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Monthly Newsletter  
January 2018

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
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**NEXT MEETING:**  
New DAV Center on 15th Street NW  
Bemidji, MN  
**Monday, January 15th at 7pm**

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COMMANDER:	Dave Sterr - (218) 556-4633
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JUNIOR VICE:	Joe Vene
ADJUTANT:	David Myers
SERVICE OFFICER:	Walter James
TREASURER:	Jeri Harvey
CHAPLAIN:	Tara Schwinghammer - (218)368-9988
CHAPLAIN (ALT.):	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Tom Annonson
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Walter James, Gene Schwantes, Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025, torgor@lightspeed.net

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**HAPPY**  
*New Year*

**- From the DAV  
Newsletter Staff**

\*\*\* **2018** \*\*\*

## COMMANDERS CORNER

The 2017 DAV Christmas Party is in the history books! It looked to me like everyone had a merry and jovial time. And now, we enter 2018 ready and raring to go. Right? I hope so. You members and volunteers did an incredible job in 2017, and with your continued support, 2018 will be an incredible year also.

There aren't too many weeks out of the year that I don't get requests to help Veterans who need some financial assistance. It is comforting to know that your hard work has made it possible to respond to these requests with no hesitation whatsoever.

My New Year's resolution is to continue to lead Chapter 7 in our mission of helping our fellow Veterans. I'll carry on with all of you at my side, so that the Veterans and their Families who suffer from life's ills receive our help and assistance. We'll march forward together in this endeavor.

I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. May God bless you and keep you safe from harm.

Commander Dave Sterr

The DAV's main mission is to help veterans in need. If you or someone you know is in need, the Veteran's Service Officer should be contacted by calling the Veteran's Service Office (333-4178). The officer will determine if the veteran qualifies for assistance and can then determine what funds or services are available to the veteran or a veteran's family member. Know also that we have a large supply of medical equipment items to offer our veterans (free of charge). Contact any of the DAV officers and they can help you connect with the person who can help you with securing an item you might need.



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## VETS ON THE HILL

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Veterans on the Hill day will be March 12th this year. We are still working out the schedule for the bus stops to pick up veterans and spouses on the way down to the Capitol from our area up here. We are encouraging all veterans and their spouses to attend if possible. There is no requirement that they belong to any Military Organization, so spread the word to any Veteran friends that you know and invite them to go along. Remember, there isn't any charge for the trip and there will be beverages, snacks, and a meal provided.

There are a couple of things we ask;

1) That you contact us and let us know the names and contact numbers for everyone that will be joining us on the bus as we need to know the total number of people we will need to have seating for on the bus(s). P.O.C. is **Tom Annonson (218) 251-3025** or Email [mndavchapter7@gmail.com](mailto:mndavchapter7@gmail.com)

2) Everyone must be ambulatory enough to get on and off the bus, (we don't have wheelchair accessible bus(s) available) but if required, we can stow wheelchairs in the luggage compartment.

The goal for this year is to have over 1000 attendees from all over the State at the event. The more attendees, the greater the impact we will have on Veteran related Legislative issues.



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## 2018 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

January							February							March							April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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May							June							July							August						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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September							October							November							December						
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30																					30	31					

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We all survived Christmas as far as I know. I pray that you were able to enjoy time with family and friends. As we move on to the New Year, what can we do differently? Many of us get stuck in our ways and lose the ability to try something new. How can we make the year 2018 our best ever? What are your New Year resolutions? I have met many new veterans in the last year. How might we make this world better for those who were willing to sacrifice their very lives to maintain our freedom? This is what the DAV is all about. Working together we help those who have fallen in one way or another along the way.

As I serve alongside of my comrades, I learn from each of you. We all have a story to tell. I have heard heart breaking stories of soldier's men and women doing terrible things to each other. The world can be a cold dark place for those whose wounds we might not be able to see. How do we help these soldiers? They might seem a little crazy or dirty or even homeless. Perhaps their families have given up on them? The problem with many Vietnam vets especially is that they need our help. We need to give them more than money. They need a friend or a warm place to sleep. Perhaps they need you to take their hand and bring them to the Fargo VA or even St. Cloud.

If each of us helps another veteran this year, I think that is about 1300 veterans helped. Perhaps you are a veteran that needs help. Asking for help can be scary. Some of us did ask for help and things just got worse. Trust me I know how that feels but as long as we have breath, we can find the help that we need. I love being part of this great organization. So many of you work so hard to bless others that it blows me away!!! All of you have so much to offer. I commend you for all that you do.

My next question is a tough one. What do we do to bring the hope that we have in Our Heavenly Father? For many, they just need the good news of Jesus Christ. Young war veterans need mentors who know the Bible to come along side of them and walk them back into society. If you are a Vietnam Vet, you probably never got this kind of unconditional love. But you made it and you can help someone else. Even if you don't know the Bible very well, you can bring them to me or another Chaplain for that spiritual guidance they might desperately need.

Some of you might have children, nieces, nephews, cousins who served. If they are having a hard time adjusting to civilian life, you could be the one to bring them on board to the DAV. Just sharing your story and encouraging them to share their story could make all the difference in the world to a family. So many family members don't know what to do with their beloved veteran because they cannot relate. Civilians can learn about how to deal with a family member that is a veteran but how do we teach them? Who is going to take on this task? The truth is that no one alone can do this. We all need to reach out.

I am sorry for giving you one more thing to do. I didn't mean to give you another Christmas list. If you have the joy of the Lord, it will shine onto others and you will advance the Kingdom of God. If you are lacking this joy, please reach out to someone. There are several Chaplains available to walk you to salvation in Christ Jesus. This is the very best gift that keeps giving all year long. Blessings this new year!

Chaplain Tara Schwinghammer  
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## AUXILIARY COMMANDER CORNER

Just a reminder that we will not be meeting for the month of January, our next scheduled meeting will be on the 19th of March. Please get any of your volunteer hours to me so that we can get them turned in on time.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Linda Engesether



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