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Monthly Newsletter
January 2021

North Central MN Chapter #7
PO Box 564
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NEXT MEETING:

DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
*January Meeting Canceled
- Watch for February Updates -*



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JUDGE ADVOCATE:
SERGEANT AT ARMS:
OFFICER OF THE DAY:
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:
HISTORIAN:
EXEC. COMMITTEE:

Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4633
Darrel Baltzell
Jeff Meyer
David Myers - (218) 308-0841
David Myers, Scotty Allison
Scotty Allison - (218) 333-4178
Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
Jeri Harvey
Bruce Tiegen
Glenn Aagard
Joe Vene
Vacant
Bruce Tiegen, Mike Gutz, Andy Staudt,
Alternate Tom Annonson



CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Jan 1st - New Year's Day
Jan 18th - Martin Luther King Day
Feb 1st - Beginning of Black History Month
Feb 1st - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1830 Hours
(To Be Announced)
Feb 12th - Lincoln's Birthday
Feb 14th - Valentine's Day
Feb 15th - Presidents Day
Feb 15th - General membership meeting @ 1830 Hours
(To Be Announced)
Feb 16th - Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)
Feb 17th - Ash Wednesday
Feb 22nd - Washington's Birthday
Mar 14th - Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 17th - St. Patrick's Day
Mar 20th - Vernal (Spring) Equinox
Mar 27th - Passover begins
Mar 28th - Palm Sunday



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ATTENTION VETERANS

On December 16, 2020, the United States House of Representatives passed the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act* (H.R. 7105). This omnibus bill contains several provisions that have been long-standing legislative priorities for DAV. The legislation includes key provisions from the Deborah Sampson Act (S. 514/H.R. 3224), which will improve health care programs and services for women veterans and require VA to improve its policies to end harassment and sexual assault in VA facilities.

Other key provisions in the bill will: eliminate the 12-year delimiting date for disabled veterans (discharged after January 1, 2013) to receive counseling, training, and benefits under the VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment—VR&E program; require the VA to provide disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs) online; and lower the age a surviving spouse may remarry and still receive dependency indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits. Altogether, this bill is drawn from over two dozen veteran-related bills that were introduced during the 116th Congress. The bill has been sent to the President and is expected to be signed into law.

To review H.R. 7105 and its full list of provisions, please click here.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7105/actions?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.+7105%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=1>

DAV thanks Congress for passing this important legislation that will undoubtedly improve the lives of ill and injured veterans and we look forward to the President signing the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act* (H.R. 7105) into law.

We also appreciate DAV grassroots support and advocacy efforts over the past year responding to DAV CAN alerts (Commanders Action Network) and sharing legislative information in your newsletters and on social media posts. Thank you for your support of America's service-disabled veterans and their survivors.




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ATTENTION CHAPTER 7 MEMBERS

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

After talking to Josh Vrtacnik, assistant State Adjutant, the following have been voted on and agreed to by the executive committee of DAV Chapter 7 on the following date and times.

“Due to current circumstances, mainly Covid 19 and that voting must be done in person per our constitution and bylaws, and the recent elections on November 16, 2020, we are cancelling elections for 2021 and the current officers will remain in place thru 2021 until the elections in 2022, when new elections will be held. All current Officers at this time, have agreed to continue with their duties thru 2021. We also agreed that on a month-by-month basis we will decide on whether or not to hold our monthly executive and chapter meetings. At this time, we have canceled the meetings for January. Future monthly updates on meetings will be posted in the newsletter, so please pay attention.”

Voted on 12-15-20 by “name, time, and vote results:”

Mike Gutz, 2:20 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Darrel Baltzell, 2:30 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Bruce Tiegen, 2:35 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Jeff Meyers, 2:45 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Scotty Allison, 2:55 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Andy Staudt, 3:05 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Jeri Harvey, 3:15 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Tom Annonson, 3:30 pm, wait until Governor Waltz speaks on December 18 with new rules for both items.

Gene Schwantes, 1:30 pm, cancel elections and cancel meetings on a monthly basis.

Dave Myers was consulted with, regarding above actions at 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Schwantes
Commander



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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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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Fellow Veterans and Supporters,

I do hope that everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and will have a wonderful and Happy New Year for 2021. It is like anything has got to be better than 2020 and that hopefully all our lives can get back to what we knew as "normal".

As your new Commander, I appreciate the trust that you have placed in me and I will do my best to continue to earn that trust. I will make mistakes from time to time, but I hope that they are all minor and I will not have any problem with being called out on them so that they can be corrected in as timely a fashion as possible.

