



October 31, 2026



October 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

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Chapter Returns Attention to Community Service

By popular demand from our members, we have scheduled more opportunities to serve community meals in Bismarck-Mandan. We'll begin on Thursday, October 15th at First Lutheran Church in Mandan. They typically serve 150-200 meals during Lunch at First (LAF). Our chapter has been helping for a few years with (easy) manual labor and a donation to help pay for groceries. On November 10th we will head over to Heaven's Helpers Soup Café in Bismarck for a day of service. We return to First Lutheran on December 10th for the last outing this year. More dates will be scheduled in 2027. If you are willing to help with any (or all) of these dates, please contact the adjutant to get on the schedule.



VA Updates September - October 2026

- Any death notification of a veteran must be accompanied by an official death certificate. This aids in stopping medication shipments and future appointments. This change pertains to VA health care.
- More than 250,000 veterans enrolled in VA health care nationwide in 2026.
- VA disability claims inventory is currently more than 661,000 with 73,000 over 125 days.
- North Dakota has 1,458 claims pending with 125 over 125 days. Average processing time is 89 days.
- VA reports the claim backlog is down more than 70% since January 2025.
- The VA assisted more than 51,000 homeless veterans obtain permanent housing in Fiscal Year 2025.
- Travel claims are taking about 60 days to process. VA is working to reduce the processing time.

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Chaplain Chats

Fall brings cooling mornings, changing leaves, and a chance to slow down a little. Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season for everything. This season offers a chance to appreciate our friendships and make room for new ones.

Hebrews 13:2 reminds us to welcome strangers. That simple message speaks to all of us. Through DAV, we know how much it means to belong and to have someone who understands.

This fall, make room for someone who may be standing at the edge of the circle. Invite a veteran to a DAV meeting, pull up another chair for coffee, or reach out to someone who feels alone. Don't wait for someone else to take the first step; be the person who says, "Come join us," and helps turn a stranger into a friend. As the leaves change and the season turns, may every open door remind us that friendship and belonging can help us all find a place to call home.

Leslie Ross, Chaplain



Message from the Commander

Fall is in the air. Leaves are turning colors; the weather has that nip in the air. It's that time of year we can all be thankful that we live in a country that is free because of the sacrifice of so many veterans. During the next few months, we at the DAV are planning some great community service projects. Please support these wonderful projects. We have scheduled Lunch at First Lutheran as well as the Soup Café, and will need volunteers for these fun and worthwhile activities. It's a great time to show that we are a community of veterans still serving.

LaMar Kruckenberg, Commander

Reminder - Department Fall Conference October 10th

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

Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans

VA Updates (Continued)

September - October 2026

- The VA is offering free flu shots at the Bismarck and Dickinson clinics on the following dates. Veterans must be enrolled in VA health care. No appointment is needed.

Bismarck

Thursday, October 8 th	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thursday, October 29 th	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dickinson

Tuesday, October 6 th	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27 th	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

- A veteran assigned to a VA PACT team for primary care cannot also have a community primary care provider. The veteran must choose one or the other. This does not affect specialty care, which may be provided by VA Care in the Community.
- Veterans living outside the U.S. with a foreign address must sign up for the Foreign Medical Plan. This may not be popular since only care for service-connected disabilities will be provided.
- The Fargo VA hospital is working to get street addresses, rather than Post Office boxes, for all veterans.