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Monthly Newsletter  
April 2025

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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
DAV Headquarters at  
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
Monday, April 21 at 6:30pm

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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER:	Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592
SENIOR VICE:	Darrel Baltzell
JUNIOR VICE:	Tom Annonson
ADJUTANT:	Jeff Meyer
SERVICE OFFICERS:	Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025
TREASURER:	Jeri Harvey
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Ward Sutton
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Agard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Gary Guggenberger, Andy Staudt, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

April 1st - April Fool's Day	May 1st - National Day of Prayer
April 6th - National Tartan Day	May 5th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting 1630 Hrs.
April 7th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting 1630 Hrs.	May 5th - Cinco De Mayo (celebration of the Mexican Army's victory over France during the French and Mexican War of 1862).
April 12th - Passover begins	May 8th -- Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War.
April 13th - Palm Sunday	May 9th - Military Spouse Appreciation Day
April 15th - Tax Day	May 11th - Mother's Day
April 18th - Good Friday	May 17th - Armed Forces Day
April 20th - Easter - Passover ends	May 19th -- DAV Chapter 7 General Membership meeting @1830 Hrs.
April 21st - DAV Chapter 7 General Membership meeting @1830 Hrs.	May 26th - Memorial Day
April 22nd -- Earth Day	May 29th - Ascension (the day that Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:1-11) after spending 40 days appearing to his disciples after his resurrection).
April 23rd - Holocaust Remembrance Day	
April 25th - Arbor Day	
April 29th - Yom HaZikaron, Israel's official Remembrance Day, traditionally dedicated to fallen soldiers, its commemoration has been extended to include civilian victims of terrorism.	
May 1st - May Day Celebration	
May 1st -- Yom Haatzmaut is Israel's Independence Day (Israel declared independence on May 14th, 1948).	



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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans,

Here it is the middle of March, and we still don't know if spring is coming early or late. Well, it is Minnesota, and we will just have to wait and see! It was a typical Minnesota winter, too long, too cold, and too much snow, but still not miserable enough to make us leave. I hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy.

The elections are over, the officers are sworn in, and surprisingly, they are all the same as last year. Let me think on that, that must mean that the chapter members believe the current officers are really doing a great job, and to that, I say on behalf of all the officers and the executive committee, WE GIVE ALL OF OUR MEMBERS A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FOR HAVING FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR LEADERSHIP TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR CHAPTER!!!! Next year the election process will start again with nominations starting in January, and I believe it is time for some new blood to take over!! Think about it, what it would be like to be an officer "IN THE GREATEST DAV CHAPTER IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA" what an honor that would be. So, start your plan to be an officer at next year's elections, if you have any questions on what the duties are of each office, or how to apply for an office, or anything else, please give me a call @ 218-556-4592 and I will be happy to answer any questions, remember, January sneaks up real fast.

At last night's Chapter Meeting, 6 members were approved to attend the DAV Spring Convention and 2 of those members will also be attending CSO and SAVE training. Also brought forward were 3 veterans in need during the past month and approved by the Executive Committee or the Commander. Medical equipment keeps coming in and going out, so if you are in need, please ask.

Before we know it, our Snowbirds will be coming back, just in time to help with our clothing program as the summer volume picks up. If you would like to join us and help with the clothing program BEFORE THE SNOWBIRDS COME BACK AND TAKE ALL THE GOOD SPOTS, every Tuesday morning starting at 8 am is our schedule, (except for Glenn, he starts at 7, he doesn't participate in daylight saving time I guess).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call and I will do my best to help you.

Your Commander going on 5 years, ( in case you were wondering)

Gene Schwante

## AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings:

I hope you are all enjoying the spring and warmer weather.

Thank you all that were able to attend the meeting on March 17th. Linda Engesether provided treats for the DAV and DAV Auxiliary meeting; they were delicious.

The State Convention is April 24th – 26th this year with Linda and Marie planning on attending.

It was requested we bring baskets and door prizes again this year. We voted to spend \$400 total for 2 baskets. Linda Engesether and Mya Eichstad volunteered to do the shopping.

We voted for officers, and they are as follows:

Commander: Lyndsey Moe

Jr. Vice Commander: Sara Gast

Adjutant: Heather Eichstad

Sr. Vice Commander: Marie Lamon

Treasurer: Mya Eichstad

Chaplin: Linda Engesether

Hope to see you at the April meeting on the 21st.

