

DAV[®] OF MINNESOTA

THE NEXT 100 | BUILDING ON A LEGACY



DAV of Minnesota 2025 Annual Report | 2026 Objectives

davmn.org

COMMANDER MESSAGE

Dear Fellow DAV Members, Supporters, and Partners,

This past year marked a historic milestone for DAV of Minnesota—our 100th year of service to Veterans, their families, and survivors. As we reflect on this centennial, we do so with an eye toward the future. Our theme, The Next 100: Building on a Legacy, honors those who built this organization and challenges us to carry it forward.

For a century, the heart of DAV has been our local chapters. Across Minnesota, chapters are where our mission comes to life—through service, advocacy, and connection. Long before programs had titles or strategies had plans, chapters were answering calls, helping Veterans access earned benefits, and building community. That grassroots dedication remains the foundation of DAV and will continue to guide the next 100 years.

This centennial year brought meaningful opportunities to reflect, connect, and recommit. At our Spring Conference, members from across the state gathered to conduct the work of the organization and to be inspired. A special highlight was the keynote address by Mark Nutsch, whose leadership—recognized by many through 12 Strong—offered a powerful reminder of teamwork, resilience, and service beyond self. Our Fall Conference continued that momentum, bringing leaders together to learn, collaborate, and plan for the evolving needs of Minnesota Veterans.

We also continued to expand how we share Veteran voices. The Veterans of the North has grown its audience, strengthening our ability to tell authentic Veteran stories and connect with new listeners across the state.

One of the most meaningful moments of the year was the sealing of the DAV Centennial Time Capsule at the Minnesota State Capitol—preserving our story for those who will lead DAV into the future.

As we move forward, we do so with gratitude, confidence, and a shared commitment to building on a strong legacy—for the next 100 years.

With sincere appreciation,



John Walker
Commander, DAV of Minnesota

ABOUT US

As DAV of Minnesota marks 100 years of service, we remain committed to a single purpose: keeping our promise to Minnesota's Veterans. For a century, we have honored that promise by ensuring Veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits they have earned, advocating for injured heroes and their caregivers at the Minnesota Legislature, providing employment resources, and educating the public about the sacrifices and needs of Veterans transitioning to civilian life.

Today, as we look ahead to The Next 100 — Building on a Legacy, our mission is grounded in both tradition and forward momentum. Encompassing over 19,000 members and 32 chapters across the state, DAV of Minnesota is founded on the enduring principle of Veterans serving Veterans. Since 1925, this trusted network has led the way in providing lifetime support for Veterans and their families — and that commitment continues to evolve to meet the needs of future generations.

In 2026, as we build on a century of impact, DAV of Minnesota's priorities include:

- Offering free, professional assistance to Veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service.
- Increasing outreach and awareness of DAV of Minnesota's services among the general public, as well as disabled Veterans and their families.
- Representing the interests of disabled Veterans and their families — including widowed spouses and orphans — at all levels of government.
- Expanding DAV's mission of hope into communities statewide through a strong and connected network of local chapters.
- Providing meaningful opportunities for Veterans to support fellow Veterans through a wide range of volunteer programs.

EXECUTIVE TEAM



John Walker
Department
Commander



Mike Medhaug
Senior Vice
Commander



Sandi Braunstein
1st Junior Vice
Commander



Rich Batcho
2nd Junior Vice
Commander



Bill Gordon
3rd Junior Vice
Commander



Kenneth Olson
4th Junior Vice
Commander



Oather Martin
Past Department
Commander



Debra Petersen
Judge Advocate



Scott Berndt
Treasurer



Bob Heinz
Chaplain



Joe Litzenger
Inspector General



Stephen Whitehead
Adjutant

CONTENTS

2024 Annual Report | 2025 Objectives

- 2 Commander Message / Table of Contents
- 3 Table of Contents / About Us / Executive team
- 4 Membership/Veterans Served
- 5 Program & Department Highlights
- 6 Events
- 7 Service Officers
- 8 2025 Legislative Accomplishments
- 10 Transportation
- 11 Volunteer Drivers and Household
- 12 Household Donations
- 13 Revenue/ Expenses
- 14 Outdoors Program
- 16 Centennial Celebrations

MEMBERSHIP

DAV of Minnesota comprises 32 chapters across the state dedicated to supporting local Veterans, their families and their communities. Each chapter independently raises awareness, fundraises, and creates programs to fulfill our promises to those who have served. United, DAV of Minnesota collaborates with other Minnesota Veteran Service Organizations to ensure no Veteran is left behind.

