



December 2023

# 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**

Connie Serhienko

### MEETINGS

1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

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Bismarck, ND

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## Veterans Encouraged to Utilize VA Medical Facilities

While community care continues to be a great option for veterans, the Fargo VA Health Care System offers a wide range of services and could be better utilized. The Fargo VAHCS provides top notch care, as indicated by patient surveys. Dermatology and Orthopedics are just a couple of examples. Appointments are readily available, usually sooner than community care appointments. The MRI equipment in Fargo is state of the art. They are also using robotic surgical procedures. While the VA has been well-funded nationally for 2024, Fargo has experienced a budget reduction, primarily due to diminished patient load. Although using the VA for medical care helps to justify the budget, the more important issue is enhancing continuity and quality of care for veterans.



### *In other VA news:*

- The VA is in the process of reviewing the lease for the Bismarck CBOC. They want to increase the size of the clinic to 25,000-30,000 square feet. The current clinic space is slightly less than 10,000 square feet.
- The Fisher House project in Fargo is still in the land procurement stage. The VA has a parcel of interest in a Fargo residential neighborhood. The goal is to open the Fisher House in 2027.
- There has been an increase in the number of veterans at the Community Living Center (CLC) at the Fargo VA. The CLC provides skilled care, both on a long-term and short-term basis.
- North Dakota veterans have experienced an 82.3% grant rate for PACT Act claims, resulting in payments of \$9.26 million this year. There are more than 1,300 pending PACT Act claims for North Dakota veterans.

**\*\*REMINDER\*\***

**No Chapter Business Meetings in  
December or January**

## Wreaths Across America 2023 at North Dakota Veterans Cemetery



Wreaths will be placed at each grave site at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 16th. The public is invited to attend the event and participate in placing wreaths. Wreaths Across America, a national nonprofit organization with a mission to remember our fallen service members and veterans, provides wreaths for federal and state veterans cemeteries throughout the nation, in conjunction with local civic organizations. The Bismarck Civil Air Patrol squadron coordinates the efforts locally. Organizations and private individuals sponsor wreaths for \$17 each. Our chapter, along with other local veterans service organizations, has provided financial support for this program for several years.

## Message from the Commander

Thanksgiving has passed, and we are upon the Christmas holiday season. This brings forth family, faith, and fun. Our greatest gift to this country is the freedom we all enjoy because of our veterans and their families. We all celebrate in our own ways. Some of these traditions have been passed down from generation to generation. Let us pause to honor our families and celebrate our past generations.

Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

LaMar Kruckenberg, Commander



**PLEASE SEE PAGE TWO FOR A SPECIAL ADVENT MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN**

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

*Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans*

## **\*\*CHAPLAIN CHATS\*\***

**December 2023**

The act of serving fellow veterans takes on a deeper resonance during the season of Advent, a period of anticipation and reflection leading up to the celebration of the birth of Christ. In this sacred time, we are reminded of the biblical prophecy and promise of a Messiah, as articulated in Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Veterans engaging in acts of service during Advent are embodying the virtues associated with the promised Messiah, fostering a spirit of hope, peace, and compassion within their community. The birth of Christ represents the ultimate manifestation of God's love and grace, as stated in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." As veterans come together in mutual support and service, they echo the selfless gift of Christ, embodying the essence of love and sacrifice. The season of Advent, with its emphasis on preparation and spiritual reflection, provides a poignant backdrop for veterans to draw inspiration from the profound meaning of Christ's birth and apply it in their dedicated service to their fellow comrades.

Yours in Christ,

Chaplain Leslie Ross