

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

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Monthly Newsletter November 2024

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

#7 HAPPY
Thanksgiving

NEXT MEETING: DAV Headquarters at 5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN Monday, November 18 at 6:30pm







620 Carr Lk Rd S, Bemidji, MN 56601

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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

CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Nov 3rd - Daylight savings time ends Nov 4th - DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting @ 1630 Hrs.

NOV 5TH - ELECTION DAY— REMEMBER TO GO VOTE!

Nov 10th - U.S. Marine Corps Established in 1775

Nov 11th - Signing of WWI Armistice in 1918

Nov 11th - Veterans Day

Nov 18th - DAV Chapter 7 General Membership meeting @ 1830 Hrs.

Nov 21st - Granada Campaign ended in 1983

Nov 28th - Thanksgiving Day

Dec 1st - First Day of Advent

Dec 2nd -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee meeting @ 1630 Hrs.

Dec 5th - Somalia Campaign began in 1992

Dec 7th - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Flags at Half Staff until sunset)

Dec 8th - War Declared on Japan in 1941

Dec 10th - Human Rights Day

Dec 11th - Germany and Italy Declare war on the U.S. in 1941

Dec 15th - Iraq War ended in 2011

Dec 16th -- DAV Chapter 7 Christmas Party at the Eagles Club

Dec 15th - Bill of Rights Day

Dec 20th - Panama Campaign began in 1989

Dec 20th - U.S. Space force Established in 2019

Dec 21st - Winter Begins

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve

Dec 25th - Christmas Day

Dec 25th - Hanukkah Begins

Dec 26th - Kwanzaa

Dec 31st - Official end of WWII in 1946

DEC 31st - Kosovo Campaign ended in 2013

Dec 31st - New Years Eve





COMMANDER'S CORNER

Happy Holidays,

In October it is OK to say that, as they get closer, then you have to do it right, I think that is the rules, but people keep changing the rules all the time, so who knows. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying our nice long fall. I find it amazing that no matter how long fall lasts, I always seem to finish my fall chores like the night before the snow hits.

For all of you that didn't make it to the last chapter meeting, you missed a very busy meeting. There was a lot of business that was handled and some fine discussions that took place, including DAV running an ad in the paper and anywhere else it can to try to get some volunteers to help with our clothing program. You don't have to be a veteran to volunteer, we are hoping that some of our members and non-members will be able to help out. This is how we are able to EARN our funds to be able to continue helping our fellow veterans when in need. The days we work are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday and each day is only a couple of hours. Please give me a call at(218) 556-4592 or Bruce Tiegen at (218) 308-0962 with any questions or for more details. THE KEY THING "IS WE NEED HELP".

If by any chance you did not get your \$100.00 FOR 100 YEARS CREDIT ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL, please give me a call and we will look into.

Also, remember to sign up for the annual DAV CHRISTMAS PARTY which will be held on December 16th at the Eagles Club starting a 5 o'clock with a choice of chicken or roast beef for dinner. Don't miss out on a great meal, wonderful fellowship with fellow Veterans, and some fantastic door prizes. Sign up at DAV Headquarters or give me a call.

Prepare, winter is coming, Gene Schwantes

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings,

I hope you are all doing well and are enjoying the fall colors. Thank you all that could attend the October meeting. We were able to cover quite a few things, here are the highlights.

DAVA will provide pizza at the November meeting for the DAV.

Please bring any volunteer hours for the year to our November meeting or no later than December.

We have three new junior members.

Linda Engesether made two quilts and we revoted to donating them as Honor Quilts to the Bemidji Veteran's Home.

Please pray for our veterans, service members, families, and our DAVA members. We have some members with health issues that need our prayers.

Linda Engesether went to the State and National Conferences and will be providing an update at the November meeting.

Hope to see you there.

