



BULLETS



Volume 104 Number 1

January, February, March 2022

Disabled American Veterans



Minneapolis Chapter #1

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Disabled American Veterans Mission Statement: Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense, the Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to one, single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

***COUNT DOWN TO 100 Years, DAV Chapter #1, Minneapolis
April 25, 1922 to April 25, 2022***

Commander's Column

Fellow members:

We as a sociality continue to struggle with the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. DAV Chapter #1 is moving toward a more normal operation, but still faces limitations. The safety of our members at meetings and engagements is our most important consideration!

Nomination for Chapter Leadership will be open on our Feb 1st meeting, continue at Mar. 1st meeting with the Election being on April 5, 2022. It is not too early to think about our spring elections. Being on the board can enrich your understanding of the chapter's operations and allows input on the direction of the chapter. The executive board is the vehicle where proposals for spending are discussed and approved before being brought to the General Membership meeting for a vote.

At our Feb. 1st meeting, we have a guest speaker, Trent Dilks, who is the DAV Department of Minnesota Legislative Director. The DAV MN is working hard to form a comprehensive legislative agenda. Here is a highlight of the top three priorities:

Amend the Property Tax Value Exclusion to ensure that surviving spouses are able to utilize the benefits intended.

Increase access to the outdoors through reducing or no-cost hunting, fishing and trapping for Minnesota disabled Veterans

Increase eligibility to the property tax value exclusion to all Veterans 50% and greater, permanent service connected. Also, we seek to make the percentage of disability the percentage of the \$300,000 the Veteran receives in exclusion. Examples 50% Service Connected gets \$150,000, 60% gets \$180,000, 70% gets \$210,000, etc.. This would increase the number of eligible Veterans in Minnesota by roughly 10,000 (a smaller amount of those are homeowners) and increase the level of exclusion for everyone below the current \$300,000 received by the 100% P&T disability, while respecting the fact that the most current available data does show the median home value in Minnesota, as a whole, is below \$200,000.

Attend our Feb. 1st meeting to ask Trent questions regarding these priority in person.

Cont. on Page 2

Adjutant's Column

Dear Members:

For 2022 Veterans disability compensation rates have increased by 6% to match Social Security benefits. To see what your new adjustment is please visit: <https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

I also want to mention there has been an extension to the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities rated 10% or more from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to December 31, 2026. If this change was not implemented, those whose conditions occurred after December 31, 2021 would have been at a greater disadvantage to those who have experienced conditions at an earlier date.

The VA has presumed certain medically unexplained illnesses are related to Persian Gulf War service. The following are some of the illnesses: chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders. The following are also included as undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include, but are not limited to abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders and sleep disturbances. Persian Gulf War Veterans who are experiencing any of the symptoms listed and other unexplained medical issues are encouraged to file a compensation claim.

In addition to the above, the VA has been working over the last six months and has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to environmental exposures during military service.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Cont. on Page 2

Senior Vice Commander

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Chapter 1 has had a sustainable year despite the Covid situation. We have maintained our financial position and are on track for membership goals. Thanks for all your support this year. Our Forget-Me-Not donations have been excellent.

All the accolades being said, we need to look to 2022. Our success as a Chapter depends on involvement from many people. This year we ask for our members to consider further involvement in the Forget-Me-Not solicitation days when we have them. Since we are limited in the number of days that we can do solicitations, it becomes more important to have as many sites as possible to achieve our fund-raising goals. We have added more area to our Chapter on the South and West sides of the metro. Our goal is to add additional locations for Forget-Me-Not sites. This of course means we need more volunteers to fill the time slots. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated in this area.

We are still about 25 short of membership goals for the year. The special \$100 Lifetime Membership has been extended to June 30th, 2022. Deadline to be received at Chapter office is June 15, 2022. The program means a Disabled Veteran can join the DAV for \$100 and the Chapter and the Department will pay the \$200 balance. If you know veterans who qualify, please sign them up or refer them to the Chapter office. Again, thanks in advance.

