

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO **AMERICA'S VETERANS**

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> **Monthly Newsletter** September 2025

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



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



BANK BEMIDJI fnbbemidji.com | 218-751-2430 Better together.

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 Aagard LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: Ioe Vene HISTORIAN: Vacant

EXEC. COMMITTEE: Bruce Tiegen, Gary Guggenberger, Andy Staudt,

Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault





620 Carr Lk Rd S, Bemidji, MN 56601

Phone: 218-751-1324 Fax: 218-444-5324

acollman@paulbunyan.net www.AdultDayServicesBemidji.com

Promoting quality lifestyle choices for older adults.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Sept 1st-Labor Day

Sept 2nd- VJ Day (Victory over Japan)

Sept 11th - Patriot Day

Sept 17th-23rd-**Constitution Week**

Sept 15th-Oct 15th-**Hispanic Heritage Month**

Sept 18th- Air Force & Air **National Guard Birthday**

Sept 18th- Office of the **Sec of Defense Birthday**

Sept 19th- National POW/ **MIA Recognition Day**

Sept 22nd- Sept 24th-**Rosh Hashanah**

Sept 28th- Gold Star Mother's Day

Sept 29th- VFW Day





COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Chapter #7,

It seems like summer flew by so fast, but maybe it was just a really busy summer and it seemed like it raced towards winter in a really big hurry. I hope everyone was still able to spend time with friends and family and enjoy their summer.

I would, on behalf of the full Chapter, like to extend a Big THANK YOU to Henry Hammerback, Jack Young, and Gary Goggenberger for repainting the floors and replacing the mop boards. Also, an ongoing Big THANK YOU to Ward Sutton for showing up before Chapter Meetings to help set up and to clean DAV on a monthly basis. Both of these jobs needed to be done or continually done and these members stepped up when the job was there. It just proves that if you would like to get involved with the Chapter, there are always opportunities that can be matched to your skill level, talents, or capabilities, but it does require an effort on your part, **you have to say "I can do that" out loud**. There are many other members that should also be thanked for the things that they do such as repairs to equipment, medical or otherwise, lawn mowing, loading semi's, picking up the bins, etc., etc., the list goes on and on, and all they said was "I can do that" out loud, so step up and get involved!!!!!!!!

At the Chapter Meeting several veterans in need were approved for assistance. Also, a request from the Scholarship Committee to increase the budget for Scholarship's from \$6,000.00 to \$12,000.00, still equally divided between 6 recipients at \$2,000.00 per scholarships, which was approved by the Chapter.

By the time you are reading this, the Annual DAV Chapter Picnic will be over, and I predict that everybody in attendance had a great time and enjoyed the fine food and fantastic door prizes, if you missed it, it's gone, but the good news is there will be another one next year. Oh yeah, and there is the annual Christmas Party coming up just around the corner, so you still have a chance to join in the fun this year, so don't forget to sign up as we get closer, or it to will be gone and over with to for another year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call @ 218-556-4592.

Best Wishes to All, Gene

MINNESOTA: UPCOMING WOMEN VETERANS OUTDOOR EVENTS

Women's trips are designed to introduce and deepen the unique and meaningful benefits of time spent in nature within a safe space inclusive of all women. Join us on a kayak tour of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Experience a series of sea kayaking and hiking day trips from our Little Sand Bay Base Camp.

Contact John Carson at john@davmn.org to signup for one of the following events.

July 17th – July 20th, 2025 or August 21st - August 24th, 2025





THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 18 AUGUST 2025 AT 1830.

