



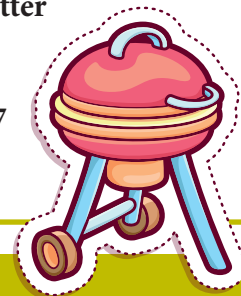
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Monthly Newsletter
June 2026

North Central MN Chapter #7
PO Box 564
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NEXT MEETING:

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

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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 Aagard |
| LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: | Vacant |
| HISTORIAN: | Vacant |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE: | Bruce Tiegen, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault, Lila Teunissen, Rodney Olson |

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

**June 13: Knights of Columbus
Walleye Classic**

June 14: Flag Day

June 19: Juneteenth

**June 21: Summer Solstice (First Day
of Summer)**

June 20: Loop the Lake Festival

June 21: Father's Day



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans,

I believe summer is finally here, I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy our nice warm weather, remember it doesn't last very long here in the north country, so hurry up, get out, ENJOY!

With the DAV State Convention, Vets on the Hill, Chapter Budget Committee meeting, and regular Chapter business, it has been a busy month since the last newsletter. If you are retired and ever think that you get bored, it is easy to solve that problem, just volunteer at DAV or some other charitable organization and say I can do that, problem solved.

We had another good Chapter meeting, the 2026/2027 budget was presented and approved, trees blown down at DAV in last year's storm have now been cleaned up THANKS TO GARY WISTROM AND GLENN AAGARD VOLUNTEERING (see above paragraph), helped a couple of veterans in need, and approved funds for the Blackduck Senior Center roof replacement. The new Executive Committee Chairman is Gary Guggenberger (see above paragraph). Remember, don't get bored, stay active, and live a happy life.

I hope everyone has a great summer and, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call.

A Veteran Serving Other Veterans,
Gene

MINNESOTA: 1919 ROOT BEER



We are proud to partner with 1919 Root Beer for a cause that hits close to home. For a limited time, 25 cents from every pack sold will be donated directly to DAV of MN Outdoors programs, supporting Minnesota veterans through therapeutic outdoor experiences and community connection.

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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 18 MAY 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 | Gary Guggenberger | Present |
| Junior Vice Commander | Andy Staudt | Present |
| 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: 18

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: None

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Read by Adjutant Jeff M., Henry H. made the motion to accept, Dave C. made the 2d, and the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report: April's Treasury report was read by treasurer Jeri H., Darrel B. made the motion to accept as read, Henry H. made the 2d, motion carried.

F. Communications:

1. DAV MN email announcement of new officers voted in at the Spring Convention. See the adjutant for the full list of new officers.
2. DAV MN reported a long over due update to The Disabled Veteran Homestead Market Value Exclusion. This update is for all MN Veterans rated at 70% or greater. Please contact your State Senator and Representative to have them support HF3727 / SF 185.
3. DAV MN is proud to partner with 1919 Root Beer. For a limited time .25 cents from every pack sold will be donated to the DAV of MN Outdoors programs. Pick up your 1919 Root Beer today and help those who have served.
4. Blackduck Senior Center has sent us an update on renovations and a request for additional funds to continue the update. This was handed off to the commander for new business.
5. Carol Rieke has generously donated \$100.00 to chapter 7 and will be receiving a thank you letter shortly.
6. Marion Evans has sent us her monthly donation of \$20.00 and will be receiving a thank you shortly.
7. Women's Veterans Recognition, message from Dawn Batcho Women Veteran Committee Chair; Women Veteran Recognition Day is June 12th, honoring the contributions of women in the U.S. Armed Forces, marking the anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. To help celebrate, the local CBOC will be handing out cookies and information on Friday, 6/12/2026.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: Roger Schimdt, and Joshua Richards, welcome!!
2. Service Officer: Updated Veterans Benefit Handbook is available, please see Dave for your own copy.
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Tom is now Living in 217 of the Huckleberry Neighborhood
4. Legislative: NA
5. Entertainment: NA
6. Publicity and Fundraising:
7. Medical Equipment: 11 Issues, 9 donations.
8. Scholarship Committee reports that the application deadline (15 April) is set

with 12 applications received.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: Executive Committee has no business this month for the general meeting.

I. Old Business:

1. Newsletter costs have increased and a motion was made to decrease the number of pages from 12 to 8 pages total. Steve made the motion to accept and Rodney made the second, motion carried.
2. Gary G. will take over duties of the Executive Committee Chairman at the next Exec. Comm. meeting held on 6/1/2026.