Sara Gast



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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 17 MARCH 2025 AT 1830.

## OPENING CEREMONY: \* OPENING PRAYER \* PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### A. ROLL CALL of OFFICERS to determine if a quorum is present.

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Gene Schwantes</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Senior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Darrell Baltzell</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Junior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Tom Annonson</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Jeff Meyer</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jeri Harvey</b>	<b>Excused</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Mike Gutz</b>	<b>Excused</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Ward Sutton</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Sergeant-At-Arms</b>	<b>Bruce Tiegen</b>	<b>Excused</b>
<b>Officer of the Day</b>	<b>Glen Aagard</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### B. Members Present: 9

### C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: NA

### D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

1. Motion to accept minutes as read by Tom, 2d by Darrel, the motion carried.

### E. Treasurer's Report:

1. The February treasurer's report was not completed at the time of the meeting and will be read at the next general meeting. Gene was able to confirm, "We still have money in our account."

### F. Communications:

1. Veterans Honor Flight sent us an update; they will be doing 5 trips this year (2025) and are planning 6 trips in 2026. So far, there are 20 Veterans signed up from the Bemidji area for these three-day trips to Washington, D.C.
2. The New Salem Service group sent us a donation of \$500.00; a letter will be sent forthwith thanking them for their generous donation.
3. Joyce Plinke sent us a donation of \$15 dollars and a wonderful letter of encouragement.
4. Marilyn Hakala sent us a thank you letter for the lift chair that was donated to them, along with \$50 dollar donations to the DAV from both Marilyn and Susan.
5. The family of Master Sergeant Earl Gibson sent us a thank you letter for the donation of \$1500 dollars that went to the installation of a walk-in shower.
6. The Bemidji Methodist Women sent us a donation of \$50 dollars and a thank you note for Gene speaking to the group on why, what, and how the DAV operates.
7. Daniel and Arlene Hogquist sent us a donation of \$50 dollars.
8. The Bemidji Veteran's Home sent us a thank you note for the puzzles and games that were donated to the residents.
9. Marion Evans sent us a donation of \$20 dollars.
10. Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach sent us her monthly newsletter updating us on all the Veteran centric legislation she has been involved in lately. This is available for your reading pleasure in the office, ask Gene or Jeff if you wish to peruse this letter.

### G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: 1 new member was recognized tonight, Charles Musselman, welcome!
2. Service Officer: Tom reports several Veteran's referred over to the CVSO Shane and Luke for benefits earned.
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Ken Glidden reported (through Tom) that his wife Annette (also A Veteran) continues to struggle with different physical issues. She is located at Neilson Place if you desire to visit and please keep her and Ken in your thoughts and prayers.
4. Legislative: NA
5. Entertainment: NA

6. Publicity and Fundraising: Gun show coming up March 22-23d at the Bemidji Armory, as well as the Home, Sport, and Travel Show at the Sanford Center 3/28-3/30/2025. Tom is planning on fundraising at each event.

7. Medical Equipment: 10 Issues and 13 donations.

8. The Scholarship Committee reports that the 2025/2026 school year application is complete and sent out to schools as of this writing. Responses are already being received back.

### H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

### I. Old Business:

1. With the nominating committee closed, and the membership unanimous, the adjutant voted to accept all candidates as nominated.
2. Elected Officers and appointees were sworn in on 3/17/25: Commander Gene Schwantes, Adjutant Jeff Meyer, Sr. Vice Darrel Baltzell, Jr. Vice Tom Annonson. Treasurer Jeri Harvey will be sworn into her office at the next General Meeting.
3. DAV MN State Convention dates 4/24-4/26, Celebrating 100 Years of Service,
4. Treasure Island Resort & Casino 5734 Sturgeon Lake Rd, Welch, MN., with Service Officer training held on 4/24, which will be attended by Tom Annonson and Dave Chamness. Other delegates from Chapter 7 currently are Glen Aagard, Ward Sutton, Gene Schwantes, and Jeri Harvey.
5. Vets on the Hill, if you desire to attend, please contact Tom. The Bus leaves 4/9/2025 at 6 Am from the Walmart Parking lot.

