

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

www.davchapter7.org

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Monthly Newsletter December 2025

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



NEXT MEETING: DAV Headquarters at 5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN Monday, December 15 at 5:00pm







620 Carr Lk Rd S, Bemidji, MN 56601

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

 ${\bf acollman@paulbunyan.net}\\ www. Adult Day Services Bemidji.com$ 

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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 Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: Joe Vene
HISTORIAN: Vacant

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

Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

# **UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

December 1st-Cyber Monday December 7th-Pearl Harbor

Remembrance

Day

December 15th-

Hanukkah

December 25th-Christmas Day

December 26th-Kwanzaa

December 31st-New Year's Eve January 1- New Year's Day

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr Birthday

January 29:

**Chinese New Year** 





# **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Dear Fellow Veterans,

As of this writing, it is the latter part of November and we still don't have any snow on the ground, that means we are saving on the heat bill. We know it is coming, but until then I hope we can all enjoy the milder temperatures. Maybe we can make it until the DAV CHRISTMAS PARTY without the white stuff and the icy roads, that would be nice.

Speaking of the DAV CHRISTMAS PARTY, it is on December 15th at 5 pm at the Bemidji Eagles Club. Be sure to get signed up to attend by coming to the office or call Darell or myself to ensure that we have enough food for everyone. It is almost guaranteed to be a good time had by all, great food, wonderful door prizes, and the chance to visit with fellow veterans and old friends that you have acquired from past CHRISTMAS PARTIES and Summer Picnics. THAT IS WHAT MAKES THIS AND EVERY CHRISTMAS PARTY WORTH WHILE TO ATTEND, FRIENDSHIP IS WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH WHILE, NO PERSON CAN MAKE IT AS AN ISLAND.

For the Chapter, elections are coming up, if you are interested in any Officer position, elected or appointed, please let the nominating committee know. The nominating committee consists of Jeff Meyer, Ward Sutton, and Dave Chamness, there are a lot of offices that need to be filled, and they cannot do it without some of our members stepping up and saying I can do that. The previous Officers will be there to help and assist any and all of the new Officers. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD THE BEST DAV CHAPTER IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND MAKE IT EVEN BETTER THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN! THE VETERANS THAT WE SERVE, DESERVE THE BEST WE CAN GIVE THEM, OUR CHAPTER KNOWS THAT THEY EARNED IT, NOT JUST DESERVE IT!!

Remember, if you have a need for any medical equipment, give me a call. We are faster and cheaper than anyone around here, if we have it, you get it, and all at no charge. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call.

Your short timer current Commander,

Gene Schwantes

# PEARL HARBOR DINNER

Pearl Harbor Dinner on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at the Eagles Club, hosted by the VFW Auxiliary. All veterans and their families are welcome. Free will donation.





# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 17 NOVEMBER 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	Excused
Judge Advocate	Ward Sutton	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Present
Historian	Vacant	N/A

- B. Members Present: 17
- C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: Lila Tenison, welcome Lila!
- D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion to accept previous meeting minutes as read by Steve, 2d by Dave, the motion carried.
- E. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeri read the October treasurer's report. Henry motioned to accept the report, Gary made the 2d, and the motion carried.
- F. Communications:
  - DAVMN sent us a thank you for filing our financial reports on time and reminded us that we are now facing deadlines for filing our 990, SOS, and Attorney General filings by the end of November.
  - Middle River Veterans Outdoors sent us their annual donation request, thank you for previous donations, and their all-new and updated brochure highlighting their multiple outdoor programs. Please see the adjutant or visit them online at: MRVETERANSOUTDOORS.COM for more information or to participate.
  - 3. DAVMN sent us congratulations to John Walker, Minnesota DAV Volunteer of the month. Congratulations, John!
  - 4. Gina from DAVMN updated us that "Membership Match" will continue for the 2025-2026 membership year. She included a roster of each chapter and details of progress towards our goals.
  - 5. DAVMN, in conjunction with celebrating their 100th anniversary, is celebrating Paul Wojahn, the nation's oldest DAV Chapter Commander, still leading with Chapter 15 in New Ulm, MN.
  - 6. There will be a Volunteer Services Webinar hosted by Assistant National Voluntary Services Director Oscar Olguin on 19 November at 2 PM EST for those interested in volunteering and participating in the DAV Scholarships.
  - 7. DAV National announced that they have expanded its youth scholarship program. They now offer 15 scholarships annually, totaling \$140,000 in awards. Individual scholarships range from \$2,500 to \$30,000.
  - 8. DAV National has launched its new DAV Recruiter Rally for 2025-2026. Please see the adjutant or visit the national website for more information about this recruitment incentive.
  - 9. We have a reminder from the state for all members to update and/or sign up for their mydav.org profiles and accounts.
  - 10. The National Adjutant, Barry Jesinoski, has announced a new partnership with "Regiment," the nation's largest military Veteran gaming community. More details are available on the national website.
  - 11. DAVMN sent out a thank you to all chapters for their participation as DAVMN celebrates 105 years.

