

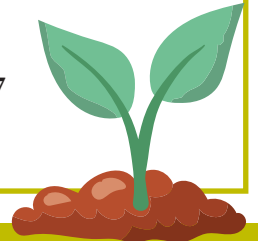


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Monthly Newsletter  
 April 2026

North Central MN Chapter #7  
 PO Box 564  
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**NEXT MEETING:**  
 DAV Headquarters at

**5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
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- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| COMMANDER:           | Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592   |
| SENIOR VICE:         | Gary Guggenberger   |
| JUNIOR VICE:         | Andy Staudt   |
| ADJUTANT:            | Jeff Meyer  |
| SERVICE OFFICERS:    | Tom Annonson, David Chamness  |
| 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: | Vacant  |
| HISTORIAN:           | Vacant  |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE:     | Bruce Tiegen, Henry Hammerback,<br>Jim Pinsonnault, Lila Teunissen,<br>Rodney Olson |

**UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>April 1: April Fools' Day</b>                   | <b>April 14: Business After Hours</b>             |
| <b>April 1-9: Passover</b>                         | <b>April 15: Tax Day</b>                          |
| <b>April 3: Good Friday</b>                        | <b>April 15: Ruby's Pantry</b>                    |
| <b>April 5: Easter Sunday</b>                      | <b>April 22: Earth Day</b>                        |
| <b>April 8: BSU Student Achievement Conference</b> | <b>April 24: Arbor Day</b>                        |
| <b>April 10-12: Outdoor Sport &amp; Home Show</b>  | <b>April 29: Administrative Professionals Day</b> |
| <b>April 11: Opera Night Gala</b>                  |   |
| <b>April 11-12: Train Days-Histori</b>             |   |
| <b>April 12: Orthodox Easter</b>                   |   |



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

The snow comes and goes, that must mean that spring is on its way, if only we could get rid of the teens at night. In a few months we will be saying that it's in the 80's and it is way to hot and the next thing you know is that we are back to winter. I guess they call it living where the seasons keep changing for a reason.

Well, here I am starting my 6th year as your DAV Chapter Commander and I am looking forward to serving this Great Chapter again. I hope the rest of our officers and I can lead this Chapter to bigger and better than it has ever been. The last set of officers set the standards really high, but I believe that this Chapter is destined to continue to improve in its mission to help veterans in need in a honest and fair manner.

Henry Hammerback is now in charge of medical equipment and his phone number is 218-556-9839. If you have a need for medical equipment or have any medical equipment that you wish to donate, please give Henry a call and he will do the best that he can to accommodate you.

Veterans Day on the Hill is on Thursday, April 23, and the bus will be leaving the Walmart parking lot at 6 am, please give me a call if you would like to go along and show that you support Veterans. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF DAV OR BE A VETERAN TO GO ON THE BUS, ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT VETERANS. TRIP INCLUDES FREE RIDE, FREE VISIT TO OUR STATE CAPITOL, FREE LUNCH, AND FREE DINNER ON THE WAY HOME!!!!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call.

Here to serve Veterans,  
Gene

## 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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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 16 MARCH 2026 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>Excused</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Jeff Meyer</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jeri Harvey</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Mike Gutz</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Ward Sutton</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Sergeant-At-Arms</b>	<b>Bruce Tiegen</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Officer of the Day</b>	<b>Glen Aagard</b>	<b>Excused</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>N/A</b>

B. Members Present: 16

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: None

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes were read by Adjutant Jeff, Commander Gene made two corrections, Andy made the motion to accept the minutes with corrections and Randy made the 2d, and the motion passed.

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

F. Communications:

1. DAVMN sent us the Veterans on the Hill reimbursement form, which will get filled out and sent in.
2. Zach Johnson from the Roger Up organization sent us a letter inviting us to check them out and consider donating to their cause of providing Veterans and their families with services such as mental health, service dogs and even a faith and fitness team. Research will be done and presented at next general meeting.
3. Josh Vrtacnik sent us a receipt for our clothing program request, we are officially good to continue another year.
4. Bemidji Food Shelf sent us a very nice thank you letter for our recent donation of \$6,000 to their program.
5. Beltrami County News and Highlights had a story on our County Veteran Service Office and their collaboration with DAV Chap 7 which highlights the \$21,189 dollars provided to Veterans in need.
6. Robert and Carol Rieke sent us a donation of \$100 dollars and will be receiving a thank you letter shortly.
7. Marion Evans sent us a donation of \$20 dollars and will receive a thank you letter shortly.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: Sr. Vice Darrel reported one new member; Darren Dew of Bemidji, welcome Darren.
2. Service Officer: NA
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Tom Annonson is currently residing in room 218 of the Huckleberry neighborhood in Nielson Place and would really appreciate visitors, especially on the weekends.
4. Legislative: NA
5. Entertainment: NA
6. Publicity and Fundraising: NA
7. Medical Equipment: Our new medical equipment officer Henry reports 11 Issues and 5 donations. He can be reached at his new phone number 218 556-9839.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

I. Old Business: Last month's election of officers were sworn in tonight, commander Gene Schwantes, Sr. Vice Gary Guggenberger, and Junior Vice Andy Staudt. Additionally, the commander reappointed Jeff M. as Adjutant, Jeri H. as Treasurer, Mike G. as Chaplain, Ward S. as Judge Advocate, Bruce Tiegen as Sergeant at Arms, and Glenn A. as Officer of the Day.

