



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

January 2026

DAV DISPATCH

News from Adam Klein Chapter #3, Bismarck, North Dakota

OFFICERS

Commander:

Lamar Kruckenberg

Sr. Vice Commander:

Tom Newton

Jr. Vice Commander:

David Schall

Chaplain:

Leslie Ross

Treasurer/Adjutant:

Mark Landis

Auxiliary Commander:

Linda Otto

Auxiliary Adjutant

Bonnie Leingang

MEETINGS

1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

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Bismarck, ND

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DAV Chapter #3 Enjoyed Another Outstanding Year

The chapter kicked off 2025 with record attendance of 105 for the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. We followed up by granting 15 academic scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year, serving meals in the community, and participating in the Freedom Riders Motorcycle Classic. Lamar Kruckenberg was reelected as chapter commander, and was subsequently elected as department commander during the convention in Jamestown. David Schall was selected as our outstanding chapter member. And it was only April. Then we participated in Memorial Day ceremonies and the department picnic at the North Dakota Veterans Home. We had a beautiful day for the chapter picnic in July. Two of our members represented the DAV during Military and Veterans Appreciation Day in Medora, ND. We also provided financial support to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and North Dakota Veterans Home. These are just a few highlights from 2025. Let's keep it going!

Membership Report: Chapter Attained Record High

The greatest strength of our chapter is you. We started 2025 with 657 members and closed the year with a record high membership of 760. We have a strong and powerful membership that is visible in our communities and before lawmakers. Sponsors of at least one new Chapter #3 member in 2025 include Dennis Beck, Kelly Dollinger, Mitch Erhardt, Joe Hall, Craig Johnson, Mark Landis, Kathy Mauch, Tom Newton, Leslie Ross, David Schall, Gary Simmons, Shawn Skager, David Upgren, Diane Wald, and Ervin Walther. The 2025 sponsors will have an opportunity to be drawn for one of three DAV shirts during the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on January 22, 2026. Finally, a couple of highlights from the September/October 2025 issue of the DAV magazine. The recruiter rally will return for the 104th National Convention, page 11; the Department of North Dakota received the Judge Robert S. Marx award for membership recruitment, page 12.

Judge Robert S. Marx: The Enduring Spirit of the DAV

David Schall, Junior Vice Commander

Chaplain Chats

As this new year unfolds, may God's steadfast grace walk before you and His peace rest upon you. We give thanks for your service, your sacrifice, and the strength you have shown in bearing the visible and invisible wounds of that service. May the Lord renew your spirit, comfort your body, and surround you with the honor, care, and dignity you have earned. May this year bring healing where there has been pain, purpose where there has been struggle, and reassurance that your service continues to matter in God's greater plan. May you always know that you are seen, valued, and deeply loved. Blessings and peace in the year ahead.

Leslie Ross, Chaplain



Message from the Commander

Our chapter enters 2026 in excellent shape. We have outstanding volunteers that support our events and represent the DAV. We are financially sound, which allows us to have important programs such as scholarships, veterans aid, and transportation. This would not be possible without the generosity of donors in our community. The elected and appointed chapter officers also play a huge role in our success. The Volunteer Appreciation Banquet is scheduled on January 22nd. More information will be sent by email. Please consider attending this fun event.

I feel very honored to be your commander, and am looking forward to new adventures in 2026.

Lamar Kruckenberg, Commander

*****No Chapter Business Meeting in January*****

Visit us at <https://www.aklein3dav.org>

Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans