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Monthly Newsletter
February 2021

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

DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Meetings Canceled thru February
- Watch for Updates -



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SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Mike Gutz, Andy Staudt, Alternate Tom Annonson


CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Feb 1st - Beginning of Black History Month
 Feb 1st - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1830 Hours **CANCELLED.**
 Feb 12th - Lincoln's Birthday
 Feb 14th - Valentine's Day 
 Feb 15th - Presidents Day
 Feb 15th - General membership meeting @ 1830 Hours **CANCELLED.**
 Feb 16th - Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)
 Feb 17th - Ash Wednesday
 Feb 22nd - Washington's Birthday
 Mar 1st - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1830 Hours
 Mar 14th - Daylight Savings Time Begins
 Mar 15th - General membership meeting @ 1830 Hours
 Mar 17th - St. Patrick's Day 
 Mar 20th - Vernal (Spring) Equinox 
 Mar 27th - Passover begins
 Mar 28th - Palm Sunday 
 Apr 1st - April Fool's Day 
 Apr 2nd - Good Friday
 Apr 4th - Easter Sunday
 Apr 5th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1830 Hours
 Apr 15th - Tax Day
 Apr 19th - General membership meeting @ 1830 Hours 

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello Veterans,

The holidays are over with, Joe Namath and Medicare insurance commercials are slowing down[they do not go away], the election is finally over with, and hopefully COVID-19 is on its way out. Hopefully, everyone can have a better 2021 and we can all get our lives back to normal.

The majority of the Executive Committee has decided to cancel both the Executive and General Membership monthly meetings for February, and to resume both meetings starting on the first and third Mondays in March and going forward. MASKS will be required. If anyone does not feel comfortable attending, remember that it is your choice to attend or not and your choice shall be respected. The Executive Committee agreed that after not having a meeting for three months, Dec, Jan, & Feb, that it was important for the chapter to get back together, both for the vitality of the chapter and its members. I do hope to see as many of you there as feel comfortable in attending, but remember, if you do not feel good, please do not attend.

The clothing program is still going strong, and we are still shipping out a semi load of clothing each month, also the weekly picking up of donations from the bins is still being done Monday and Friday of each week. The medical equipment program is also still going strong, both on items being donated and on items being distributed. A big Thank You to the folks that are taking care of these jobs, the Tuesday crew, and the pick-up boys[I'll bet that stirred some thoughts].

Joe Vene said that the legislative side of things is status quo.

Best wishes to all and stay healthy,

Gene Schwantes



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ATTENTION VETERANS! THREE NEW PRESUMPTIVE DISEASES ADDED!

On December 23, the President vetoed the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. The House of Representatives and Senate overrode the veto prior to the end of the 116th Congress and thus, the legislation will become law.

For years, DAV has been advocating for benefits and health care for veterans exposed to toxins and environmental hazards, as well as the inclusion of additional diseases related to Agent Orange exposure. The FY 2021 NDAA includes provisions to add three new diseases—bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the Agent Orange presumptive disease list. We urge veterans to file a claim as soon as possible if they have one of the three newly added diseases. Veterans needing help can contact their local DAV National Service Office for assistance, <https://www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office/>.

DAV thanks Congress for ensuring these important provisions were included in the enacted legislation. We also appreciate DAV grassroots support and advocacy efforts on this issue over the past year. Responding to DAV Commander's Action Network alerts and sharing legislative information in your newsletters and on social media posts helped us achieve this legislative victory. Thank you for your support of America's service-disabled veterans and their survivors.

To review the complete text of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6395/text>.

ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP!

The February Executive and General membership meetings have been canceled!

We are tentatively planning to resume our regular schedule of meetings in March!

Watch the newsletter for further updates or changes.

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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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MN DNR PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY

Thank you for your interest and time toward improving accessibility opportunities for those with disabilities on the state wildlife management area (WMA) system. Minnesota is blessed with over 1,440 WMAs covering nearly 1.3 million acres of habitat. WMAs are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production and other compatible recreational uses. They are the backbone of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife and population management efforts in Minnesota and are key to protecting our wildlife heritage and providing residents with opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching.