12. Chapter 7 received the \$3,500 donation, which the DAVMN executive committee recommended in September.

#### G. Committee Reports:

- 1. Membership: Sr. Vice Darrel reported one new member this month, Lila Tenisen, to the chapter. Welcome, Lila!
- 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. He has regained more function in his left arm, can now eat small amounts of food, and has his cell phone with him. Tom can use the voice commands/prompts on his cell phone, so please send him well wishes via text or Facebook, or give him a call to say hi. If you are in the Twin Cities area, he would love a visit!
- 4. Legislative: NA
- Entertainment: Chapter 7 Christmas Party is being held on 12/15/2025 beginning at 5 PM at the Eagles Club in Bemidji. The sign-up cutoff day is 12/5/2025, for meal headcount.
- 6. Publicity and Fundraising: NA
- 7. Medical Equipment: 26 Issues and 7 donations.
- H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.
- I. Old Business: NA
- J. New Business: Dave C., Jeff M., and Ward S. have volunteered to be the nominating committee for this year's election of officers. Henry made the motion to approve, Darrel S. made the 2d, and the motion carried.

A veteran in need requests assistance in purchasing tires for his pickup truck. The executive committee approved up to \$700; the actual purchase was \$675,26.

Commander Gene filled in for Tom as part of the Bemidji Veterans Home spending committee. After briefing the chapter on the veterans' financial needs at the home, Gary made the motion to increase our donation (a budgeted item) to \$8,000. Dave made the second motion, and it carried.

- K. Good of the Order: Jim P. reminded us that the VFW will be hosting its Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at the Eagles Club on 12/7/2025.
- L. Closing Ceremonies performed.
- M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Steve, seconded by Darrel S. Motion carried.
  - ➤ The meeting adjourned at 1914 hrs.
  - Next meeting: 12/15/2025 at the Eagles Club. Social hour begins at 5:00 PM; dinner and the program start at 6:00 PM.

# **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Good morning, afternoon, or evening (based on when you read this) all our wonderful and awesome veterans. This time of year is extra special for many veterans who served during World War II. The population of those who are still with us is approximately 45,418. As we approach Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, "December 7th 1941, a day that will live in infamy" (Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a speech to a joint session of Congress, December 8th 1941) let us all take a time to reflect on those families, friends, and relatives who paid the ultimate price for our country.

As we consider world history and our leadership position among nations, the biblical prophecies of Israel continue to move towards completion. The world has changed in many ways during our lifetime, Yet Jesus was very practical regarding these many changes and ultimately our response as we look towards the end of this age and the birth of a new one.

As we reflect on Christ's words, "See to it that no one misleads you for many will come in My name saying 'I am the Christ' and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of war. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place; that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom and in various places there will be famine and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs" (Matthew 24:4-8, New American Standard Bible). 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

# 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: <a href="https://davmn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/">https://davmn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/</a>

December 8 - December 13 Eureka Springs Hike, Bike and Explore Marh 17- March 21 Late Winter Getaway- applications close Jan 5 April 13-April 18 Grand Canyon National Park Hike and Explore, applications close Jan 23

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#### MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- 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
- January 1: New Years Day
- January 19: Martin Luther King Jr Birthday
- January 29: Chinese New Year

# **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 <u>Creating an account for VA.gov</u> 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.









# 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.

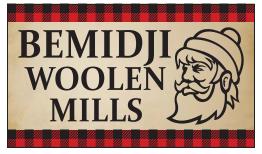
Check it out at https://www.dav.org/news-media/member-news

**Additional Sponsors** 

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# **NATIONAL: NATIONAL LEGISLATION NEWS**

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

# VA: 🎄 📅 THE FARGO VA HAS A "VETERANS GIVING TREE" AND HOLIDAY DISPLAY AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE AGAIN THIS YEAR!

77 The Giving Tree will be on display until just after the new year.

The Veterans Giving Tree program helps us meet the emergent needs of the unique and diverse Veteran population served by the Fargo VA Health Care System. These items will be used throughout the year as needed for Veterans; they are not individual requests made by specific Veterans.

Ponations of requested items may be left with any Red Coat Volunteer in the lobby of the North Main Entrance Monday through Friday from 8 am - 3 pm.

├ If you would like to receive an acknowledgment letter for your tax-deductible contribution, please leave your contact information with your donation.

For those unable to pull a tag directly off the tree, requested items can also be found at DreamList. com/for/fargovagivingtree

Participation in the Veterans Giving Tree program is purely voluntary; there is no expectation that Veterans, staff, or community members contribute toward this cause.

All donated items must be new with tags and/or in original packaging. We also ask that you do not gift wrap any of the donated items.

For any questions, please contact the Fargo VA's Center for Development & Civic Engagement at **701-239-3700 ext. 3395** or vhafarvol@va.gov.

Thank you for your generosity and support!















# 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.











# DID YOU KNOW?

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#### **Bemidji Chapter 7**

## **Disabled American Veterans**

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