



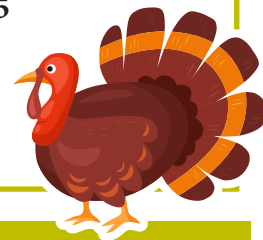
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Monthly Newsletter  
November 2025

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
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**NEXT MEETING:**  
DAV Headquarters at  
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
Monday, November 17 at 6:30pm

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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:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Gary Guggenberger, Andy Staudt, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

**November: National  
Veterans & Military  
Family Month**  
**Warrior Care & National  
family Caregiver Month**  
**November 2: Daylight  
Savings Time late**  
**November 10: Marine  
Corps Birthday**  
**November 11: Veterans  
Day**  
**November 27:  
Thanksgiving Day**  
**December 1: Civil Air  
Patrol (USAF Auxiliary)  
Birthday**  
**December 7: National  
Pearl Harbor**

**Remembrance Day**  
**December 13: National  
Guard Birthday**  
**December 14-22:  
Hanukkah**  
**December 20: Wreaths  
Across America Day**  
**December 20: Space  
Force Birthday**  
**December 25: Christmas  
Day**  
**December 26-January 1:  
Kwanzaa**  
**December 31: New Year's  
Eve**



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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello Veterans,

It's the day after the monthly Chapter Meeting and it's a cool rainy day, what better use of a day like this then to sit down and write the Commander's Corner, so here goes. It has been a nice fall over all, everybody is trying to get things wrapped up and ready for winter, I hope we all get that mission accomplished. My weather prediction for this winter is pretty accurate, wake each morning and check the temperature, look outside and that is your weather for the day, about 98.5% of the time it will be correct.

GREAT NEWS, JUST ANNOUNCED AT LAST NIGHTS CHAPTER MEETING, "THE ANNUAL DAV CHRISTMAS PARTY IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 15th STARTING AT 5PM WITH DINNER SERVED AT 6PM. BE SURE TO GET SIGNED UP EARLY WITH NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND CHOICE OF CHICKEN OR ROAST BEEF. "THE CUTOFF DAY TO GET SIGNED UP IS AROUND DEC. 1st". We have never turned anybody down, but it sure relieves a lot of stress if you would just signup early, THANK YOU in advance.

At the November 17th meeting the DAV Auxiliary will again be providing pizza for all in attendance. So, come early and hungry to enjoy the pizza and visit with fellow veterans and Auxiliary and to Thank them for doing what they do to help the chapter!!

Update on our Junior Vice Commander Tom Annonson, he is now able to move his hands and feet a little and TO RECEIVE PHONE CALLS @ PHONE #218-251-3025. Marie said he might not be able to always answer, but leave him a message and he will call you back. Some of the best times to call is the weekends, he doesn't have any PT then, and he would love to hear you!!!!

As always, any questions or concerns or to sign up for the Christmas Party, give me a call @ 218-556-4592.

Gene

## 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/>


**November 3 @ 8:00 am - November 7 @ 5:00 pm Texas Wild Hog Hunt 2**

**November 16 - November 20 Zion National Park Hike and Explore**

**December 8 - December 13 Eureka Springs Hike, Bike and Explore**



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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 10 OCTOBER 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	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Excused
Historian	Vacant	N/A

### B. Members Present: 21

### C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: Lila was introduced, she recently moved here from North Dakota and intends to become a DAV member.

### D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Not available, not read, no motion to accept required.

### E. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeri read the Sept. treasurer's report. Randy motioned to accept the report as read, Dave made the 2d, and the motion carried.

### F. Communications:

1. DAV Natl scholarship announces \$140,000 dollars available. They have 15 awards available ranging from \$2,500 to \$30,000 dollars. Applicant students must be 21 or younger and have accumulated 100 or more DAV volunteer hours.
2. DAV National announced their new membership drive contest from 5/1/25-6/30/25. Winner will receive \$2,500 dollar credit towards DAV convention trip.
3. DAV MN sent updated instructions regarding annual reporting, congressional scorecard, and other misc. items.
4. DAV National reminds us that this year's Veterans Day will fall on Tuesday, Nov. 11th, with a theme or focus on encouraging volunteerism.
5. Marshal and Barbara Johnston donated \$100 to Chapter 7.
6. Carol Reike donated \$100 to Chapter 7.
7. MN DAV sent contributed \$3,500 to chapter 7.