OPENING CEREMONY: * OPENING PRAYER * PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

- B. Members Present: 16
- C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: Paul Hoks joined us this evening. Welcome, Paul!
- D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion to accept minutes as read by Andy, 2d by Mike. the motion carried.
- E. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeri read the July treasurer's report. Andy motioned to accept the report, Gary made the 2d, and the motion carried.
- F. Communications:
 - 1. Marion Evans sent us a donation of \$20.
 - 2. Carol Reike made a \$200 donation to us.
 - 3. DAV National has reminded all chapters of the upcoming DAV 5K race sponsored by USAA, as part of the Veterans Day weekend. This 5K will be live in Cincinnati on Saturday, November 8th, or you can participate virtually all weekend. See the adjutant for registration details.
 - 4. DAV Minnesota has announced a call for Veterans for an upcoming photo shoot on October 4th, 5th, and 6th in the Minneapolis and surrounding area. The photos will be part of the VA Office of Suicide Prevention communication materials. If you are interested, please see the adjutant for details on registering before Aug. 25th.
 - DAV National announced Agent Orange Awareness Day to raise awareness about the harmful effects of this toxic chemical while serving our country. Reminder also that we have expanded benefits for Veterans exposed to poisonous substances, thanks to the "Honoring our PACT Act of 2022.
 - 6. DAV MN announced registration is now open for the Fall conference being held September 25th-27th at the Crown Plaza Minneapolis West in Plymouth, MN. Registration closes on September 5th. If you want to attend, please see the adjutant for registration details.
 - 7. We have received an invitation to the annual Northwest Minnesota Foundation thank-you dinner. This year's event will be held at the Venue at Copper Ridge in Newfolden, MN, on Sept 17th. If you are interested in attending, please see the adjutant for registration details.
 - Marie Lamon sent us a wonderful thank-you card expressing her appreciation for all the help and support she has received in response to Tom's injury.
- G. Committee Reports:
 - 1. Membership: NA
 - 2. Service Officer: NA
 - 3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Tom Annonson was seriously injured in an accident while cleaning fallen trees out of his property. He has sustained serious neck injuries and is currently only able to talk and shrug his shoulders; everything else remains paralyzed. Tom is currently at the Minneapolis VA hospital, with a spinal specialist/ surgeon on staff. Mike Weber fell and broke his hip on 7/1/25; he

resides in Nielson Place, room 106 (Mulberry) and is intensely bored. If you have some time, he would welcome visitors.

- 4. Legislative: NA
- 5. Entertainment: NA
- 6. Publicity and Fundraising:
- 7. Medical Equipment: 14 Issues and 6 donations.
- 8. Scholarship Committee announced they are working to update the application form and get it sent out at the beginning of the school year.
- H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.
- Old Business: a: Gene reminds us that additional help will be needed and welcomed for setting up before the picnic. If you can, please show up at about ten on Saturday for setup, and cleanup will obviously be done after the picnic is over.
 - b. Special thanks to Henry H., Jack Y., and Gary G., for the repainting and the new baseboard installation in the breakroom, kitchen, and utility room, and all the people who helped clear the rooms and bring them back in.
- Special thanks to Ward S. for consistently showing up before meetings to help clean and set up.
- d. DAVMN responded to the commander's request for assistance with Tom and his injury, donating \$3,000 to help pay for the tree and stump removal that Tom was working on when he was injured.
- e. Jack received a quote to have our donation bins sand-blasted for \$300 each, and then repainted for an additional \$280. Glen is also working on getting additional quotes for repairing and repainting the bins before the next meeting.
- J. New Business: A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami County service officer Shane, 80 an 80-year-old in extreme poverty, who needs help with his bill to Paul Bunyan of \$253 and his car insurance of \$197, approved and paid by the commander.

A Veteran in Need request was made by Darren for an Air Force Veteran needing help with his electric bill and reconnect bill, a total of \$555.89. Approved and paid by the commander.

A Veteran in Need, spouse of an Army Veteran, deceased, made by Logan (Clearwater County), is needing help paying for dentures. After insurance, there is a total of \$6,254.20 remaining. Rodney made the motion to pay \$3,000; Glen made the second, and the motion carried.

Pre-buy of propane is offered at \$1.75 per gallon; after our leftover \$300 from last year, 350 gallons will cost \$258.26. Andy made the motion to purchase the pre-buy propane, Dave made the 2d, and the motion carried.

Scholarship Committee proposed increasing the total scholarship funds from \$6,000 to \$12,000 for a scholarship of \$2,000 per student (six total awardees still). Andy made the proposal, Dave made the 2d, and the motion carried.