### J. New Business:

1. Veterans on the Hill will take place this year on 4/9/2025. Please sign up ASAP for Tom to get an accurate count. Tom also reports the cost of the bus has gone up this year to \$2250.00 dollars.
2. A Veteran in Need request was made by a Mahanomen City service officer for a 91-year-old army Veteran needing help with the purchase of fuel oil for heating. The Executive Committee had previously approved this Veteran for \$1000 dollars of assistance, and to date, Gene has bought 100 gallons at \$319 dollars of the \$1000 dollars approved.
3. A Veteran in Need request by John Nelson CVSO (county?) for a disabled Army Veteran in need of assistance with heating for the winter. Gene approved and made the purchase of diesel fuel for the Veteran at a cost of \$98.24 dollars. This Veteran had previously received assistance of \$108.52 dollars.
4. A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami CVSO Shane for a disabled Army Veteran needing assistance with paying his electric bill. He requested \$650 dollars, which the executive committee approved, and payment was issued to his electric provider.
5. The MN Attorney General accepted our Annual Report, which means the State of MN recognized us as a charitable organization once again.

### K. Good of the Order:

1. There is another scam making the rounds within the Veteran Community, promising Veterans they can get 100% compensation. There is a contract to sign, and fees are required, and in the end, you get nothing. Please remind Veterans you know that compensation approval can only be had by the VA, and there are never any costs or fees associated with the claim. See your CVSO for more compensation information.
2. Tom reminded us that the American Legion in Bagley will be holding its Vietnam Veterans supper on 3/29/2025. According to all reports, it is good food, camaraderie, and time of fellowship.

### L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

### M. Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion by Darrel and second by Tom. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 1923.
- Next meeting 4/21/2025 @1830.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

At the time of writing this article on Saturday, 15 March 2025, we were under a full-blown blizzard, and then the clouds moved, the entire sky cleared to a dark blue, and then we saw the sun shining beautifully throughout the area. How exciting? What a wonderful time to write this article. Beyond being a weather enthusiast, this brings to mind a related spiritual temperament - the enthusiast.

Are you an Enthusiast?

- I feel closest to God when my heart is sent soaring and I feel I want to burst, worship God all day long while shouting His name. Celebrating God and His love is my favorite form of worship.
- God is an exciting God, and we should be excited about worshipping Him. I don't understand how some Christians can say they love God and then act like they're going to a funeral whenever they walk into a house of worship.
- The words celebration and joy are very appealing to me.
- I would enjoy attending a workshop on learning to worship through dance, or a workshop session with contemporary music. I expect that God is going to move in some unexpected ways.
- I would enjoy reading the book entitled *The Mystery and Excitement of God*.
- I spend more money on music and worship downloads than I do on books. Note: This last characteristic for an enthusiastic spiritual temperament is just the opposite of a person who has an intellectual spiritual temperament. More about this temperament later in the following months.

Speaking about enthusiasts, we seem to have many enthusiasts in our area. There are enthusiasts for ice fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, marksmanship, trap shooting (Bemidji High School Trap Team), biking, running, team sports and clothing! What? Clothing? What does clothing have to do with being enthusiastic? Now that is a good question, my veteran, auxiliary, and friend.

We have many folks who come to our Chapter #7 Headquarters (travel west to the very end of 15th Street NW) on Tuesday mornings to help load clothes into the semi-trailer that supports fund raising so we can help veterans in need. We always have a great time getting together for exercise, fun, coffee, snacks and DONUTS! We also have alternate days throughout the week to volunteer, specifically for those who want to go and collect the clothes from out of the bins throughout the community. We also have other ways to volunteer as well. If you would like to be a part of the hospital committee and visit those who are in the hospital, please let any of the officers know and we can always direct you to the person who can help you. As many of you know we have a wide selection of medical equipment in our warehouse, so if you know of a veteran family in need, please let us know.

We always need drivers for transportation too. We have many members from other veteran organizations (Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, etc) who need free rides in the Disabled American Veteran Van to Fargo, North Dakota, for medical appointments. We encourage all to enthusiastically volunteer, participate in the camaraderie of others, while enjoying the celebration and love of our Messiah, Yeshua - Christ Jesus.

Blessings,

Mike and Julie Gutz

## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- April 5 – Gold Star Spouses Day – A Day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or because of service-connected injuries or illness.
- April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday

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## VETERANS OPPORTUNITIES

My name is Gary Guggenberger.

I would like to talk about all the outstanding opportunities that are available to Veterans. I have had the opportunity to go fishing and hunting through the many programs that are available. The organizations that provide these opportunities are listed in the newsletter.