J. New Business:

1. Our New Med Equipment officer Henry H. also has a new phone. To make a donation or receive a medical equipment issue, contact Henry at 218 556-9839.
2. We need volunteers to pick up additional bins for repair and repainting. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gene at 218 556-4592.
3. Spring Conf. will be held in Duluth this year from April 30-May 2. Attendees will be Bruce T., Jim P., Glenn A. Gary G. Jeri H., Ward S., and Gene S.
4. It was reported that we are short of this year's donations for our newsletter, Darrel B., made the motion to spend an additional \$3,000 dollars to make up for the short fall. Rodney O. made the 2d and the motion passed.
5. In Country Motorcycle Club will be hosting their annual Vietnam Veterans appreciation dinner which is open to all. This will be held at the Bagley American Legion Hall on 3/29/2026 and will begin at 5 PM (social hour).
6. Darrel B. presented a request for new ball caps for our members celebrating America's 250-year anniversary, Bruce T. made the motion to spend up to \$400 dollars on the new caps, Dave made the 2d and the motion carried.

K. Good of the Order: NA

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Mike, seconded by Andy. Motion carried.

- The meeting adjourned at 1930 hrs.
- Next meeting 4/15/2026 @1830.

## 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**

## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- All April: Month of the Military Child
- April 13: National Borinqueneers Day
- April 6: Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)
- April 14: Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 5: Gold Star Spouses Day
- April 15: Purple Up! Day (Support for Military Kids)
- April 9: National Former POW Recognition Day
- April 23: Army Reserve Birthday

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings to all our veteran and auxiliary members in the armed forces organizations throughout the north central region of Minnesota, we hope you and your families are doing well. Our close knit groups help us to connect and participate in community activities that reflect on the respect, gratitude, and honor we hold for the armed forces of the United States and Minnesota.

As you may recall last month we discussed the "Parable of The Prodigal Son"

(Luke 15:11-32). There are two totally opposite human responses to God's grace. The one son who lives wildly, and displays the myth we wrote about in February 2026, (God's grace is for us to enjoy *anyway* we want). Why? Because regardless of our intentional flagrant lifestyle, God owes us His forgiveness. The second son, who obeys his father in all things, displays the third myth about God's grace; the subject of this article i.e. **grace and good works are opposed to one another**. The son is earning his father's grace. The two sons completely miss the true meaning of the relationship their father wants with them as evident by their lifestyle. Let's take a closer look into this third myth by contrasting some scriptures for a better understanding

### Ephesians 2:5-10

5) That even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead (it is only God's grace that you have been saved!) 6) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. 7) So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. 8) **God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.** 9) **Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast [brag] about it.** 10) **For we are God's masterpiece. He has created anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

We definitely have a contrast here. Verses eight and nine are in contrast with verse ten. There really isn't anything we can brag about in our lives, to include salvation. Everything about us, capabilities, abilities, skills, intellect, opportunities, activities, date and location of birth, as well as our position in life comes from God. As a result there is nothing we can brag about in our life because God has given everything to us through his grace i.e. unmerited acceptance through the work Christ did for all humanity. Consequently in this regard, God's grace and our works (activities we do for God) are opposed to one another - there is nothing we can do to earn salvation. Yet, that is not the end of the story.

God's grace and our works complement one another as seen in the last sentence of verse 10, where we find God intended for us to express our gratitude and joy of salvation by doing good things for God. This can be applied in many different ways by many different people in a variety of different situations, each according to their gifts, talents and opportunities (I Corinthians 7, I Corinthians 12, Colossians 3). In this context, the things a person does out of a gracious heart for God reflect the relationship they have with Christ. As we close out this article, let's not forget those who are in the hospital or assisted living. May God bless all of you. Mike - DAV and Linda - Auxiliary.



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## NATIONAL: GAMERS: STREAM FOR DAV ON TWITCH

Posted on Feb 19, 2026

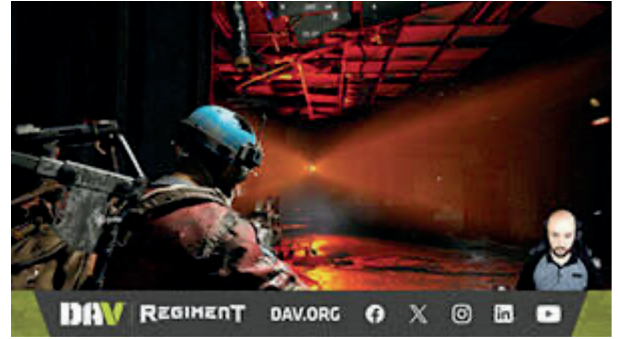
Join DAV's community where gaming meets service. We're harnessing the immense power of Twitch to connect with veterans and their families in new, dynamic ways. Our channel offers a diverse lineup, including veterans news; critical legislative updates; and exclusive interviews with lawmakers, policymakers and subject matter experts.

During our community gaming streams, DAV members take the lead, playing their favorite games while connecting with a vast online audience—many of whom are new to DAV's mission. This is a powerful, organic way for you to personally highlight the great work and impact being made every day at the department and chapter levels.

We are looking for you! DAV is actively seeking members interested in streaming on our Twitch channel.

And get this: Your time livestreaming for DAV can be recorded as LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) hours, making this a unique and impactful way to showcase your community service.

To learn more about DAV gaming and livestreaming and to become a streamer for DAV, visit [dav.org/dav-gaming-and-livestreaming](http://dav.org/dav-gaming-and-livestreaming).



## 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>

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