- K. Good of the Order: Our CVSO reminds us there are still grant monies available to Veterans to help with storm cleanup (\$500 per individual).
- L. Closing Ceremonies performed.
- M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Mike, seconded by Andy. Motion carried.
 - > The meeting adjourned at 1943 hrs.
 - > Next meeting 9/15/2025 @1830.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We are continuing our discussion about the mystery Paul writes to the Ephesians. As you may recall, we touched on this 'mystery in Christ' a couple of months ago (July). There is so much to discuss and ponder about this mystery that it almost seems impossible to fully comprehend the extraordinary implications this has for our lives now and into the future.

Paul mentions this very specific fact "... But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ ... and **raised** us up with Him and **seated** us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that **in the ages to come** He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus..." (Ephesians 2:4-7 New American Standard Bible).

Notice the changing tenses from the past to future in above verses as well as the incredible statements Paul writes to the Ephesians under the influence of the Holy Spirit. This mystery, refers to as the 'already, but not yet' understanding of our current situation. This is not some kind of mysticism, or play on words. As a result of knowing Christ and understanding the work He did on the cross, our position with God is already different and secure in heaven with Christ, although we have not yet fully experience this since we are here on earth.

There are cultural issues to consider as well. During the time Paul wrote to the Ephesians, people of their time were concerned about the very real threat of fate and the powers of darkness in their lives (Paul writes more about this in chapter 6). As a result, Paul was reassuring the Ephesians of their position and security with Christ.

As we can see, this mystery in Christ extends well into the future, or as Paul writes - 'the ages to come', when God will be creating a new heaven and earth. This new world will need a new government consisting of Israel (Romans 11:26), and The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5 and Revelation 21-22).

Take care. May God Bless All of You. Mike and Julie

MINNESOTA: UPCOMING DAV MN OUTDOOR EVENTS

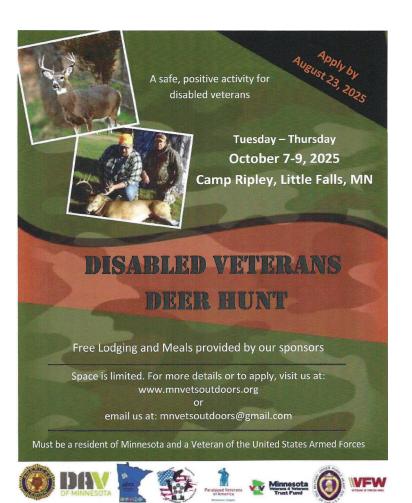
The Minnesota DAV Department's Outdoor program has scheduled their upcoming events and posted them on their website. Check them out at: https://davmn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/

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8[™] ANNUAL SUMMERFEST RIDE

When:

July 26th, 2025 10:00 AM

Cost:

\$25 Per Rider

\$15 Per Passenger

- o 50/50 Raffles at each stop
- o Raffle Drawing @ 8 PM
- o Silent Auction 9:00 AM-7:00 PM

Bands start at 4 PM

The Clearwater Boys 4 PM -7 PM



Ride Schedule:

- **❖ 8:00 AM Registration Opens**
- ❖ 9:00 AM Registration Closes
- ❖ 9:00 AM Welcome Program
- ♦ 9:30 AM Saftey Breifing
- ♦ 10:00 AM Ride Leaves

Where:

Monticello VFW

Post 8731

713 S Cedar St

Monticello, MN 55362

Easy Hour 8 AM-12 AM



Proceeds will be donated to Sarah's Lung Squad and their misson to provide Legos and Squishmallows to Childrens MN. These items will be in honor of their sweet baby Sarah who was diagnosed with RSV at 2.5 weeks old and has had an extensive stay at Childrens.

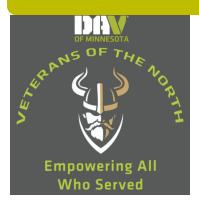








MINNESOTA: DAV OF MN PODCAST



A monthly podcast presented by the DAV of Minnesota. Find Veterans of the North where you get your podcasts.