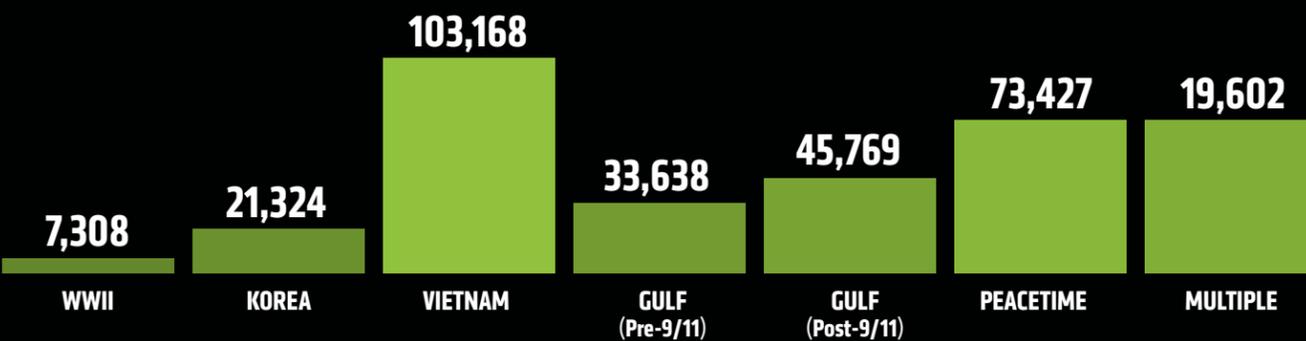
Any service member who was not dishonorably discharged and who sustained or aggravated an injury or illness during their military service is eligible for DAV membership, provided they served during a period of armed conflict (which does not require direct combat). The injury or illness does not need to be service-connected by the VA.

To learn more about becoming a member of DAV of Minnesota, please visit www.mydav.org/dav-membership or contact our offices at (651) 291-1212.

CHAPTER	#	CITY	
Minneapolis Chapter	1	Minneapolis	3,029
St. Paul Chapter	2	St. Paul	1,733
Russo-Golob Chapter	3	Hibbing	216
Cloverleaf Chapter	4	Askov	368
Gilbert W. Nordman Chapter	6	Duluth	896
North Central Chapter	7	Bemidji	699
Gopher State Chapter	8	Various	3
St. Cloud Chapter	9	St. Cloud	1,008
Lyle C Pearson Sr. Chapter	10	Mankato	825
Aitkin Chapter	11	Aitkin	125
Morrison Co. Chapter	12	Little Falls	579
Itasca County Chapter	13	Grand Rapids	493
Crookston Chapter	14	Crookston	215
New Ulm Chapter	15	New Ulm	465
Glaydon Iverson Chapter	16	Albert Lea	272
Washington County Chapter	17	Hugo	369
Carlton County Chapter	18	Cloquet	794
Faribault Chapter	20	Faribault	323
Crow Wing County Chapter	22	Brainerd	430
Kolstad Chapter	23	Virginia	440
Western Chapter	24	Montevideo	269
Fergus Falls Chapter	25	Fergus Falls	330
Arnold Brandt Chapter	27	Austin	220
Mayo Southeast Chapter	28	Rochester	1,202
Lakeland Chapter	31	Detroit Lakes	263
South Central Chapter	32	Fairmont	438
Southwest Chapter	33	Marshall	245
West Central Chapter	34	Willmar	252
Hutchinson Chapter	37	Hutchinson	473
Park Rapids Chapter	38	Park Rapids	379
Anoka Chapter	39	Anoka	1,576
South Metro Chapter	40	Apple Valley	304
NW Minnesota Chapter	41	Roseau	99

DAV SERVES 20% OF MN VETERANS

53% of Minnesota Veterans are age 65 and over



MINNESOTA VETERANS BY ERA

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota continued the **Veterans of the North** podcast for the second year. This monthly series honors and serves disabled Veterans and their families by discussing timely topics related to Veterans and their benefits. Each episode features compelling stories and interviews with Veterans from various eras, offering valuable insights into the Veteran experience. Tune in on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or YouTube.



Winter Salute - MACV and WCCO partnered together to help Veterans find a home for the holidays during the Winter Salute. This event allowed men and women of any military branch to come together before the holidays while being served by the community. The event, held at Target Field allowed Veterans to receive warm clothing while connecting with different services like medical, legal and employment needs.



AWARDS AND HONORS

VA Volunteer of the Year – Van Karg, a Vietnam War veteran and Purple Heart recipient, has been named DAV’s National Volunteer of the Year, one of the organization’s highest honors. A member of DAV of Minnesota, Karg has dedicated more than 30 years to serving veterans in the Hutchinson area and across the state, logging over 18,000 volunteer hours since 2007. The recognition comes as DAV of Minnesota celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2025, marking a century of support for disabled veterans and their families.