Sara Gast





THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 21 OCT 2024 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	Present
Judge Advocate	Ward Sutton	Excused
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Excused
Historian	Vacant	N/A

- B. Members Present: 11
- C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: None
- D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:
 - Minutes were read, no additions or deletions, and motion to accept made by Mike, 2d by Gary, the motion carried.
- E. Treasurer's Report:
 - Treasurers report was read by Jeri, no additions or deletions, motion to accept by Darel, 2d by Henry, the motion carried.
- F. Communications:
 - 1. State has sent out a thank you for the work we are putting into membership recruitment. To date: Chap 7 has already met the recruitment goal for this year, and as a reminder, Chap 7 also will pay \$150 dollars towards a lifetime membership, state will match that up to \$100 dollars and leave just \$75 dollars to be paid by the member for a lifetime membership.
 - National has initiated a new communications program. We are now able to get our DAV updates directly to our phones via text messages. To sign up please visit www.dav.org or see the adjutant for help getting set up.
 - 3. DAV National Commander (Daniel Contreras) is seeking funds to help Veterans who have been adversely affected by this year's hurricane season, more on this in new business.
- G. Committee Reports:
 - Membership: 1 new member, Stacy Foster, welcome!! We also have a resident of our new Veterans home here in Bemidji (James Larson) transferring over from his former chapter.
 - 2. Service Officer: NA
 - 3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: NA
 - 4. Legislative: NA
 - 5. Entertainment: NA
 - 6. Publicity and Fundraising: NA
 - 7. Medical Equipment: 20 issues and 25 donations
- H. Executive Committee Action Items: No actions were brought forward.
- I. Old Business:
 - 1. Painting of floors has two bids:
 - a. bid # 1, epoxy \$5500 dollars, paint \$2800 dollars.
 - b. bid # 2, \$9000 dollars for epoxy, \$2800 dollars for straight paint.
 - c. Option #3, wait for next summer and paint it ourselves.
 - 2. \$100 dollars for 100 years is done!
 - Darrel gave us a quick update on the pole shed additions which will be completed next summer. Membership voted to approve the project up to \$20,000 dollars. Bruce made the motion, Mike 2d, and the motion carried.
 - 4. Don't forget to sign up for the upcoming Christmas party on 12/16/2024.
- J. New Business:
 - Veteran in need from Bagley for dental work. Requesting \$1500 dollars through CVSO Logan, Steve made the motion to approve all \$1500 dollars, Mike made

the 2d, the motion carried.

- Veteran in need requesting \$3000 dollars through CVSO Logan in Bagley, to help with the costs of replacing his windows. Mike made the motion to approve the full \$3000 dollars, Steve made the 2d, and the motion carried.
- John (from the VFW) requested money for the Jr. ROTC Saber fund, however this could not be approved as they and the program are not Veterans.
- Veteran in need requested \$559.78 dollars through our CVSO Shane for filling his propane tank. The Executive committee approved paying up to \$600 dollars for propane.
- Darrel and Mike built an ad for recruiting new volunteers and gave us an update on when that will begin running (Nov). Cost was previously approved by Cmdr. Gene.
- 6. DAV State is preparing for their 100-year annual convention and is looking to fill the auditorium for this convention. As such the Chapter voted to increase the number of delegates we send to 12, and the number of rooms to purchase up to 6. Mike G. made the motion to approve, Mike W. made the 2d, the motion carried.
- 7. Veteran in need requesting help with groceries and gas through our CVSO Luke in the amounts of \$200 dollars and \$41.46 dollars respectively. Commander was able to approve this without going through executive committee or general membership approval.
- 8. Veteran in need request came to us from CVSO Shane, requesting \$3143.89 dollars to install new furnace in Veterans RV which he intended to live in over the winter. After much discussion, and safety concerns for the Veteran, the request for money to cover the cost of his new furnace was denied. There was however, and alternative motion approved (made by Mike and Steve respectfully) to provide equal dollars towards the cost of an apartment or trailer home the Veteran could spend winter in. Commander will have a conversation with CVSO Shane to see if the Veteran would be willing to accept this alternative support.
- There was a request from DAV State, for donation to purchase Toro Workman UTX crew ATV for the St. Cloud VA Hospital to transport Veterans around the campus. Motion to approve a donation of \$3000 dollars was made by Darrel, 2d by Mike, and the motion carried.
- 10. Request was made by DAV National for Hurricane emergency relief funding to help the Veterans who have been adversely impacted by this year's multiple hurricanes. Darrel made the motion to donate \$10,000 dollars, 2d was made by Mike W. and the motion carried.
- Mike made the motion to approve increasing the budget amount of the DAV foundation to \$4000 dollars, 2d was made by Steve and the motion carried.
- 12. Mike Weber made the motion to increase the budget amount for the Honor Flight up to \$10,000 dollars, 2d was made by Mike G. and the motion carried.
- 13. Steve made the motion to increase the budget amount for Chap 41 to \$5000 dollars, Mike made the 2d, and the motion carried.
- K. Good of the Order:
 - 1. There is a Veterans support Group that is meeting every 2d and 4th Friday of every month at 10AM at the Stellher Program for Recovery, which is located at 1426 Bemidji Ave N Suite #1. Please call 218 444-5155 or talk with the Adjutant for additional information on this free resource available exclusively to Veterans.
- L. Closing Ceremonies performed.
- M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Mike and second by Henry. Motion carried.
 - > Meeting adjourned at 1950.
 - ➤ Next meeting 11/18/2024