J. New Business:

Treasurer Jeri brought the suggested changes to the 2027 budget that were made by the elected budget committee. These changes included an anticipated increase in income across the board with the exception of the newsletter which was decreased from \$8,000.00 down to \$5,000.00. Anticipated expenses were also decreased with the exception of our property tax which is anticipated to increase from the current \$2,000 per annum to \$2,500 for next year.

General spending increases proposed were as follows:

Adult Day Services by \$1,000
 Bemidji Veterans Home by \$5,000
 Chapter phones by \$450
 Convention/Conferences by \$2,000
 Beltrami County Fair by \$100
 Functions/Events by \$1,000
 Holiday Meals VAMC-Fargo \$400
 Insurance by \$1,500
 MACV by \$1,000
 Office Expenses \$200
 Copier Rental \$500
 VAMC-Fargo \$500
 VAMC-St. Cloud \$500
 Vets Home-Fergus Falls \$1,000
 Vets Home-Silver Bay \$1,000
 Scholarships \$6,000
 Clothing Bins Maintenance/Repair \$10,000
 Proposed decreases include a forecasted decrease in Veteran in Need \$3,000, and clothing drive expenses (supplies/misc.) decrease by \$ 1,000

Budget proposals: 2027 Budget motion to approve the budget was made by Dave C. and the 2d made by Glenn A. The motion carried, the 2027 budget is approved and the budget committee is released.

Gary G. and Glenn A. came in with their own skid steer and equip and worked all day to clean up the property. Henry made the motion to donate \$500.00 to help cover their expenses, Darrel made the 2d and the motion carried.

Veteran in need from Darren: Requesting help with Beltrami Electric in the amount of \$359.00, approved and paid by Commander Gene.

Veteran in need from Luke and Darren: Requesting help with Ottertail Power in the amount of \$100.91, and Paul Bunyan Communications in the amount of \$64, for total of \$164.91, approved and paid by Commander Gene.

Blackduck Senior Center has requested funds for renovations (new roof), Rodney made the motion to donate \$5,000.00 and Dave made C. made the 2d and the motion carried.

K. Good of the Order: Gary and Glenn are almost done with tree clean up and great appreciation to them for their mighty efforts on our behalf.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Steve and second by Rodney. Motion carried.

➤ Meeting adjourned at 1919

➤ Next meeting 6/15/2025 @1830.

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- June 4: Battle of Midway Begins (1942)
- June 6: D-Day (1944)
- June 12: Women Veterans Day
- June 14: Army's Birthday (1775)
- June 14: Flag Day
- June 22: GI Bill signed (1944)
- June 23L Coast Guard Auxillary Birthday
- June 25: Start of Korean War (1950)
- June 17: PTSD Awareness Day

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings to all you fine and outstanding DAV and Auxiliary members. This month we continue moving along in The Book of Ephesians, Chapter Two. We will be looking at verses 11-22, where our Apostle Paul was writing about unity while he was in prison at Rome (Acts 28:16-31). The statements written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit were very shocking at that time (60-62 AD) and in that culture.

There are a couple of points we want to first mention in this article. First of all, it was God's original intent for Israel to be a nation. Israel's purpose was to represent Him on earth as a holy (separate) nation of priests and point all nations towards God for their salvation. This was constantly echoed in different scriptures throughout the centuries from the time of Abraham (Genesis 12), Moses (Exodus 19), Isaiah (Isaiah 46 & 49) and Christ (Mathew 5).

The second point is Paul, who was a staunch Jewish Pharisee extremely knowledgeable in the Old Testament and understood a Messiah would come from out of Israel in the future to make everything right (prior to Paul meeting Christ). Yet at the same time Paul would later become an apostle to the gentiles (after Paul met Christ). Paul understood better than anyone else the religious, cultural and political hostility between the Jews and the Gentiles.

It was this hostility Paul was writing about in Ephesians 2:11-22. Paul was contrasting Jesus' work (as the Messiah) to break down this insurmountable wall of division in order to bring unity between these two opposing people groups with God's original intent and plan for Israel. The unity of these two groups of people (Jew and Gentile) is what Paul refers to as "all of Israel will be saved" (King James Bible, Romans 11:25-32). The question now becomes; if God intends Israel to be a holy nation, and the Israelites to function as priests for all other nations, showing them God is their salvation; then where did this hostility originate?

