



August 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.

4023 State Street

Bismarck, ND

EMAIL

aklein3dav@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 915

Bismarck, ND 58502-0915

Record Numbers Turned Out in July for Chapter Picnic

Mother Nature smiled on us during the chapter picnic. We enjoyed a break in the summer heat and had a great evening for socializing. Almost 90 members and guests were in attendance. The volunteers who make our programs successful were recognized. Volunteers support the Veterans Transportation Network, community meals, honor guard, serve on committees, represent the chapter during special events, and other activities in support of veterans. Members of the Freedom Riders Motorcycle Club in Bismarck were also recognized for many years of outstanding support of the DAV. They presented a donation from the proceeds of the annual bike show charity auction. It was a special honor to have Department Commander (and chapter chaplain) Leslie Ross in attendance. During the department convention in May, she succeeded LaMar Kruckeberg, also a member of Chapter #3 and still serving as chapter commander.



Veterans Stand Down Returns to Bismarck in August



The Central North Dakota Veterans Stand Down is scheduled on August 20, 2026 at the Bismarck AMVETS Club. The address is 2402 Railroad Avenue in Bismarck. Doors open at 9 a.m. The purpose of the Stand Down is to provide assistance to veterans in the areas of benefits, employment, housing, and other community resources. Dozens of service providers will be available. Lunch will also be provided. There is no cost to veterans. Stand Down events have helped veterans across the country for many years. The name is derived from a military term for a combat unit's time for rest and recovery. Our chapter will have a table at the event. Please contact the adjutant if you wish to volunteer.

Chaplain Chats

As veterans, we understand that the cost of defending our nation does not end when the hostility ends. The burdens of military service - and sometimes its ultimate sacrifice - continue long after the battlefield grows quiet. This month, we pause to do something sacred. We say their names.

1st Lt. Tyler James Feehan

Pvt. Isabella Gonzales

Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad

Sgt. Michael Emmanuel Swinton

May we never allow their names to be spoken only once. Each represents a life of service, a family forever changed, brothers and sisters in arms who shared their burdens, and a promise faithfully kept. Their watch ended, but our duty to remember them never will.

(Continued on Page Two)



Message from the Commander

Where has the summer gone? It seems we were celebrating the passing of snow and now we are in the heat of summer. Soon it will be time for high school and college football. It's been a great year in the DAV. Our department commander is Leslie Ross from Chapter #3. Mark Landis and Joe Hall, also from Chapter #3, are department first junior vice commander and department adjutant/treasurer, respectively. Congratulations to those folks who are part of the leadership team for our department. **August meeting menu:** Smoked BBQ brisket, pickled banana peppers, and cornbread.

*****VA Updates on Page Three*****

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

Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans

Chaplain Chats (Continued)

August 2026

In military tradition, there comes a **Final Roll Call**. A name is called one last time. The silence that follows speaks more powerfully than words, reminding us that a faithful warrior has completed their earthly watch. We render our final salute—not as a goodbye, but as a solemn promise that their service, sacrifice, and name will never be forgotten.

Our prayers remain with their families, loved ones, fellow service members, and all who mourn their loss. May God grant them comfort, peace, and strength in the difficult days ahead.

As members of the Disabled American Veterans, we renew our commitment to honor the fallen by serving the living. We will remember. We will honor. We will continue to fulfill our promise to America's veterans, ensuring that no sacrifice is forgotten and no veteran is left behind.

May we always be worthy of their service, faithful to their memory, and steadfast in our commitment to all who have borne the battle.

Leslie Ross, Chaplain

**** VA Updates ****

July-August 2026

- Total VA claims nationwide: About 590,000. More than 120 days old: Less than 70,000.
- Total ND disability claims open: 1,405 with 70 days average to complete
- Total ND survivor claims open: 127 with 128 days average to complete.
- Veterans or survivors who suspect they have experienced fraud should seek additional information and report the incident to the appropriate agency at [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsa.gov) or by calling 833-38V-SAFE (87233).
- Effective immediately, VA healthcare can no longer enter temporary addresses. Veterans may have two addresses: A residential/home address and a mailing address where you want to receive prescriptions, letters, or any other correspondence. If traveling or temporarily relocating, update your address at least two weeks ahead of time and update it again when you return home.
- The University of Mary has announced the new America 250 military scholarship, providing active-duty military members, veterans, and immediate family members enrolling for Fall 2026 with a \$10,000 tier 1 scholarship toward the university's MBA and Master of Organizational Leadership programs.
- VA healthcare receives funding based on the number of veterans using services, so veterans will not take any benefits away from other veterans by using it.
- Over 34,000 veterans are enrolled under Fargo VA. The Electronic Health Record is scheduled to be operational on May 15, 2027. Health records will be available to providers across the VA system, increasing convenience for veterans who travel or move out of state.
- VA is looking at automated travel claims for eligible veterans.
- The Fargo VA has recently hired a general surgeon and orthopedic surgeon. An offer has been extended to a new dentist. The Fargo VA Regional Office is hiring new rating specialist and is seeking a Veterans Service Center manager.
- The Vet Center in Bismarck is experiencing staffing shortages. The Mobile Vet Center, currently in Fargo, is available for outreach events.
- There has been a significant increase in veterans utilizing Vocational Readiness & Employment services. The office in Fargo has also been working on cases from other states.