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Monthly Newsletter  
February 2026

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
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**NEXT MEETING:**  
DAV Headquarters at  
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Monday, February 16 at 6:30pm

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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

**Feb 2 - Groundhog Day**  
**Feb 8 - Super Bowl**  
**Feb 12 - Lincoln's Birthday**  
**Feb 14 - Valentine's Day**  
**Feb 16 - President's Day (Washington's Birthday)**  
**Feb 28-29- Ramadan**



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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Chapter 7 Members,

Here we are in the last part of January and surprise, surprise it is cold out, and the news is, it's going to get colder. The good news is, February is coming and everybody knows that February is a short month and it will be over in no time and then it is March and spring is here, nothing to it, another Minnesota winter under our belt.

At the Chapter, we are moving a lot of medical equipment, sadly most of it on the outbound side, which is good. That is putting a real drain on what we have available to help veterans with, so this is a PLEA to all members to check your garage, basement, relatives, neighbors, etc., for any medical equipment that is not being used and is available for donation. All donations will be greatly appreciated by the Chapter and the Veteran that has a need.

Elections will be held at the February meeting after the last call for nominations, so there still is time to get your name in the running. Please let our nominating committee know which office you are interested in. To be an officer in THE GREATEST DAV CHAPTER IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA is a great honor, so step up and just say "I want to be an officer for this great Chapter" and be the leader to take the Chapter into the future!!!

We are moving along with getting our Clothing Bins repaired, sandblasted, primed, and painted, last night at the Chapter Meeting a motion for additional funds was made and approved to continue with this project. By May we should have approximately 16 bins updated and in service.

Remember, our Chapter is here for you, the Veteran, member or not; DAV Chapter 7 is here to serve Veterans that have served. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call.

Respectfully yours,  
Gene



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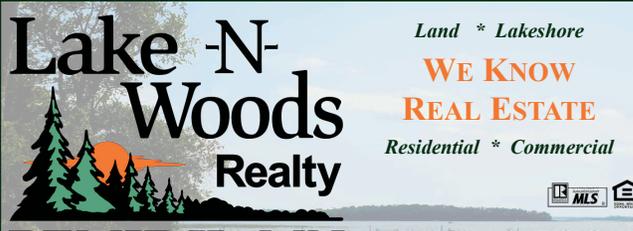
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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 19 JANUARY 2026 AT 1830.

## 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: 14

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: None

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion to accept minutes as read made by Dave, 2d by Randy, the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeri read the November treasurer's report. Dave made the motion to accept the report, Bruce made the 2d, and the motion carried. Jeri also read the Dec. treasurer's report, Steve made the motion to accept the Dec. report, Dean made the 2d and the motion carried.

F. Communications:

1. Marion Evans sent us a donation of \$20, and will be receiving a thank you letter in return, thank you Marion!
2. Veterans on the Lake, located in Ely, MN, has sent us a donation request for their organization, which offers multiple events for disabled Veterans and others throughout the year.
3. Jeanette Anderson has donated \$20,000 dollars to the Chapter 7, and a thank you letter will be sent to her. Thank you Jeanette!
4. Gina from state sent us a letter highlighting several upcoming events, there is now offered a Sedona hiking trip in April, registration deadline is February 15th, and there is also a Grand Canyon trip coming up also in April, with a registration deadline of January 23d. CSO training has been updated, the conference packets are being mailed out which will include all necessary information as well as the updates to the CSO training, if you are interested, please see the adjutant or commander for the new updates, and times of training.

G. Committee Reports:!

1. Membership: Sr. Vice Darrel reported four new members this month, Robert Knight of Invers Grove Heights, Brian Muirhead of Rosseau, William Klause of Laporte, and Sara Moran of Bemidji, welcome all!!
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, after his injury in June. Tom can now access his phone for calls, text messages or even Facebook, and

he posts to Facebook frequently on his progress.

4. Legislative: NA

5. Entertainment: NA

6. Publicity and Fundraising: NA

7. Medical Equipment: 26 Issues and 21 donations. Gene reported 192 items donated for 2025.

8. Nominating Committee for this year's election of officers, has so far identified Gary Guggenburger for Sr. Vice, and Andy Staudt for Jr. Vice. If you or someone you know is interested in the Commander, Sr. Vice or Jr. Vice or one of the appointed positions (Med Equip, treasurer, and adjutant), please see Dave, Jeff, or Ward to have your name put up for voting.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

I. Old Business:

- a: Nominating committee (Dave, Jeff, and Ward) are still actively seeking nominations for this year's election of officers and appointees. If you or someone you know are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact one of the nominating committee members to have your name added.
- b: Veterans appreciation day on 1/30/2026 at the BSU Woman's Hockey game against Mankato State. Gene is assembling a list of names or you can contact the Beltrami County Veteran Services Office directly to have your name added to the on-call list. After much research, there is finally a motion to have an additional 4 clothing bins repaired, sandblasted and painted, for the sum of \$10,000 dollars. The work will be done in the spring with payment for services made after 7/1/2026. Motion was made by Rodney, a 2d made by Dean, and the motion carried.