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: NATIONAL MEMBER NEWS

The link below is to the National's web page that highlights some of the activities of Chapters and members from around the Country. The page has some interesting accounts of the various things that might spark some ideas that other Chapters might consider incorporating in their local areas of influence.

Check it out at https://www.dav.org/news-media/member-news

NATIONAL: NATIONAL LEGISLATION NEWS

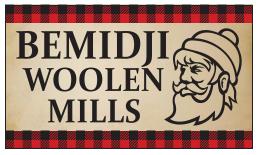
Keep up with legislation at the National Level by visiting https://www.dav.org/about-dav/legislation

Additional Sponsors

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MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

September- National Suicide Prevention Month

September- National Service Dog Month

Sept 9th- Labor Day

Sept 2 - V-J Day (Victory over Japan)

Sept 11 - Patriot's Day

Sept 15 – Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept 18 - Air Force (USAF) Birthday

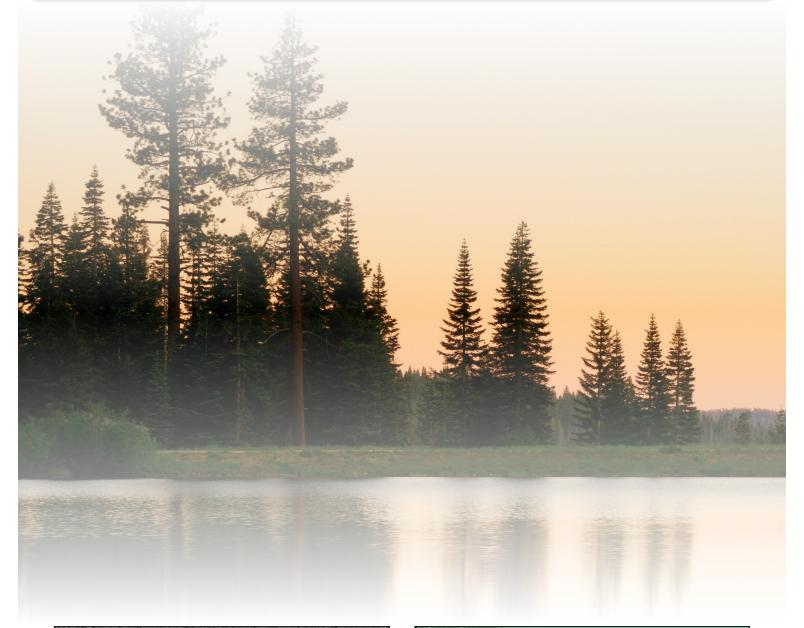
Sept 18- Air National Guard Birthday

Sept 29- National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept 22-24- Rosh Hashanah

Sept 28- Gold Star Mother's Day

Sept 29- VFW Day





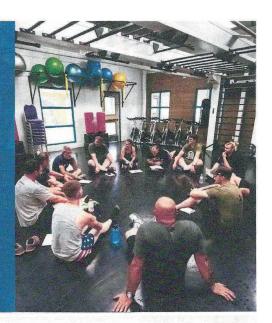




23V RECON XX IRON RANGE

APPLICATIONS OPEN!

Combining the power of wilderness adventure, physical activity and positive psychology you will explore different approaches to healing and becoming the best version of yourself.



DETAILS

COST: Free (\$7,255 Value) NEED people - chil

PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENT

There are no physical fitness requirements to participate. However, the Outdoor Wellness Adventure is physically strenuous. A goal to work toward is ability to complete a 4-mile ruck with a 40lb pack within 90 minutes.

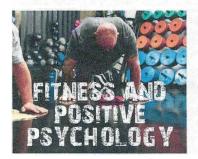
ORIENTATION: September 19th-Time and Location TBD

Dates: September 20-25

Location: Blue Ridge Mountains Backpacking and Rock Climbing with North Carolina Outward School - Asheville, NC

This six-day backpacking and rock climbing course offers a unique opportunity for self-discovery in some of the oldest mountains in the world. Home to hundreds of waterfalls, over a million acres of national forest, park and public land, unique rock formations and the highest peaks in the Eastern United States, the Blue Ridge Mountains are a beautiful, challenging natural environment to discover or rediscover your true potential, build trust, and discover camaraderie with your crew.