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We are going to take a break from our study of spiritual temperaments and take a look at November. We are in an exciting and patriotic month! This is an election month; therefore, I encourage all our sisters and brothers to get out there and vote. The other reason for our excitement in this month is the end of War I, back in 1918 (Veterans Day - 11 November 2024). A day that changed the world forever! There is another date that changed the world forever, November 2, 1917, the day of the Balfour Declaration.

The Balfour Declaration was a letter written by British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild, a leader of the Jewish community. The letter expressed Britain's support for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. It also stated that the rights of other communities and the rights of Jews outside of Palestine would not be prejudiced. The British government hoped that the declaration would rally Jewish support for the Allied powers during World War I. They also hoped that a pro-British Jewish population in Palestine would help protect the Suez Canal and ensure a vital communication route to India - a British colony at that time.

The declaration was a significant milestone in the quest for Jewish sovereignty in Palestine. The declaration turned the Zionist aim (of the 1800s), of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine, into a reality when Britain publicly pledged "a national home for the Jewish people." Yet, at the same time it was considered one of the main catalysts behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the 1948 Nakba (Arabic for "The Catastrophe"). More on this later as it relates to the mystery, relationship and family conflict of Isaac, Ishmael, Sarah and Abraham. There are two entirely different views regarding the establishment of Israel in 1948, one view is held by the Jewish people and the other view is held by the Arabic people or Palestinians.

Yet regardless of the dynamics of all these events taking place between two sets of people, God nevertheless made an agreement with Abraham. God promised through Isaac the land would be given to the Jewish people as a blessing. God's purpose was, and still is, for the Jewish people to be a chosen people and a royal priesthood. God's purpose was extended to Gentiles - all those who are non-Jewish but believe in Jesus as the Messiah / Christ (John 4:22). Granted, Ishmael and his descendants were not chosen by God for the same purposes as Isaac and his descendants, although God still blessed Ishmael as Abraham's son in a different manner. One modern day example is oil; the Arab states are constantly blessing the world with oil. We understand there are several geo-political and security issues associated with national agreements and distributions of oil from Arab states. This could only occur with God blessing the Arabic people and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the Middle East.

Now, back to Abraham and Sarah's family. Sarah knew three things; 1) she could not have children, (2) God promised she would have a baby, and (3) she genuinely wanted to help God keep His promise to her by having a baby through Hagar. Sarah did not know by helping God keep His promises could only lead to more problems in the future. It was not until after Hagar became pregnant that conflicts began with Sarah because Hagar thought she was better than Sarah. Several years later, God chose Isaac over Ishmael when they were teenagers. This left Ishmael angry and instead of accepting his position in life - given to him by God, he became embittered. It's this bitterness that led to his life of conflict within himself and everyone else extending throughout time to this day. These lessons learned can be applied in all of our lives. Blessings,

Mike & Julie Gutz

VETERAN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS

The following is a list of Organizations that cater to taking Veterans on outdoor events, usually at no cost to Veterans and some offer events that are also available to your family members as well. If you are interested in participating in any of these events and don't have access to a computer have a family member help you get in contact with them. Their contact info is listed on their home pages.