J. New Business: Numerous Veteran in Need requests made this past month, approved and paid by executive committee and Commander: Disabled Marine Veteran, request from Shane for help with groceries in the amount of \$341.25. Navy Veteran, request from Shane, for help with paying Beltrami Electric bill of \$417.47. Disabled Army Veteran, request from Shane, for help with groceries in the amount of \$234.29. Disabled Marine Veteran, request from Shane, for help fixing his truck in the amount of \$1281.20, executive committee approved immediate help of \$1000.00. Disabled Army Veteran, request by Darren for help with propane purchase in the amount of \$415.00 and groceries in the amount of 302.08, for a total of \$717.08. Air Force Veteran, request by Darren for help with cities utilities of \$383.32.

Treasurer Jeri present her request and argument to close the "Forget-me-not" account, Rodney made the motion to close the account, Bruce made the 2d and the motion carried.

K. Good of the Order: Visit [davn.org](http://davn.org) for upcoming events and information in Minnesota.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Henry, seconded by Bruce. Motion carried.

➤ The meeting adjourned at 1936 hrs.

➤ Next meeting 2/16/2026 @1830.

## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Feb 1- National Freedom Day
- Feb 3- Four Chaplains Day
- Feb 4- USO Birthday
- Feb 9-15- National Salute to Veteran Patients
- Feb 15- Sinking of USS Maine (1898)
- Feb 19- Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- Feb 23- Flag Raised on Iwo Jima (1945)
- Feb 27- Battle of Java Sea (1942)

## 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/>

March 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

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This month we will return to our discussion about The Book of Ephesians (Ephesians 2:1-10). In this particular section Paul (Apostle to the Gentiles) is discussing God's grace. A few months ago we were discussing one particular myth about grace. The myth we wrote about back then was about God's grace being a tolerance to sin. This month we are talking about the myth of God's grace being an end to itself. That is, God's graciousness has only been extended to us so we can enjoy the benefits of His blessings for ourselves. This sounds like a self centered view of grace, presumption and in fact, can be seen as a form of only focusing on great wealth to the exclusion of a meaningful relationship with God.

There are times when we can analyze things about God to much. This can really get us side tracked from the simplicity of God's true character and message for us. God wants to have a close, unique and personal relationship with us. God's grace flows out of His character as a gift, it is not something we can earn for ourselves, nor can we demand it as our right (Romans 9:16 & 11:6).

It is from out of God's grace and the work Jesus did on the cross that we have a future with Christ. God's future purpose for us is seen in the last few chapters of Revelation and Daniel 7, when we will be a part of God's government for a new earth, a wonderful experience to look forward to with anticipation. We understand we are not there yet, and still having to deal with life here and now. No worries, our applications will still apply to us here and now.

One way to keep our proper view of grace is to consider always "working out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). This includes obeying God with reverence, honor and respect because God is actually giving us His desire to do what He wants us to do long before we were ever born (Ephesians 2:10). As a result, by committing whatever you do to Christ, just know, He will direct your path as Christ gives you His desire, motivation, purpose and direction in your heart (Proverbs 16:9, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 37:23-25). Notice the portion underlined in the last sentence, as you may recall from military leadership training, this is the definition of leadership. A leader provides motivation, purpose and direction. Yes, Jesus is our wonderful leader, counselor and full of grace (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:14-16)

This has two applications for us today. The first application is being spiritually lifted up (past tense) into heaven with Christ to experience true blessings and joy (Ephesians 2:6). This is often realize as we give ourselves some quiet time alone to mediate and trust that God is in control and we are not.

The second application is to know that any past transitions or situations we experienced in life was covered by God's grace - just as our present and unknown future transitions and situations will be covered by God's grace (Romans 8:28, James 1:1-6, II Corinthians 11:22-33, II Corinthians 12:7-10). You may recognize the transitions in life mentioned in the previous sentence in terms of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Determination as Adjustment Disorder / Anxiety.

If you are in need, in the hospital, or would simply like to talk, give us a call, text or voicemail. Take care and blessings to all of you.

Mike - DAV and Linda - Auxiliary



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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.

## 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.

## 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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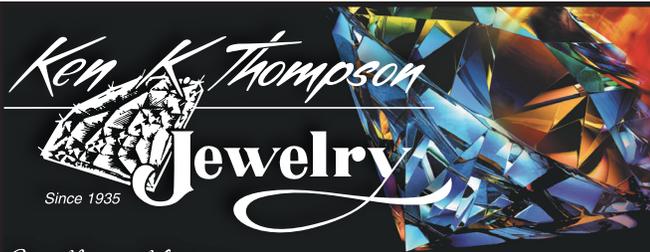
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