Per the DAV of MN Chapter Leaders & Officer Guide, page 7, the commander has a fiscal responsibility to:

- "ENSURE THE SAFEGUARDING of FUNDS, PROPERTIES and OTHER ASSETS AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED USE or LOSS".
- Ensure all disbursements of funds are properly approved in accordance with the chapter Bylaws.
- Comply with standards established by the National Executive Committee for audits of chapter establishments, organizations, programs, activities, and functions. These standards require chapters to be responsible for providing adequate audit coverage of their programs as an aid in determining whether funds have been applied efficiently, economically, effectively, and consistently with program objectives and underlying agreements.

These responsibilities I do not take lightly and I will do my best to uphold them.

The clothing program is moving along smoothly, at this point we are not getting shut down and we can continue as we normally have been. We continue to load out on Tuesday mornings, if you feel comfortable, during these times, and would like to work for your chapter's benefit with some young at heart folks, we will welcome you, we start at 8 am.

The medical equipment program is still going strong, we are continuing to hand out gently used medical equipment as well as receive donations. If you or someone you know has a need, please let us know.

With guidance from the state office and the recommendation of the chapter executive committee, due to COVID-19 virus, we are canceling the January meetings and for the time being future monthly meetings will be decided on a month-by-month basis, watch the newsletter for meeting updates. Also due to the COVID-19 virus and having just installed new officers in November, we will not be holding new elections in 2021, the current officers will stay in place until elections in 2022 as voting must be done in person.

This will probably be the longest "Commander's Corner" that you will ever see from me. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns. I do hope that we can all stay free of the COVID-19 virus and stay healthy thru the long cold winter months.

Best Wishes to All,
Gene Schwantes

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The beginning of a new year and the conclusion of last year. Time continues to march forward. The continuance of time made up of events - past, current and future, all brings to mind the beautiful things of life, special moments to remember, kindness of others as well as prophecies of hope. Prophecies of hope given by God, through His prophets in the Tanakh (Jewish Bible) - Old Testament - had a context and message for the people at that time and under their culture, spanning thousands of years. One example is when Jesus was using the Psalms to explain an issue to the Pharisees (John 10:33-42). Yet, many prophecies at the same time have a dual meaning, application, and are inspired towards The Messiah - Jesus Christ, which is the subject of our article (John 10:35, II Timothy 3:16-17, I Corinthians 2:14-16, II Peter 1:21, Hebrews 4:12).

It is wonderful the way God molds our lives and places each of us in the circumstances we now live through a variety of ways that includes events in the past, present and future. Some of these circumstances are situations we never asked for, or permitted by God, or blessings from God through our prayers, or tasks assigned to us from God. Some examples are the following; families, year and countries we are born into, consequences of our bad decisions - "one can only imagine" - military careers that God bless us with, most importantly the healing God provides for all of us as we go through the harshness and realities of life (both past and present). Thank goodness we have a loving and kind God who allows us to do wrong but is so kind to forgive us when we recognize we messed up. God allows us to be honest with Him when we truly turn our lives over to Him (David and Nathan - II Samuel Chapters 11-12, Psalm 51).

In like manner, Jesus Christ was born in a specific family, in a country under the influence of an empire, with a specific assignment from God - The Father, lives a wonderfully bless life helping others, but faces harsh realities. Jesus under the direction of the Holy Spirit was tempted by Satan in every conceivable hurtful manner. Jesus knew he would die for sins He never committed, because His assignment from God was to save us from our sins. Jesus knew the prophecies of The Tanakh as applied to Him and the way He would experience each of these prophecies, even the manner in which He would die. This is nothing short of a tremendous burden all through His life, (John 18:38). Just something as simple as being born created the conditions for the death of so many babies, yet to be resurrected and to sit with God on His right hand is beyond wonderful. Here are some of the prophecies in the Tanakh, events in the scriptures - "law of Moses, prophets and psalms" - that had to be completed by Jesus (Luke 24:44-48).

Prophecy	Completion	Pertains to Christ
• Isaiah 7:14	born of a virgin (maiden)	Luke 1:26-31
• Jeremiah 31:13	birth cause children to die	Matthew 2:16-18
• Hosea 11:1	went to Egypt	Matthew 2:16-18
• Psalm 2:7	declared "Son of God"	Matthew 3:17
• Psalm 61:1	heals the brokenhearted	Luke 4:18
• Deuteronomy 18:15	prophet raised up by God	Acts 3:20-22
• Isaiah 53:3	rejected and grieved	Luke 23:13-25
• Zechariah 12:10	Jesus pierced; people grieve	John 20:27/Acts 2:37
• Psalm 110:4	priest order-Melchizedek	Hebrews 5
• Psalm 68:18	resurrect / ascension to God	Mark 16:19

We hope these articles are helpful and a source of encouragement to you.

Mike and Julie Gutz



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ATTENTION VAN USERS

The Fargo VA has indefinitely suspended the use of the DAV van for transporting patients to and from the Medical Center due to the Covid19 virus.

We will post the information and schedule here when they let us know the van service will be able to resume transporting patients again.

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