### G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: Sr. Vice Darrel reported two new members; Steve W. from Gene and Will H. from Jeff, welcome guys!
2. Service Officer: NA
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Tom Annonson is currently at the Minneapolis VA hospital, and reports are that he is making progress, albeit very slow progress, after his injury in June.
4. Legislative: NA
5. Entertainment: Sr. Vice Darrel has announced the Chapter 7 Christmas party will be held on 12/15/25 at the Eagles Club. Social time begins at 5PM with the meal starting at 6PM. There will also be a short program, and this event will also serve as our Dec. meeting.
6. Publicity and Fundraising: NA
7. Medical Equipment: 19 Issues and 22 donations.

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

### I. Old Business: None to report.

### J. New Business:

1. Pizza will be provided for the Nov. meeting by chapter 7 auxiliary.
2. Sr. Vice Darrel has announced the Chapter 7 Christmas party will be held on 12/15/25 at the Eagles Club. Social time begins at 5PM with the meal starting at 6PM. There will also be a short program, and this event will also serve as our Dec. meeting. Please sign up early so that we can obtain an accurate headcount for meals.
3. Army Veteran in need request for tires in the amount of \$624.16, which was approved by the executive committee.
4. Air Force Veteran in need request for assistance with city utilities in the amount of \$265.47. Approved by and paid by commander.
5. Army Veteran in need requesting help with paying electric bill in the amount of \$289.19.
6. Army Veteran in need requesting help with groceries. Chapter voted to approve up to \$300, actual amount paid was \$278.49.
7. Army Veteran's widow in need of help replacing roof. Total amount needed is \$17,000. She has already received \$10,000 from MN Veterans Administration, executive committee recommended at least \$1,500, and the chapter approved of \$3,000.
8. Dave made a motion to all the Exec. Committee to spend up to \$10,000 for the clothing bins repair, Roger made the 2d and the motion was approved for the chapter executive committee spending up to \$10,000 on repair, sandblasting, and painting of the clothing bins.
9. *In Country Motorcycle Club* is requesting assistance with funding for prizes for bingo games (Thurs at 1:30 PM) held at Bemidji Veterans Home. Dave made a motion to fund \$2,000; Mike made the 2d, and the motion was approved for \$2,000 in prizes.
10. "Quilts of Valor" made by the quilt guild for fabric and batting is requesting funding, Randy made the motion for \$1,000, Dave made the 2d and the motion was approved by the Chapter.
11. Randy made the motion and Steve made the 2d, and chapter 7 approved \$3,000 for Fischer House in the Twin Cities for housing Veterans families whose spouses are receiving services at the nearby MN Veterans Hospital and which chapter 7 currently has one member there receiving services.
12. MN DAV Adjutant advised a chapter spending ratio of 70/30 helping Veterans in need/running the chapter operations. Chapter 7 fits into these spending ratio guidelines.
13. Air Force Veteran in need from the American Legion, needing help with electric and utilities in the amount of \$159.69, approved and paid by the commander.

### K. Good of the Order: Chapter 7 DAV Auxiliary will provide pizza at the Nov. general meeting. Reminder that DAV MN is providing \$100 for lifetime membership with chapter 7 providing \$150, leaving the new member a cost of \$75. The Bemidji Veterans Home currently has 37 residents, soon to be 41, and has 115 employees. DAV MN is sending \$3,500 to all MN DAV chapters.

### L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

### M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Mike, seconded by Henry. Motion carried.

- The meeting adjourned at 1954 hrs.
- Next meeting 11/17/2025 @1830.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings to all my DAV / AUX brothers and sisters out there in the beautiful land / lakes of Minnesota North Central Chapter #7, take care and be safe. We are all blessed with our current members, welcome our new members, mourn our passed - away members, and wish the very best for all who are no longer members. While this article is being written, the sky was clear this morning, cloudy this afternoon, and a beautiful time to reflect on the wonders of all the critters who are busy getting ready for a another white and gorgeous winter season. As we are enjoying God's awesome creation in our quiet moments of contemplation and recall the article last month about grace, we will now cover some of the modern misconceptions of grace (Ephesians 2: 1-10).

Thomas Anthony Harris (1910-1995) wrote a book entitled "I'm Okay, You're Okay" (1967) and help create an unbiblical philosophical presupposition in our culture that essentially dismisses the critical importance of God's grace because it focuses on the human self empowerment. In other words, as long as we do a "little sin" God will disregard it because we are intrinsically good at heart. At this point we must make a huge distinction between our relationships with God and people.

