotty Allison
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
CHAPLAIN (ALT.):	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Mike Gutz, Tom Annonson

### ATTENTION CHAPTER #7 MEMBERS!

The General membership meetings are now being  
"Called to Order" at 1800 Hrs. (6 P.M.)  
instead of 1900 Hrs. (7 P.M.).

### CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

- Jan 20th - Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 20th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
- Feb 14th - Valentine's Day
- Feb 17th - President's Day
- Feb 17th - Election of Chapter Officers at the General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
- Feb 22nd-26th DAV Nation Mid-Winter Conference
- Mar 3rd - Super Tuesday (primary elections and caucuses)
- Mar 16th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
- Apr 13th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
- Apr 20th - Veterans on the Hill Day held at the Capitol in St Paul, MN



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## CHAPTER 7 CHRISTMAS PARTY



The social hour kicked off at 4:30 with delicious appetizers and we eventually had 88 people attend the Christmas party this year. At 5:30 Commander Zimmerman called the General meeting to order and promptly called for a motion to suspend all further business for the rest of the evening at which point our duo of Andy and Randy made the motion and second. As expected, it passed unanimously!

Commander Zimmerman opened the program by welcoming everyone and introduced our special guests Scott & Nancy Berndt who are the State Commanders for the Department and Auxiliary. So far, in the history of the Minnesota Department of the DAV, they are only the second husband and wife team to hold these positions during the same term.

Then the Northland Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Posted the Colors and did the presentation of the POW/MIA table after which Commander Zimmerman presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation and a donation of \$250 for their willingness to take the time to participate as the Color / Honor Guard for many of the Veteran events in and around our community.

Mike made a few comments and thanked everyone for coming. He had Chaplain Gutz offer up a prayer for the meal and everyone enjoyed their chosen roast beef, chicken, or vegetable lasagna dinner.

After the meal, Commander Zimmerman recognized several people who are outstanding volunteers for the Chapter with plaques and certificates.

A variety of door prizes that were donated by some of our local merchants and several individuals were given away to the delight of the attendees.

A special thank you to Ginger Edwards and the Auxiliary team that helped put together this event and beautifully decorated the tables.

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY

On December 14th at 1100 hours the Northland Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) hosted the laying of wreaths at the Greenwood Cemetery in conjunction with the Nationwide Wreaths Across America program that is timed to coincide with the Wreath laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington Virginia that starts at 1200 hours (EST). The Colors were posted, and Lt John Schrader of the CAP gave a prepared speech explaining the purpose and goals of the Wreaths Across America Ceremony followed by a brief welcome from Joe Vene who is a well know local Veteran. At this point the volunteers proceeded to march into place and present the individual wreaths for each branch of the service and one for the first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement. The Ceremony was concluded with the playing of Taps.



# COMMANDERS CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

Happy New Year!!!!

I hope that everyone had a Happy and Safe Holiday season.

It's a new year and now our membership prices have gone up. Unless someone is over the age of 80, the cost of a lifetime membership will be \$300.

We met our membership goal for 2019 and I'm very pleased, hopefully we can do the same for 2020.

Nominations for next year's Officer and Executive Committee positions will begin at our January meeting so if you are interested please let one of the current officers know and we will get it to the Nomination Committee.

Our Chapter Christmas Party was very successful. We had 88 people attend. Next year we want to have an ugly sweater contest so think about it. DAV State Commander Scott Berndt and DAVA State Commander Nancy Berndt were present and had a very good time. We also presented some awards at the party:

Gary Wistrom received an award for helping Glenn Aagard when he had his heart attack.

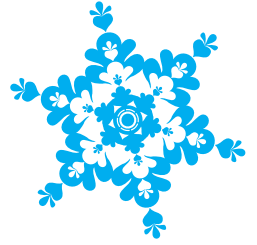
Jim Haffner received the 2019 DAV Chapter 7 Volunteer of the Year award

Some of our Tuesday morning clothing crew received Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding volunteer efforts.

The DAV Outdoors program has some upcoming Fishing trips planned. If you are interested, check the Dept. website and get signed up.

Sincerely,

Mike Zimmerman



## UPCOMING DAV MN OUTDOOR EVENTS

The Minnesota DAV Department's Outdoor program has scheduled their upcoming events and posted them on their website. Check them out at:

<https://davmn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/>



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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

May Christ the Lord bring you and your family the Joy of His presence and the security of His salvation (personal wholeness and wellbeing - peace) throughout this coming New Year!

'Knowing 'all His benefits, who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagles' Psalm 103: 2-5.

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, (or works together with those who love Him to bring about what is good) who have been called according to His purpose' Romans 8:28.

'May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace' Numbers 6:24-26.

Mike and Julie Gutz (218) 444-5015.

## SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN/ DEPENDENCY INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (SBP/DIC) OFFSET

On Tuesday, December 17, the United States Senate passed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with a vote of 86-8. This measure contains a provision that will eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset by January 2023. The bill now goes to the White House where the President is expected to sign it into law.

Currently, purchased SBP annuities are offset by the amount of any benefit payable under the VA DIC program. SBP is not a government gratuity benefit; rather, it is a type of insurance purchased out-of-pocket by military retirees for their survivors while DIC is a VA benefit intended to provide spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected condition some semblance of financial security.

Upon the retiree's death, the SBP annuity is paid monthly to eligible beneficiaries; however, if a surviving spouse is also entitled to DIC, the SBP benefit is reduced by the amount of the DIC benefit. When DIC benefits are payable but the monthly rate is equal to, or greater than, the monthly SBP payment amount, beneficiaries lose the entire SBP payment. Thousands of survivors of military retirees are adversely affected by this unfair offset between SBP and DIC benefits.

The bill will remove the offset incrementally by one-third in January 2021, a second third in January 2022, and the final third in January 2023, thereby allowing surviving spouses to receive both the purchased SBP annuities and their earned DIC benefits. The law will not be retroactive- therefore, recoupment of offsets from previous years will not be provided.



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# 2020 - BEMIDJI VAN - 2020 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

FREE RIDES

January							February							March							April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30							

May							June							July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2			1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4							1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

September							October							November							December							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	27	28	29	30	31											

**Free Rides To All Veterans and Caregiver (if needed)!**

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# COMMISSARY, MILITARY SERVICE EXCHANGE, AND MWR ACCESS IS BEING EXTENDED TO MORE VETERANS BEGINNING 1 JANUARY 2020!

According to the Department of Defense, starting Jan. 1, 2020, all service-connected Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can use commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

For more information regarding these privileges and access to military installations, visit:

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access>

Who is eligible Jan. 1, 2020?

1. Veterans:

- a. Purple Heart recipients
- b. former prisoners of war
- c. Veterans with 0-90% service-connected disability ratings
- d. For former service members who have not yet sought disability compensation from VA, visit: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/>
- e. Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are already eligible under existing DOD policy.

2. Caregivers:

- a. On Jan. 1, individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran under the PCAFC will be eligible for these privileges.
- b. For information about primary family caregivers in the PCAFC, visit: <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>

3. Required credentials for:

- a. Veterans:
  - i. On Jan. 1, Veterans eligible solely under this act who are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card must use this credential for in-person installation and privilege access.

The card must display the Veteran's eligibility status (i.e., PURPLE HEART, FORMER POW or SERVICE CONNECTED). Apply here:

<https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp>

- ii. Veterans eligible solely under this act who are not enrolled in or are not eligible to enroll in VA health care, or who are enrolled in VA health care, but do not possess a Veteran Health Identification Card will not have access to DoD and Coast Guard installations for in-person commissary, exchange, and MWR retail privileges, but will have full access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel.
- iii. Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are eligible for DoD credentials under DoD policy.

b. Caregivers:

- i. Eligible caregivers will receive an eligibility letter from VA's Office of Community Care.
- ii. If you are a primary family caregiver under the PCAFC and lose your eligibility letter, please call 1-877-733-7927 to request a replacement. Please allow two weeks for processing.

3. Find out more about military resale privileges.

- a. Army and Air Force Exchange Service @ <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/vets>
- b. Coast Guard Exchange @ <https://shopCGX.com>
- c. Defense Commissary Agency @ <https://www.commissaries.com/>
- d. Navy Exchange @ <https://www.mynavyexchange.com/>
- e. Marine Corps Exchange @ <http://www.mymcx.com/>
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## AUXILIARY COMMANDER' CORNER

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year!

It was nice to see a lot of you at the DAV Christmas party.

We delivered over 85 holiday bags to our area nursing homes for our veterans for Christmas. Thank you to all for helping make this possible.

Reminder, we will not have meetings in January and February, but hope to see you all at the meeting in March.

Remember to track your volunteer hours and bring to the meeting or call Linda Engesether to report them.

Have a safe winter.

Sara Gast.

## VETERANS ON THE HILL DAY

Just a quick heads up that the Veterans on the Hill day (VoH) will take place on the 20th of April at the Capitol in St Paul, MN. I know it is a bit of a ways off yet, so mark it on your calendars and plan to join us for the free bus trip down to this event. This is a great opportunity to talk with our representatives about issues and upcoming legislature affecting us as Veterans and our families.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the trip please contact Tom Annonson at (218) 251-3025 or [torgor@lightspeed.net](mailto:torgor@lightspeed.net).

We have a 55-passenger charter bus available for the trip and seating will fill up quickly, so sign up early to get your seat(s) reserved! More info on the bus schedule will be provided in the next couple of newsletters.

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