American Heroes Outdoor TV

https://www.americanheroesoutdoors.com/ applications/

Band of Brothers Outdoors

https://www.bandofbrothersoutdoors.com/

Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation

https://bradyoberglegacyfoundation.org/

Fishing With Vets

https://fishingwithvets.org/

Mandatory Fun Outdoors

https://mandatoryfunoutdoors.org/

Middle River Veterans Outdoors

https://mrveteransoutdoors.com/

Minnesota Veterans Outdoors

https://www.mnvetsoutdoors.org/

Warriors and Walleyes

https://warriorsandwalleyes.org/

Wounded Warrior Guide Service

https://wwgsmn.org/

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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Greetings all,

It's the most wonderful time of year, election season! In a week and a half Minnesotan will join with citizens from around the country in electing our next leaders. Many people have fought and died for our rights; it is our responsibility to exercise those rights. As FDR said,

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

In 3 out of the 4 last elections Minnesota has had the highest voter turnout in the country, that is a tradition we can be proud of. Let's get back to number 1! I know it can be a little confusing with all of the different options available to vote so I wanted to share some information put out by the MN Secretary of State on the topic:

There are three ways to vote:

- 1. By Mail: Minnesotans can vote by mail by requesting a ballot at mnvotes. gov/absentee starting September 20. About 150,000 Minnesotans live in mail ballot precincts and will be mailed a ballot automatically if they are registered to vote. Ballots must be received by local election offices by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. You can track your ballot at mnvotes. gov/trackmyballot.
- Early In-Person: Minnesotans can vote absentee in person at their local election office during

business hours between September 20 and November 5. There are also special early voting

hours during the 2024 General Election:

- Saturday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 29 open until 7 p.m.
- Saturday, November 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sunday, November 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Monday, November 4 open until 5 p.m.
- 3. In-Person on Election Day: Minnesotans can vote in-person at their local polling place on Tuesday, November 5. Find your polling place at mnvotes.gov/pollfinder. Check your registration online at mnvotes.gov/register. All polling places are open until 8 p.m. As long as you are in line to vote by 8 p.m. you can vote. In Minnesota, people can register to vote on election day.

Honoring Those Who Protect Our Freedom

Our right to vote has been defended by the courage and sacrifice of the many brave men and women who served in our nation's armed forces. Anyone who has someone in their family or a friend in the armed forces understands the dedication and patriotism demonstrated by these men and women in defense of our freedom and liberty.

Many Minnesotans have personal stories to share. These stories pay tribute to a veteran or an active-duty service member. This office encourages you to read these tributes.

You can share your tributes, memories, and reflections to be posted on this site by emailing secretary.state@state.mn.us.

eteran

My vote honors

Veteran

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Order Vote in Honor of a Veteran Buttons

Official Vote in Honor of a Veteran buttons are available free-of-charge. Personalize your three-inch button with the name of the veteran in whose honor you are voting.

To order a button, call 651-201-1324 or email secretary.state@state.mn.us.

I know many people have questions or concerns about the security of our elections. Those of you who would like to learn more can see a detailed list of measures taken to secure elections in Minnesota at: https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/election-security-measures/

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns about getting your ballot cast

Let me be the first to wish you all a happy Election Day,

Trent C Dilks, Legislative Director Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Minnesota 20 West 12th St., 3rd Flr, St. Paul, MN 55155 O: (651) 291.1212 C: (651) 788.3186









NEW BENEFIT ALERT - 100% DISABLED VETERANS



Vehicle Registration, Title Fees, Driver's License Fees, etc..

Jan. 1, 2024 changes to veteran benefits

Veterans with a total service-connected disability will be eligible for new benefits from DVS starting Jan. 1, 2024.

What you need to know

- 100% disabled veterans will be exempt from registration fees (including filing fees) for two vehicles of their choosing. This includes passenger vehicles, non-commercial 1-ton pick-ups, motorcycles and RVs.
- Does not include personalized plate fee, annual contributions for special plates, reinstatement fees or impound fees.
- 100% disabled veterans will be exempt from title fees (including filing fees) for vehicles purchased on or after Jan. 1, 2024.
- Does not include salvage inspections or fast track fees.
- Early renewal/titling (before Jan. 1) is not an option for veterans who would like to take advantage of these benefits.
- 100% disabled veterans will be exempt from driver's license and identification card fees for all types of cards: Standard, REAL and Enhanced.
- Starting July. 1, 2024 100% disabled veterans will also be exempt from paying motor vehicle sales taxes for vehicles purchased on or after that date.