The DNR is committed to making WMAs accessible to all Minnesotans. The DNR, in coordination with numerous nonprofit organizations and volunteers, currently provides opportunities on WMAs for individuals with disabilities, including special hunts, accessible hunting stands, and wildlife viewing platforms. By MN Rule, WMAs are generally closed to motorized travel, but the DNR is committed to working to increase opportunities for individuals with mobility disabilities on WMAs throughout the state.

We are interested in your input and ideas on how we can do a better job serving individuals with disabilities. This survey is intended to help the DNR and external partners develop a range of recommendations to increase accessibility opportunities on our state wildlife management areas. Your answers and ideas will be used to help prepare a report to the legislature.

You may be asked to use your email to sign in to the Engage with DNR website. However, your survey response is anonymous. We will not use your email address for any other purposes. You can also submit your comments via phone voicemail or email.

DNR SURVEY

https://engage.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries-public-input-wildlife-public-input/survey_tools/wildlife-management-area-accessibility

John Carson, the MN DAV Outdoors Coordinator asked this to be shared with our membership. If you have any questions about the MN DAV Outdoors Program, he can be reached at 651-291-1212 or John@davmn.org.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The subject of our article is the convictions of our comrades in arms. Staying true to our values and not getting caught up in the hype of the moment seems to be something a lot of people understand this month. I am writing this article on 21 Jan 2021, at the conclusion of the first twenty-four hours after President Biden's inauguration to include the attack on our Nation's Capital and other riots around our country. Regardless of your position on the matter, allow me to point out some simple observations.

- First, there have been many people who attended President Trump's lawful rally at the White House but did not participate in the unlawful events at the capitol. Once these people saw and understood the unlawful actions of others crossing known police security lines, they departed the premises not wanting anything to do with breaking the law. Yet these law-abiding citizens were labeled wrongfully by others due to their association with those who committed crimes. These law-abiding citizens consisted of veterans, active-duty members of the armed forces (not in uniform), police officers, priests, and health care workers. These people never violated their oath according to their respective occupations. Yet many of them lost their employment, friends, and in some cases ostracized by their communities. Yet, they did nothing wrong, while maintaining their convictions. There may be others as well who have done the same thing in other states around our country.
- Second, there were several individuals from a variety of different occupations that require an oath, such as veterans, military retirees, police officers, fire personnel, and state law makers. These individuals who entered the capitol got caught up in the moment, crossed known police security lines and engaged in criminal activities. The testimony these people gave to the judge in court, reflects many of them regret their actions, while violating their oath. Now they have a federal criminal record and there will certainly be further consequences in the future. These people violated their convictions. Perhaps others are doing the same thing around our Nation in other States.

These are just two pragmatic examples to illustrate a point. Our values and convictions are priceless. As the two examples show, the people in both groups experience negative consequences for their actions. Yet the people in the first group never violated their convictions and oaths. They were true to their beliefs, principles, and integrity. They knew the distinct difference between an obvious right and wrong. This example helps to clarify the point of this article where the scriptures state "Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior and will give honor to God when He judges the world (on the day of visitation)" (1 Peter 2:12, New Living Translation).

Notice the first part of this verse is presently occurring in the first example. The second part of this verse occurs in the future when Christ returns, and the world is judged. Consequently, our actions today have future consequences. Staying true to our convictions now is intensely meaningful for the future. Certainly, knowing Christ and looking forward to His return and God's future kingdom helps us to endure the craziness of our current culture as seen in the larger passage (1 Peter 2:11-17). Next month we will be looking at exactly where we are in biblical time and some of the things to expect in the future, especially in the last chapter of The Book of Revelation with a comparison of The Book of Daniel.

We hope this article has been a blessing for you.

If anyone would like to visit with us, feel free call us at (218) 308-3927.

Mike and Julie Gutz.



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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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