Volunteer of the Month VA John Walker – John Walker, a Vietnam-era Veteran, has dedicated his life to serving fellow Veterans. Named the VA’s Volunteer of the Month in October, he volunteers at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, spending time with DAV inpatients and offering companionship and support. He is especially active during the holidays, distributing cards and gifts to patients. Walker’s service reflects the mission of DAV of Minnesota to empower disabled Veterans to live with dignity. In recognition of his long-standing leadership and advocacy, he was recently appointed DAV Department Commander during the organization’s 100th anniversary year.

Oldest Known Minnesota DAV Member – Paul Wojahn, a 104-year-old WWII Veteran, was the oldest known active DAV Member. He continued to volunteer and be active in his local chapter located in New Ulm, MN until he recently passed away in December of 2025. Wojahn was an active participant in the centennial celebrations and will be deeply missed within the community. We thank him for his dedication to the DAV during his lifetime.

EVENTS

In Minnesota, Veterans serve Veterans. It's simply an extension of what was emphasized during military service—to "never leave a fallen comrade." The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota consistently partners with dozens of Minnesota Veteran Service Organizations across the state, including leadership participation on the Commander's Task Force. When Veterans work together, anything is possible. In 2025, the DAV Department of Minnesota continued to participate in numerous opportunities to assist fellow Minnesota Veterans.



Community Impact Day: DAV of Minnesota marked its second Community Impact Day on April 6, answering a nationwide call to action that encouraged volunteers to support Veterans. Volunteers and community members united across the state to complete a variety of service projects, including yard cleanups, food drives, and visits with Veterans in senior care facilities. The day not only raised awareness of the ongoing needs of Veterans but also showcased the meaningful impact of community-driven service. The success of Community Impact Day underscored the power of collective action in honoring and supporting those who have served our nation.

Minnesota State Fair Military Appreciation Day: In 2025, DAV of Minnesota actively participated in the Minnesota State Fair's Military Appreciation Day, dedicated to honoring Veterans and active-duty military personnel. The day featured military-themed exhibits and activities throughout the fair. The DAV of Minnesota was featured prominently in multiple segments on WCCO AM – highlighting Adaptive Sports with Vineeta Sawkar, the Outdoor Program with Adam and Jordana and a Department overview with Jason DeRusha. These engagements not only raised awareness about the services available to Veterans, but also exemplified the strong community spirit and commitment to recognizing our nation's heroes.

Veterans Day on the Hill: In April, DAV of Minnesota, in partnership with the Commanders' Task Force and the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers, hosted its annual advocacy day on behalf of Minnesota Veterans. The day began with a pre-rally luncheon at the Cedar Street Armory, sponsored by DAV of Minnesota, followed by an energizing program to inspire attendees. Participants then marched to the Capitol Rotunda for a rally to advocate for the needs of Veterans. To encourage widespread involvement, DAV of Minnesota led comprehensive marketing and promotional efforts for the event. This year's Veterans Day on the Hill saw record-breaking attendance of Veterans, family members, and supporters gathering at the State Capitol.



Donuts on D-Day: On the 81st anniversary of D-Day, DAV of Minnesota partnered with The Salvation Army to honor volunteers, medical personnel, and patients at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center with a special delivery of nearly 900 fresh donuts, purchased by 10K Construction. National Donut Day was created in 1938 to honor the "Donut Lassies" – women Salvation Army volunteers who served fresh donuts to soldiers during World War I to boost morale on the front lines.

DAV OF MINNESOTA SERVICE OFFICERS

Between January 1 and December 31, 2025, our department service officer stayed busy between his office at the Minneapolis VAMC and his satellite office at Magnus Veterans Foundation, where he works every second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

The service officer handles appointments, walk-ins, phone calls, and emails assisting veterans and their dependents on a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to, compensation and pension claims, dependency claims, claim file reviews, VA and community based referrals, state benefits, and other opportunities that may be available to them. He works directly with CVSO's throughout the state to ensure proper care for those veterans and dependents. This year alone, he helped over 2,300 Veterans with a majority of them serving in the Vietnam war or Post-9/11 service.

During the 2025 calendar year, he attended 24 different outreach events including pre- and post-deployment events, the Minnesota State Fair, the Camp Ripley Open House, Veteran stand down events, and chapter meetings and trainings throughout the State of Minnesota. In 2025, we also put together a team of volunteers from different chapters to assist with these outreach events. These events are crucial in not only connecting veterans with the DAV and their benefits, but also in educating the public about our programs, services, and mission.



STATE 2025 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Veterans Omnibus Bill passes for fourth consecutive year
The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota and the Commander's Task Force secured the first Veterans Omnibus Bill for the fourth year in a row. They first secured the bill in 2022 and have continued to make it a priority each year. Thanks to MinnFluence, the Veteran community and its supporters were able to sway lawmakers into passing the fourth Veterans Omnibus.