To utilize these benefits bring your award letter or statement of benefits with you to show proof of 100% Service Connection

Additional Sponsors

Cease Funeral
Grimes Realty
Lifequest Chiropractic

Nei Bottling
Zetah Construction







BEMIDJI AREA VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP

A SAFE SPACE FOR VETERANS TO TALK, SHARE EXPERIENCES AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER











MEETINGS HELD AT 10:00 AM THE 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT STELLHER PROGRAM FOR RECOVERY 1426 BEMIDJI AVE NORTH SUITE 1 BEMIDJI MN 56601

PLEASE CALL 218-444-2845 OR 218-444-5155 FOR MORE INFORMATION





POSTED ON SEP 12, 2024, BY JIM MARSZALEK

As DAV benefits advocates, we occasionally hear from veterans who are disappointed after receiving a 0% disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs. While this means you don't get monetary benefits or an increase in your overall compensation, that zero still has value.

It's important to remember that even with a 0% disability rating, which the VA calls a non-compensable disability, veterans may be eligible for benefits that include VA health care, prescriptions, co-payment waivers and federal hiring preferences.

As with all disability ratings, veterans can file for an increase if they think that their disability is more severe than the current rating indicates. If you or any veteran feels like this might be the case, reach out to DAV by visiting benefitsquestions.org so we can assist in a review of symptoms and rating criteria.

Under the PACT Act, hypertension became a new presumptive condition. According to the VA, over 82% of PACT Act-related claims for hypertension have received a 0% disability rating.

A 10% disability rating for hypertension is only assigned if continuous medication is required for blood pressure control and their past diastolic pressure before taking medication was predominately 100 or greater.

Hypertension can lead to serious health conditions over time and can be fatal, especially if left untreated.

We remind all veterans that they should never stop taking prescribed medications prior to any disability evaluations to try and obtain a higher rating.

You can file a claim for a new disability as a secondary claim. This means if a new disability arises that is caused by or linked to a service-connected disability, then service connection and compensation can be awarded even if the original condition is rated as 0% disabling.

Here's an example of when a veteran might file a secondary claim:

A veteran develops heart disease caused by high blood pressure that the VA already concluded was connected to their service. The veteran would get service connection for that heart disease, which could have a higher rating than hypertension.

We know that receiving a 0% disability rating might be confusing or even frustrating, but it's important to know that it still does come with various VA benefits and could be reevaluated for a higher rating in the future.

Again, if you have questions about or need assistance with filing for VA disability compensation, please contact your nearest DAV service office by visiting benefitsquestions.org.

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

Nov. 10 – Marine Corps Birthday

 Nov. 11 – Veterans Day – This is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty, which ended World War I and is also a day to thank military Veterans for their service.

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://davmn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/







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 LaPiere'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.









THE PACT ACT AND YOUR VA BENEFITS

The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. And starting **March 5, 2024**, we're expanding VA health care to millions of Veterans—years earlier than called for by the PACT Act.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

- File a disability claim online
- Apply for VA health care

On this page

What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care? What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure? Am I eligible for VA health care under the PACT Act? Gulf War era, and post-9/11, Veteran eligibility, Vietnam era Veteran eligibility, Getting benefits, Toxic exposure screenings, and Information for survivors.

What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.

But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or "presume") that your service caused your condition. We call these "presumptive conditions."

We consider a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.

If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

Am I eligible for VA health care under the PACT Act?

You're eligible to enroll now—without needing to apply for disability benefits first—if you meet the basic service and discharge requirements and any of these descriptions are true for you:

- You served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11, or
- You deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, or
- You were exposed to toxins or other hazards during military service at home or abroad

Specific toxins and hazards include burn pits, sand and dust, particulates, oil well or sulfur fires, chemicals, radiation, warfare agents, depleted uranium, herbicides, and other occupational hazards. Find more military exposure categories on our Public Health website

Note: Even if none of these descriptions are true for you, you may still be eligible for VA health care based on your service. Check the full health care eligibility requirements





Law Offices of FULLER, WALLNER, CAYKO, PEDERSON & HUSEBY, LTD. 514 America Ave., P.O. Box 880 Bemidji, MN 56619-0880

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Bemidji Chapter 7

Disabled American Veterans

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