Regarding our relationship with God, as mention earlier, this is a tragically incorrect view of God's grace. God does not wink at sin, there is no distinction between a "little" or "big" sin; either you miss the bull's-eye or hit it, there is no in-between (sin means missing the target or being disobedient to God). The reason we miss God's target is because we start out as evil - the heart is desperately wicked - who can know it? (Jeremiah 17, Psalm 51, Genesis 3). This is where Christ comes in, because without the tremendously high cost of Christ's death for all mankind, there would be no mercy and no grace for anyone - period. In other words, Jesus Christ paid the high cost of death to satisfy God's law for us (John 3:14 - 18, Romans 2:4 -9) Therefore as far as God is concern, the good news of God's grace for us comes only through Christ. The basic premise of Thomas A. Harris was the belief mankind is primarily good. This is not God's position or view of us. Jesus Himself said although we are evil, we can give good gifts to others (Matthew 7:11). This opens the door for Thomas A. Harris being partially correct in his philosophical presupposition towards our relationship with others (not God).

Regarding our relationship with people. We are to forgive others, yes, but this too, can be a complicated issue in light of the many complexities in human relationships. This can be seen in the story of the Good Samaritan with compassion. In this story Jesus was making a point about hatred and the discriminatory culture of His day, although this lesson has many applications for today. Reflecting upon all the people who refused to help the injured man, it was the Samaritan, the one person whom everyone else despises and hated who assisted the man. As mention earlier, there are other situations and different relationships when it comes to forgiveness, such as praying for our enemies (Matthew 6:4, Luke 6: 27-28), essentially offering grace to our enemies and thereby doing good to our enemies hopefully heaping coals on their head (Romans 12:20). Nobody said this is easy to do, especially in light of all our own interpersonal and sometimes family relationships. Yet, this does remind me of Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief, the Iraqi lawyer who risked his life and family to provide U.S. Forces the information to rescue PFC Jessica Lynch from captivity in a Nasiriyah, Iraq, hospital (2003). In the mean time, if there is something we can do for you, please call. Take care and blessings to all of you.

Mike - DAV and Linda - Auxiliary

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## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- November: National Veterans & Military Family Month
- November: Warrior Care & National family Caregiver Month
- November 2: Daylight Savings Time late
- November 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- November 11: Veterans Day
- November 27: Thanksgiving Day
- December 2025
- December 1: Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- December 7: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 13: National Guard Birthday
- December 14-22: Hanukkah
- December 20: Wreaths Across America Day
- December 20: Space Force Birthday
- December 25: Christmas Day
- December 26-January 1: Kwanzaa
- December 31: New Year's Eve

## VA: SWITCH FROM DS LOGON TO LOGIN.GOV OR ID.ME BY SEPTEMBER 30

After Sept. 30, 2025, Veterans will have two secure options to sign in to VA.gov and VA mobile apps—a Login.gov account or ID.me account. Most Veterans have already made the switch. If you're still using a DS Logon username and password, we want to make sure you're prepared when this option is discontinued by the end of September.

### How to Transition

1. Visit [Creating an account for VA.gov](#) for detailed instructions on setting up your Login.gov or ID.me account.
2. Follow the step-by-step guide to create your account and verify your identity.
3. Use your new account to access VA services online as you did before.



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## MINNESOTA: DAV OF MN PODCAST



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## 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>

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## VA: VA AWARDS \$84M IN GRANTS TO FIGHT VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced \$84 million in grants to 176 organizations across the country to help Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

\$42 million in grants will cover legal services and another \$42 million in grants will go toward case management services to improve housing retention by Veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless or who were previously homeless and are transitioning to permanent housing.

Legal services grants will be distributed through VA's Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grants program and provide Veterans with:

- Assistance with landlord-tenant disputes to prevent eviction.
- Help with court proceedings for child support, custody, or estate planning.
- Help with obtaining benefits like state and federal compensation.
- Defending Veterans in criminal cases, such as outstanding warrants, fines, and driver's license revocation.

Case management grants will be distributed through VA's Grant and Per Diem program and will fund approximately 100 case manager positions that provide essential services, such as:

- Assistance with housing search and placement.
- Home visits to monitor housing stability and assess the need for services and other support.
- Assistance with access to educational activities that support personal empowerment and independence.

"No one who served our nation in uniform should go without shelter," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "These grants will provide crucial support and services to help thousands of Veterans on their journey back to self-sufficiency."

If you are a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838). Visit the VA Homeless Programs website to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for Veterans exiting homelessness.



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