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Monthly Newsletter
January 2023

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

**DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Monday, January 16 at 6:30pm**



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COMMANDER:	Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592
SENIOR VICE:	Jeff Meyer
JUNIOR VICE:	Tom Annonson
ADJUTANT:	Darrel Baltzell
SERVICE OFFICERS:	Scotty Allison
TREASURER:	Jeri Harvey
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Wade Sutton
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Agard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Mike Gutz, Andy Staudt, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Jan 1st - New Year's Day | Feb 15th - Sinking of the U.S.S. Maine in 1898 |
| Jan 2nd - New Year's Day Observed (Federal Monday Holidays Bill) | Feb 20th - President's Day and Washington's Birthday |
| Jan 2nd - DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting @ 1430 Hrs. | Feb 20th -- DAV Chapter 7 General membership meeting @ 1830 Hrs. |
| Jan 16th - Martin Luther King Day | Feb 21st - Mardi Gras |
| Jan 16th - DAV Chapter 7 General membership meeting @ 1830 Hrs. | Feb 22nd - Ash Wednesday |
| Jan 19th - Confederate Hero's Day | Feb 23rd - Flag raised on Iwo Jima in 1945 |
| Jan 27th - International Holocaust Remembrance Day | Feb 27th - Battle of Java Sea in 1942 |
| Jan 27th - Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973 | Mar 6th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting @ 1430 Hrs. |
| Jan 28th - U.S. - Vietnam Cease Fire in 1973 | Mar 12th - Daylight savings Time Begins |
| Feb 1st - Start of Black History Month | Mar 17th - St. Patrick's Day |
| Feb 1st - National Freedom Day | Mar 20th -- DAV Chapter 7 General membership meeting @ 1830 Hrs. |
| Feb 2nd - Groundhog Day | Mar 29th - Vietnam War Veterans Day |
| Feb 6th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting @ 1430 Hrs. | |
| Feb 12th - Lincoln's Birthday | |
| Feb 14th - Valentine's Day | |



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Happy New Year Everyone,

Well, we got through 2022, now we get to tackle 2023 and with a military type of attitude, we will be able to do a great job helping veterans and meet the DAV's objectives of serving those who served in 2023. Remember DAV Chapter 7 is here for all veterans and their families. I hope everybody had a great 2022 and will have an even better 2023.

As we start 2023, we have our chapter officer elections coming up with nominations in January and February and the election also in February. Be sure to attend the monthly meetings to be able to have your voice heard. Get ahold of the nominating committee to make your nominations or put your name in to be an officer and then attend the February meeting to vote for who you want to lead our great organization.

We had a wonderful DAV Christmas Party with great food and comradery and some great door prizes, and I think everybody was able to make it home by bedtime. Remember to put the summer picnic on your calendar to get in on the good times, it's just around the corner.

The Chapter had a great year all around and I will have to verify it, but I believe that 2023 will be the 100-year anniversary of our Charter, what an accomplishment. What that means, is that there were many veterans before us that keep this chapter alive and well to get us to where we are now and to be still able to help our fellow veterans during times of need.

Remember, our Chapter is y(our) chapter, and the chapter is just as good as the members in it, so join in and make the Chapter the best it can be.

Best wishes to all and stay healthy,
Gene Schwantes

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Jan. 27 – Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973
- Jan. 28 – U.S. - Vietnam Cease Fire in 1973



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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 19 DECEMBER 2022 AT 1730.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Schwantes at 1730 hours at the Eagles Club. The meeting was held in conjunction with the DAV Christmas Party. Commander Schwantes welcomed all that could attend and announced that an item of business needed to be addressed before the party could commence.

NEW BUSINESS: Chapter 7 would like to make a donation to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) in the amount of \$2000 and bring that matter forward this evening for consideration by the membership. *A motion to donate \$2000 to MACV was made by Billy Woods; seconded by Randy Hannevold. Motion carried.*

These below items were not brought forward this evening due to the party but are added to these minutes as informational.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Thank You Letter: A thank you letter was received from the Fargo VA Health Care System for the donation of \$600 Chapter 7 made towards their Holiday Meals Program.

2. Thank You Letter: A thank you letter was received from the Bemidji Senior Center for the donation of \$2000 Chapter 7 made towards the center.

3. Donations: Two donations were received. Roger Swenson sent a donation of \$500 and Dale and Susan Thompson sent a donation of \$200.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. New Member Applications: Two applications were sent to National Headquarters along with a check in the amount of \$600 (\$300 for each applicant). Those individuals are Earl Lamaack and Nicole Donley.

Commander Schwantes ended the official part of the evening with a wish for everyone to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2023

December 20, 2022

Greetings all,

I am pleased to announce Veterans Day on the Hill 2023 (VDOTH 23) will take place March 30th. Like in years past the DAV will be hosting a free lunch for attendees. This will be an opportunity to send a clear message once again to our lawmakers that we expect to see results for our Veterans, their families and survivors.