This hostility between Jews and Gentiles develops over the course of Israel's history. This extends from God's original intent and purpose for Israel to be distinct for the sake of others actually became corrupt. This corruption takes the form of human pride, fear, and political trauma. This eventually changes into a system of exclusion against others.

Some examples of this development can be seen through the eyes of the Israelites. Relationships with other nations is constantly a struggle especially when all these nations such as Babylon, Assyria, Media, Persia, Greece and Rome are constantly conquering Israel over time and influencing the Israelites with their "gods" such as Molech, Baal, Tammuz, Ishtar, Zeus, Jupiter, and others. It is kind of hard to share God's salvation with a conquering army walking through your streets who believe in other gods. As a result the Israelites mindset changes into preserving their own identity, while keeping their distance from others. Another example of this is Israel's dietary laws found in the Old Testament. Many social functions (like today) involve going out to eat at a neighbor's house, which is very common. Since the Israelites did not eat the same foods as their foreign neighbors. The Israelites shunned this important social event, while the foreign neighbors did not feel welcome either, so animosity develops between the two.

As a result of all this, it can be seen how Paul's statement in Ephesians is a shock when they realize Christ removes the ceremonial laws and opens the door for Gentiles to have access to God. Take care and blessings to you all. Mike - DAV and Linda - Auxiliary.

NATIONAL: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: BIPARTISAN BILL INTRODUCED TO PROTECT VETERANS' COLA

On May 11, 2026, Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) introduced S. 4487: The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2026. This vital bipartisan legislation ensures that VA disability compensation, dependent benefits, clothing allowances, and survivor payouts (DIC) keep pace with inflation.

If passed, the rate changes will link directly to Social Security adjustments, taking effect on December 1, 2026, and appearing in January 2027 payments. The bill is currently with the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. We will continue to track its progress and share the final adjustment rates as soon as they are finalized this fall.

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MINNESOTA: CONGRATS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

May 15 2026

DAV Minnesota Delegates Voted this past weekend at our 101st Convention in Duluth. Congratulations to our new slate of officers for 2026-2027!

Commander, Mike Medhaug - Ch 37 Hutchinson
 Sr Vice, Sandi Braunstein - DAV Itasca Chapter 13
 1st Jr. Rich Batcho - Park Rapids DAV Chapter 38
 2nd Jr. Ken Olson - Ch 34 Willmar
 3rd Jr. William Gordon - MN DAV Chapter 39 Anoka
 4th Jr. Jeff Lubarski - Ch 2 Saint Paul
 PDC John Walker - Ch 2 Saint Paul
 Judge Advocate - Debra Petersen - DAV Chapter 20 Faribault
 Eusebia Rios - Ch 22 Crow Wing County

Appointed positions

Treasurer Scott Berndt - MN DAV Chapter 39 Anoka
 Adjutant Stephen Whitehead - MN DAV Chapter 40 South Metro
 Inspector General, Joe Litzinger - Park Rapids DAV Chapter 38



NATIONAL: POSTED ON MAY 26, 2026 BY NATIONAL COMMANDER COLEMAN NEE

The vote to turn the Major Richard Star Act into law is long overdue. Fortunately, a “discharge petition” can finally get this done.

For years, combat-injured veterans forced into medical retirement have been denied the full benefits they earned through service and sacrifice. Under current law, veterans must offset earned retirement pay simply because their injuries ended their careers. The Major Richard Star Act would eliminate this offset.

Time and again, these veterans have been promised action. Time and again, Congress has failed to deliver, even though this legislation has overwhelming support in the House with a Republican sponsor and 330 bipartisan co-sponsors. A companion bill in the Senate also has more than 75 co-sponsors, yet congressional leadership has refused to allow a vote on either. That can change with a discharge petition.

If half the House—218 members—sign the discharge petition, a vote will finally take place in the House. With 330 members already publicly supporting this legislation, there is a clear path forward. This discharge petition is not a first step. It’s a last resort.

Congress should stop delaying and bring this bill to the floor. Veterans who sacrificed for this country should not have to fight their own government for the benefits they earned. This injustice is real and Congress has the power to fix it. The only thing missing is action. It is time our nation keeps its promise.



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