I always thought that the programs were for the younger Veterans, so I didn't look into them. Come to find out that the organizations are very happy to see us older Veterans taking advantage of the programs. You meet veterans from all over the country that have the same thing in common, the outdoors. You talk to all different age groups who are just like you, a Veteran. The one thing that I see in going to the programs is the bond that you experience among the participants.

I encourage you to take a look at all the opportunities available. All you need to do is go online, look at their website and events to see what they offer. Or go to Facebook and take a look at their program. By using Facebook and liking them you will be notified of an event as they announce one. You need your own transportation to an event and the proper license for the state that you are in. Go out and enjoy the outdoors. These events are open to both men and women veterans.

The events that I have taken part in range from fishing for walleye on some of the big lakes in and around Minnesota. One trip to Sioux narrows in Canada was for a week where we caught Walleye, Northern Pike, and Bass. "Time on the Water" was the sponsor. They are out of the Cities, and they have 10 trips in the summer.

A fishing trip with the DAV to Trapper's Landing on Leech

Lake. Another DAV sponsored trip to Camp Ripley where you stay one night in the Post barracks. On this trip I had a chance to fish Mille Lacs or on the Mississippi River in jet boats. Several other programs go to Lake of the Woods. Lodging is provided. All the programs are free. As I mentioned above you provide transportation and the appropriate licenses.

"Warriors and Walleye" has a great program. They go to Lake of the Woods, one of my favorites. They have one down in Appleton, MN, fishing for Walleye, Panfish and also a Pheasant hunt, it is called "Cast and Blast".

I just returned from a safari trip to South Africa. A friend put my name in for the trip and I was lucky enough to go. It was the trip of a lifetime! We were gone for ten days, with six days of hunting. Totally free!! We got two free animals in the package and could purchase other animals. I ended up buying three animals, a Blue Wildebeest, a Nyala, and a Black Impala, plus the two free animals which were Impalas. The trip was sponsored by "Wounded Warriors United".

I've also been on trips to Devils Lake, ND with two different groups.

Last summer was a trip to Texas for a hog hunt.

I have met many different people who all have the same thing in common, We All Served Our Country. Every adventure was different, but I always had fun and great experiences.

All the people who are involved with these programs are volunteers. They give up their time, and some even give up their vacations to make sure that the veterans have a great experience.

Gary



**Eugene Teigland**  
Owner

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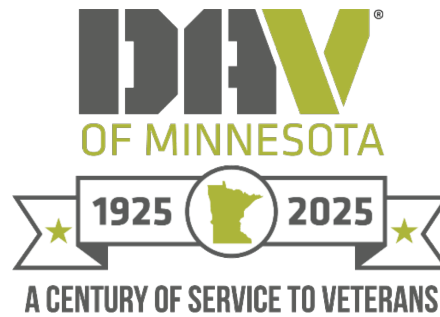
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# MINNESOTA: TENTATIVE CONVENTION AGENDA 2/18/2025



## Wednesday, April 23

- Committee Meetings - Capri Room
- 4:00-5:00PM Executive/Finance Committee
- 6:00-7:00PM Foundation Board

## Thursday, April 24

- 9:00AM-Noon DSO/CSO Training Chief Red Wing Room (CSO Form must be sent in prior to training)
- 1:00-4:00PM S.A.V.E. Training Chief Red Wing Room (Open to all RSVP)
- 4:00-5:45PM NSO Benefit Seminar Chief Red Wing Room (Open to all Veterans)
- Time TBD Registration Prefunction Area
- 6:00PM Social Hour, Dinner & Special Guest Speaker Mark Nutsch (Must RSVP Event DAV/ DAVA Attendees) -Island Event Center

## Friday, April 25

- 7:00-8:15AM Breakfast - Island Event Center
- Time TBD Registration Prefunction area
- Time TBD Auxiliary Basket Raffle- Buffalo Room
- 8:00AM—4:00PM Vendor Displays -Prefunction area
- 8:30AM-3:30PM DAV Service Officers available -Capri Room
- 8:30 AM Opening Joint Session Chief Red Wing

## Room

- Distinguished Guests Recognition
- Guest Speakers
- Break
- DAV Business Session
- Convention Committees Meet
- Noon Lunch—Island Event Center
- Registration
- Memorial Service
- 1:00-4:00PM Convention Committees Report, Continuation of Business Session
- 5:00PM Social Hour, Banquet & Awards—Island Event Center
- 7:30-9:00PM The String Showdown, Interactive Dueling Music Show