And to close, we would be honored to have more attendance at our Chapter meetings. We have great food and fellowship. Your input into our decisions is always gratefully appreciated and needed.

Bill Johnson, Senior Vice

Commander's Column Cont.

BEQUESTS: We as a Chapter are fortunate to receive bequests from departed members and supporters. Please note that **ONLY** if you list "DAV Chapter #1, Minneapolis MN" in your will or trust document, do those funds go to our Chapter. If you list "DAV" in your will or trust, these funds most likely will be redirected to the National Organization. If your intention is to bequest to Chapter #1, Minneapolis as part of your Will or Trust, PLEASE review your legal documents to match your intentions. Effective Oct of 2020 we are required to report all donations from estates to National Headquarters to ensure the "intent" of the donator is followed.

Are you over 70 ½ and required to complete an IRA Mandatory Minimum Distribution?

By doing a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly for your IRA to DAV Chapter #1, this money does not count as income on your tax return. Speak to your financial advisor or tax professional for details specific to your situation.

Commander, Joel Schilling

Departed



Comrades

2021

September

Iver J. Anderson
Robert C. Burton
Russell E. Osborne
Thomas J. Ryan

October

Marion R. Freed
Clifford H. Larson
Gerald M. Munn
Harry N. Waller

November

Kenneth J. Berglund
Sunrise Ehn
Marvis L. Haas
Robert C. Hagen
Seth G. Huntington
Lloyd K. Sylvester
Paul R. Thomsen
Gregory J. Ward
John B. Winter

**If you know of any member who has left us recently, please call the office to let us know.
612-726-9591.**

Adjutant's Column Cont.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file a supplemental claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim when filing. The claim form should include the name of the condition and specify that the condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

For filing a claim, please contact our local MN DAV NSO office at (612) 970-5665 to schedule an appointment.

Also, as one of DAV National's VA Volunteer Service Deputies I would like to ask those of you who are able to volunteer to be a driver at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. This is a great opportunity to give back to other Veterans in our community who are unable to drive or do not have transportation to and from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. If you are interested in becoming a driver please reach out to Gary Wagner, DAV MN Metro Hospital Service Coordinator, located at 1-S141 or (612) 467-2768.

Stephanie Turbett, Adjutant

Dates and Times to Remember 2022

January

01		New Years Day
04	5:45 pm	*NO DINNER
04	6:45 pm	*NO MEETING
12	7:00	NO 6-5-4
23	12:45 pm	NO VAMC VISITATION
26	4:00 pm	Board Meeting

February

01	5:45 pm	*Dinner
01	6:45 pm	*Meeting
09	7:00 pm	NO 6-5-4
14		Valentine's Day
21		Presidents Day
27	12:45 pm	NO VAMC VISITATION
23	4:00 pm	Board Meeting

March

01	5:45 pm	*Dinner
01	6:45 pm	*Meeting
09	7:00 pm	NO 6-5-4
27	12:45 pm	NO VAMC VISITATION
13		Daylight Savings Begins
20		First Day of Spring
30	4:00 pm	Board Meeting

April

05	5:45 pm	*Dinner
05	6:45 pm	*Meeting
13	7:00 pm	NO 6-5-4
24	12:45 pm	NO VAMC Visitation
27	4:00 pm	Board Meeting

***All meetings are held at Bloomington Event Center**
 1114 American Blvd, West. Bloomington, 55420
 Remember: All DAV meetings are open to all veterans.
 Only members in good standing may vote during meetings.



CHAPTER DONATION 2022

\$10 \$15 \$20
 \$25 \$50

Or other amount \$ _____

Send to: DAV - Minneapolis Chapter#1
 Annual Chapter Donation
 P.O. Box 17037
 Minneapolis, Mn 55417

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

The Funds you send into the one-time donation are very helpful in running the Chapter, and helping our fellow veterans.



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