Right out let me answer a question I am asked frequently: "Does Veterans Day on the Hill matter?"

YES. Showing up, making some noise, letting your lawmakers know you are paying attention, and holding them accountable does matter. We don't get a Veterans Omnibus last year without a noisy, passionate, and educated group showing up for VDOTH. We just don't. Imagine what we could do if more of you showed up..

This year we will focus on several areas:

Veterans Omnibus- The only proper way to consider Veterans legislation is on its own merits, we should never again be lumped in with partisan issues.

Property Tax Value Exclusion- We need to eliminate the 2 years after death limit on when a surviving spouse can apply, it is leaving out surviving spouses of Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post 9/11 Veterans through not fault of their own.

Property Tax Value Exclusion- We need to increase the amount of value excluded for our disabled Veterans. Home values and property taxes have skyrocketed in Minnesota. Leaving Veterans, many on fixed incomes, facing rising property tax bills and seeing this valuable benefit eroded. It also must be fixed to inflation.

Replace Hastings Veterans Home- Buildings on that campus are crumbling. The facilities are outdated and can't properly serve all Veterans. There is federal money 2 for 1 if we bond the replacement. Our Minnesota Veterans deserve better.

There is more, and you will hear more from me in the lead up and as session kicks off in January.

"Decisions are made by those who show up." Sorkin

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AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello All,

I hope you had a wonderful Holidays and are ready for the New year ahead of us!

As per our schedule for our meetings, we will not be meeting again until March, so take care and have a safe winter season.

Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Sara Gast

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

We hope all of you had the opportunity to enjoy family and friends, while resting over the Christmas and New Year time frame. We will be continuing our discussion from last month about the two sides of giving. On the one side we want it to be meaningful, dedicated to God, a blessing to help others in need. All of this is done while building relationships so others can trust Jesus Christ's sacrifice, as Son of God, on the cross to save us from our very own personal sins. On the other side of giving are those who interfere with a person's trust in Christ or takes advantage of others using an oppressive financial system for nothing but their own (personal or ministry) interests.

A case in point was during Jesus' time when the Jews brought their animal sacrifices to the temple to celebrate the Passover (Exodus 12, Deuteronomy 16:1-16). A person needed an approved animal for worship. This instruction was given by God and communicated to the Jews through Moses. This sacrifice was very important because it was the cost of Israel's sin - the death of an innocent animal. The very first sacrifice for sin was done by God to clothe Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). Down through the ages, since Adam and Eve, God uses the blood of animals to temporarily cover a person's sin. This sacrificial system designed by God for the benefit of His people, ends up into a developing industry for the buying and selling of animals with currency exchanges being done *in the temple*. As a result, Jesus threw out the money changer's animals, while overturning their tables as a means of cleaning out the "marketplace / den of thieves" and restoring the temple to its' original use for prayer (Luke 19:45-47, John 2:13-22; cross reference to Psalm 69:9, New Living Translation). The Bible has much to say about these two sides of giving and unfortunately even for today, these lines are often crossed or blurred, just as the money changers had done when they moved into the temple.

Although this event actually took place under the old covenant, prior to Jesus establishing the new covenant, the basic bridging principle continues today. Jesus' statement, "Get these things out of here, stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace" (John 2:16, New Living Translation) is as true today as it was back then. This is true with some ministries, who start out on the right track, but over time their financial structure and *focus* shifts from prayer and trusting Christ for the removal of their sins (Hebrews 10) to making more money. Yes, there has been ministries who have done so, and talk more about money and their personal experiences then focusing on the scriptures. God saving your spirit now and after death through Jesus' sacrifice of death on the cross for sin (John 3:16-17) is more important than money. As a result, with Jesus' sacrifice, animal sacrifices were no longer needed. So, when you give money to a ministry, please do so out of the freedom God provides (II Corinthians 9:7). Any ministry who pushes/emphasizes making money, or claims of healing that are obviously false, or displaying signs and wonders is a scam (Matthew 7:21-23 & Matthew 24:24).

As biblical citizens, not only paying taxes and giving to ministries can be legitimate and good, (Romans 13:6-7), but there is a dark side to avoid as well. So please let's all give to the government what we owe. Give to God freely from your heart through ministries or helping someone who is in need. Thank goodness for all veterans we have the Veteran Service Organizations to help veterans while increasing the quality here on earth. If there is a need or would like to talk, please give us a call. Our Senior Vice Commander, Jeff Meyers is currently licensed as a clinical counselor for anyone who would like to talk and seek help. You may call anyone on the front page to contact him.

Mike and Julie Gutz



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