## Saturday, April 26

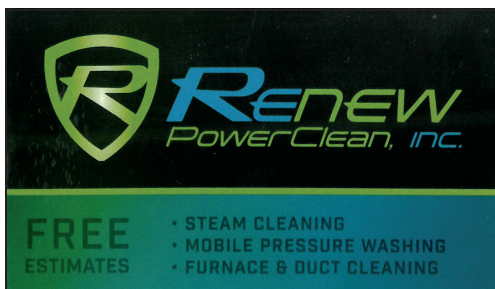
- 7:00-8:15AM Breakfast -Island Event Center
- 8:30AM Continuation of Business
  - Final Committee Reports
  - Election of Officers
  - Installation of DAV Officers
  - Benediction
  - Convention Adjourned

\*\*New Executive Committee Meeting & photos will be held 30 minutes following the adjournment of the Convention in Capri Room

## Additional Sponsors

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**Zetah Construction**



## MINNESOTA: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Greetings all,

A group of 30 DAV MN members just returned from Washington, D.C. we met with 9 of the 10 Congressional offices, and 8 members of our CODEL. We brought a unified message, "Anything that negatively impacts the care or benefits of Veterans will not be tolerated."

We found our elected officials very supportive, and I left D.C. more hopeful than when I arrived. However, that does not mean we can relax. Veterans' benefits and care require our constant vigilance.

I know many people are anxious about the operating environment we are currently in, so I wanted to offer some things you can do to be prepared should something come up that will negatively impact Veterans:

- Sign up for the National Commander's Action Network at [https://dav.quorum.us/sign\\_in/](https://dav.quorum.us/sign_in/)
- In my meetings with DAV National Legislative Staff, if a bill, executive order, or directive from the Secretary would potentially impact Veterans adversely, they will use the CAN to swamp DC inboxes with calls to care for our Veterans.
- DON'T freak out for rumors. There is a lot of fear mongering, misinformation, and bad intentions out there. If you hear something, be sure to verify. If you can't verify, feel free to reach out to me for assistance. Verify, do not add to the panic.
- Report anything that you personally see that is impacting Veterans. If you see changes in service or care, I need to know about them to be immediately addressed by my contacts in Congressional offices.
- Stay connected to the things we send out, DAV National sends out, and other trusted sources.
- Stay alert, and reach out if you have doubts, questions or concerns.

There are a lot of unknowns, so we will deal with everything as it comes.

-----  
Trent C Dilks

Legislative Director

Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Minnesota

20 West 12th St., 3rd Flr, St. Paul, MN 55155

O: (651) 291.1212 C: (651) 788.3186

## MINNESOTA: MINNFLUENCE

Our voices are louder together. For this reason, DAV of Minnesota innovated an effective platform for Veterans, their families and concerned citizens. MinnFluence is a free, one-of-a-kind tool to ensure Veteran advocates can keep up with current legislative issues and swiftly engage with state lawmakers. "MinnFluencers" will receive updates on progress of legislation for Veterans, their families, and survivors. When important issues arise that could impact DAV of Minnesota arise, subscribers will receive ready-to-send emails to engage their respective elected officials. MinnFluence also allows Minnesotans to easily track how their elected state representatives voted on key Veterans issues. You do not need to be a Veteran to sign up; Veterans, families and the community are invited to join. Together we can build a stronger, louder voice to support the men and women who have served.

To sign up go to <https://davn.org/about-us/minnfluence/>

## MINNESOTA: 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://davn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/>

## NATIONAL: COMMANDER'S ACTION NETWORK (CAN)

To stay informed and take action to support federal legislation and policies affecting veterans, their families and survivors, please join DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network).

To enroll, go to the DAV.org website and do a search for the "Commander's Action Network" it will direct you to a results page and there you will find the link to sign up and become an active participant in the program. Once you are enrolled you will periodically receive emails with "canned" letters to your individual representatives on legislative matters pertaining to veterans' issues that are currently before them in Congress encouraging them to act on behalf of all veterans that the proposed bill in question is addressing. Simply click the "take action" button at the bottom of the email and the letter will automatically be sent.