GYM ORIENTATION: September 26 | 3:00-4:00pm Mesabi Fit-8367 Unity Dr, V<u>irginia</u>, MN 55792

GROUP SESSIONS

September 29th - December 26th Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday | 3:00-4:30pm 5pg - 6pm Mesabi Fit-8367 Unity Dr, Virginia, MN 55792

PAGE 1 of 2



Offices in: Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, and Baudette



FREE

2025 - BEMIDJI VAN - 2025 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES



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FREE RIDES To All Veterans and Caregiver (if needed)!

Northwest Transportation MN DAV Bemidji-Fargo Trips • Pick-up Points:

Bemidji National Guard Armory • Solway in front of bar • Shevlin in front of bar • Bagley Cenex Station west end of town Fosston at LePier's on the east end of town • Mahnomen northside of town • Ada Country Store • Mainstreet Leonard & Clearbrook

TO SCHEDULE RIDES FOR HIGHLIGHTED RED AREAS:

Call 1-855-277-9787 and follow voice prompts to leave a message. If you have problems leaving a message call **Saddoris at 218-209-1863 (text/call).**

Volunteer Drivers Needed! Call Saddoris for info.









VA: IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING YOUR VAID CARD

As a Veteran receiving health care, one of the most crucial assets you possess is your VA ID card. It's imperative to understand why maintaining and updating your VA ID card is essential and how you can ensure it remains functional.

Identification at VA Facilities

Your VA ID card serves as your primary identification at VA facilities. Whether you're seeking medical care, accessing benefits, or attending appointments, this card is vital. It streamlines the identification process, reducing potential human errors and allowing seamless access to your personal files and medical records.

Check-in for Appointments

When you have appointments at VA facilities, your VA ID card is a necessity for check-in. It helps staff quickly verify your identity, ensuring a smooth and efficient process.

Updating Your VA ID Card

If you need to update your VA ID card, visit the enrollment office at your local VA facility. No appointment is necessary for this process. The staff at the enrollment office are there to assist you in updating your information. Don't hesitate to ask any VA employee for guidance or assistance. They are more than willing to help you navigate the process of updating or obtaining a new VA ID card.

Inspecting Your VA ID Card for Serviceability

Image Accuracy

Ensure that the photo on your card accurately reflects your current appearance. If not, it might be time for an update.

Expiration Check

Regularly check the expiration date on your VA ID card. An expired card might hinder your access to services and benefits. If your card has expired or is about to, it's crucial to visit the enrollment office for renewal.

Ensuring Barcode and Card Information Accuracy

Your VA ID card's barcode and information play a pivotal role in swiftly accessing the benefits and services you're entitled to as a veteran. Regularly inspecting and ensuring the integrity of these components is essential for a hassle-free experience when utilizing your card at VA facilities. If you notice any issues with the barcode, information accuracy, or physical wear on the card, promptly address them by seeking a replacement or an update at your nearest VA enrollment office.

Maintaining and updating your VA ID card is pivotal for ensuring a smooth experience when accessing VA services and benefits. Whether for medical care, benefit claims, or appointments, a functional and up-to-date VA ID card simplifies the process. The VA is committed to assisting veterans in this regard, providing the necessary resources and support for a hassle-free experience.

Veterans have sacrificed and served our nation, and the VA ID card is a token of appreciation and commitment to providing the care and support deserved. By keeping your VA ID card current and well-maintained, you're taking a proactive step to ensure that you receive the benefits and services you've rightfully earned through your service to the country.

Law Offices of FULLER, WALLNER, CAYKO, PEDERSON & HUSEBY, LTD. 514 America Ave., P.O. Box 880 Bemidji, MN 56619-0880

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Bemidji Chapter 7

Disabled American Veterans

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