



April 20, 2025

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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 Provides Support to Veterans and Families

The paved roads at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery are more than 30 years old and are falling into disrepair. State funds are not available, so the cemetery foundation embarked on a fund raising campaign. The foundation is matching private donations. Our chapter proudly made a donation to the project, which is scheduled to begin after Memorial Day this year. The chapter also donated to the Activity Fund and Veterans Care Closet at the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. It helps to pay for extra comfort items for the residents. The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and North Dakota Veterans Home provide caring service for our veterans and their families. In the photo, Chapter Commander Lamar Kruckenberg presented a check to North Dakota National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Jackie Huber, who is also the President of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation.



Scholarships Awarded to 15 Students for 2025-2026

The Gene L. Kouba Memorial Scholarship continues to be a popular program for local area students. The chapter recently awarded 15 scholarships to applicants in southwest North Dakota for the 2025-2026 school year. Scholarship awards are \$1,000 for each student. The scholarship is named after past chapter commander and past department commander Gene Kouba, who worked as a full time veterans advocate for more than 20 years with the State of North Dakota prior to his passing in 2011.

Chapter to Resume Serving Community Meals in April

Dozens of volunteers from our chapter served meals last year in Bismarck and Mandan. We will once again provide support to Lunch at First Lutheran (LAF) in Mandan on Thursday, April 17th. It is a non-denominational event that is open to the public. In addition to volunteers, the chapter provides a donation to help offset costs. Details will be sent by email within the next week

Chaplain Chats

April symbolizes renewal and hope, much like the themes found in the Bible, where resurrection and redemption bring new beginnings. Just as spring breathes life into the Earth, scripture speaks of perseverance through trials, echoing the strength of the Disabled American Veterans who have sacrificed for our country. Their resilience mirrors biblical teachings of faith and endurance, reminding us that, even in hardship, there is the promise of renewal and grace. May this month bring renewal to our hearts and strength to our spirits. May we find hope in new beginnings, courage in challenges, and kindness in our daily lives. Let us honor those who have sacrificed for the greater good, offering them gratitude and support. May we embrace the changing season with open hearts, seeking peace, purpose, and the promise of brighter days ahead.

Leslie Ross, Chaplain



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Message from the Commander

We at Adam Klein Chapter #3 are going to have a very active spring. Our state convention will be held in Jamestown during the first weekend of May. It's a great opportunity to learn more about our organization. Please plan to attend if possible. We reimburse \$250 in travel expenses for eligible delegates. Several of our chapter members have been nominated for elective offices in the Department of North Dakota. We would like to see as much participation as possible from our chapter.

March meeting menu: Double-smoked honey baked ham and German potato salad.

LaMar Kruckenberg, Commander

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

Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans

VA Updates

March 2025

- The VA collaborates with the Joint Commission, a non-profit organization, to improve health care quality and patient safety in VA facilities through accreditation and focused survey. The Joint Commission window is coming up soon and the Fargo VA will participate in the process. It is essentially a snapshot regarding the delivery of care for veterans. The Fargo VA Health Care System has traditionally received excellent reviews.
- A new oncologist has been hired at the Fargo VA.
- Ribbon cutting for the new Williston VA outpatient clinic is scheduled on April 30th. There will also be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dickinson clinic on May 1st.
- Technology-based eye care is coming to the Bismarck VA clinic. The machine does exams to identify retina problems. The information is useful to eye care providers. However, there will not be an eye doctor on site at this time.
- VA employee travel is being reduced due to budget constraints.
- Construction continues on outpatient clinics at the Fargo VA.
- Expansion of the Bismarck clinic is still planned for 2026. A new location has not yet been identified. Requests for bids have been published.
- The VA has received 2.4 million toxic exposure claims since the passage of the PACT Act in August 2022. Approximately 2.15 million claims have been completed, with \$9.16 billion paid in compensation benefits. In North Dakota, the VA has received about 5,000 PACT Act claims, with a little more than 900 pending. North Dakota veterans have received \$27.9 million in compensation benefits for toxic exposure related medical conditions. The average processing time nationwide is 103 days.
- Quality control reviews indicate the Fargo VA enjoys a 95% accuracy rate for disability compensation claims.
- The Fargo Veterans Readiness & Employment (formerly Vocational Rehabilitation) department has been recognized as one of the best in the country for small stations.