## NATIONAL: POSTED ON MAR 18, 2025, BY JIM MARSZALEK

Every day, veterans across this country receive the life-changing news that a Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating has been granted. These benefits aren't just disability payments that veterans use to survive; they are recognition of the wounds, injuries or illnesses incurred during their military service and a signal of our sacred obligation to care for those who return forever changed.

Essential as these benefits may be, the perplexing VA ratings math can be challenging to decipher. VA math causes much confusion for veterans, so you are not alone if you need help understanding it. DAV is here to help.

Disability ratings are assigned percentages that represent the level of impairment resulting from service-connected conditions and injuries. Generally speaking, the higher the percentage, the more disability compensation a veteran receives. They exist to offset loss of working time when a disability affects their ability to earn a living. The ratings also reflect how each condition affects other aspects of a veteran's life, including family and everyday activities. However, adding them together is anything but crystal clear.

Take, for example, a veteran with two conditions rated at 50% individually. Simple math tells us that this combined rating should be 100%. But that's wrong! Perhaps surprisingly, it's 80%. It may look like  $5 + 5 = 8$ , but there is a method to the madness.

The VA combines disability ratings using a "whole person" concept. First, the highest-rated disability is subtracted from 100%—easy enough. However, each subsequent disability is applied to the remaining percentage of the whole person. Half of the remaining 50% is 25% in the example above. Since  $50 + 25 = 75$ , and the VA rounds to the nearest degree divisible by 10, the veteran above will receive an 80% rating.

Clear as mud.

But don't worry. You don't have to bust out your pencils and erasers whenever you want to calculate your updated rating. DAV's online VA disability calculator does the math for you. With the click of a few buttons, you can input your individual ratings, including any bilateral factors—situations where you receive a higher disability rating due to having a condition that affects both sides of your body—to uncover your total combined rating in a matter of seconds.

You can also include dependents and any special monthly compensation benefits, meaning the DAV calculator is a one-stop shop for veterans curious about their rating. VA calculations also consider many factors other than combined ratings.

If you need further assistance or would like to file a claim, contact DAV at [benefitsquestions.org](https://benefitsquestions.org) so one of our service officers can assist you. DAV services, including the VA rating calculator, are always free.

## VA: ARE YOU READY FOR VA'S SIGN-IN CHANGES?

By now you may have heard that VA is making changes to our online sign-in process. We're moving to 2 modern, secure sign-in account options, [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) and [ID.me](https://www.id.me).

If you don't have a [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) or [ID.me](https://www.id.me) account yet, don't delay. We removed the [My HealtheVet](#) option on March 5, 2025. We'll remove the [DS Logon](#) option after September 30, 2025.

Don't worry, My HealtheVet isn't going away. You'll still be able to use your My HealtheVet health portal—you'll just need to sign in to it with an identity-verified [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) or [ID.me](https://www.id.me) account. And you can get your new account anytime. You'll still have access to all the same information and services you use today.

Don't delay. Create your sign-in account today.



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RIDES

# 2025 - BEMIDJI VAN - 2025

## DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

FREE  
RIDES

### JANUARY

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

### FEBRUARY

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

### MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### APRIL

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### MAY

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### JUNE

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### AUGUST

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### SEPTEMBER

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### OCTOBER

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### NOVEMBER

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### DECEMBER

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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- **Survivor compensation**

For surviving spouse, surviving child, surviving parent

Find out if you're eligible for VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC) or a VA Survivors Pension.

- **Education and career benefits for family members**

For spouse, dependent child, surviving spouse, surviving child

Find out if you're eligible for money for school or to help you cover expenses while you're training for a job through our Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program (also called Chapter 35) or the Fry Scholarship. And learn about how a Veteran may transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to you.

- **Housing assistance for surviving spouses**

For surviving spouse

Find out if you're eligible for a VA-backed loan to buy, build, improve, or refinance a home. And learn how to manage your loan benefits and avoid foreclosure.

- **Life insurance for family members**

For spouse, dependent child, surviving spouse, surviving child

Find out if you're eligible for Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) coverage or manage an existing policy. If you're the beneficiary of a Veteran's or service member's policy, find out how to get free financial advice and will preparation services.

- **Burial and memorial benefits for family members**

For spouse, dependent child, surviving spouse, surviving child, surviving parent

Find out if you're eligible to be buried in a VA national cemetery, or learn how to plan a burial for a Veteran. You can also apply for help paying for burial costs, request memorial items, and learn about bereavement counseling.

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