Record-breaking Attendance for Veterans Day on the Hill
The DAV of Minnesota saw its largest crowd yet gather at the Armory for Veterans Day on the Hill. Together, participants marched up the steps of the Capitol to fight for adequate funding for homeless Veterans, to stop claim sharks from committing fraud against Minnesota's Veterans, and to fight to update the property tax value exclusion.

Restoration of Funding for Homeless Veterans Programs
After the MN House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed an 85% cut to homeless Veterans program funding, the DAV along with many of our partners fought and won to restore the funding to the appropriate amount in the Veterans Omnibus Bill.



2025 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES MinnFluence: Serving Minnesota's Veterans

MinnFluence is a tool designed to help Veterans and their supporters connect directly with their state lawmakers when crucial action is needed. It serves as a local alert network, allowing the DAV of Minnesota to notify users when a lawmaker's support is required to advance legislation or during key voting periods. This tool keeps everyone updated on lawmakers' votes and informs users throughout the legislative process.

How It Works

When a new MinnFluencer signs up, the DAV of Minnesota ensures that they are following their State Representative and State Senator's committees and leadership positions. With this information, the Department's Legislative Director can monitor important legislation. When a Representative or Senator is needed to support a bill, attend a hearing, or participate in a key vote, the DAV of Minnesota will reach out to MinnFluencers so they can emphasize the significance of the proposed legislation.

It is not necessary to be a Veteran to sign up—everyone is welcome. The MinnFluence Network has already played a key role in the passage of both Veterans Omnibus Bills in Minnesota. By expanding the network, its influence can increase even further.

DAV MN's MinnFluence has over 2,200 advocates signed up to take action for Minnesota's Veterans, their families, and survivors. These MinnFluencers have sent thousands of action emails to MN lawmakers, and continue to have a direct impact on how legislation gets done in St. Paul.

The Congressional Scorecard

As advocates for Veterans' rights across party lines, it's essential to know which elected officials are backing DAV of Minnesota legislation. The Congressional Scorecard tool offers this vital information, highlighting all the DAV-supported legislation that Minnesota's elected officials have sponsored or co-sponsored. Each piece of legislation includes links to the bill's language and contact information for Representatives or Senators. Stay informed by visiting the Congressional Scorecard. www.davmn.org/congressional-scorecard/.

2025 Legislative Objectives

Increase Property Tax Value Exclusion

Background: It has been over 16 years since the current property tax value exclusion was set. In that time home values have skyrocketed, along with property tax bills. The continued delay in increasing the amount of the exclusion means that every year this benefit for Minnesota's most severely disabled Veterans is less and less impactful, even as their compensation doesn't keep up with inflation and skyrocketing cost of living increases.



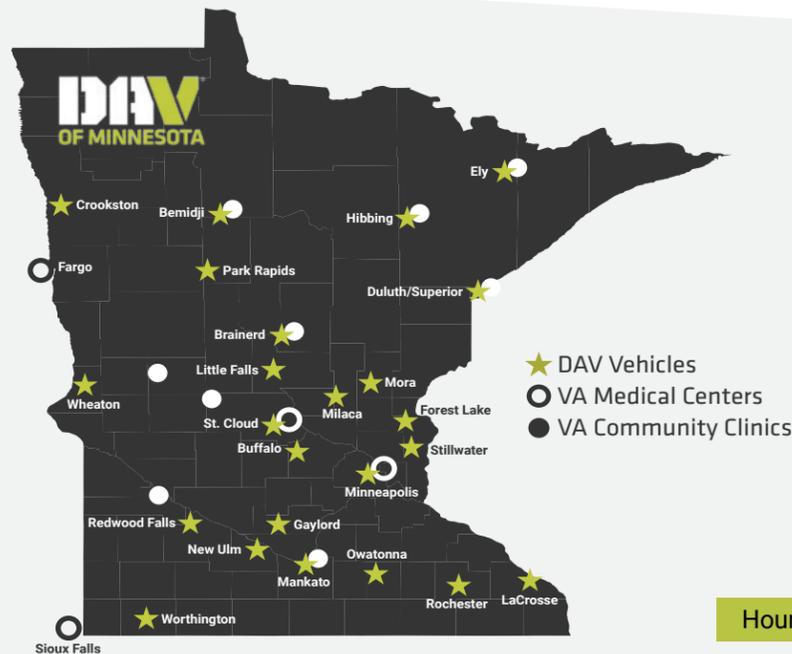
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota Transportation Program continues to make a significant impact by providing free transportation to Veterans across Minnesota for their VA medical appointments. With 40 vehicles stationed in five regions, the program services four medical centers and numerous community-based clinics.

In 2025 the program experienced several improvements that benefited both Veterans and volunteer drivers. Notably,

- A relationship was established with a larger dealership with access to different makes and models to ensure the DAV is purchasing vehicles that best fit the needs of our Veterans.
- Sherburne County was transitioned under the DAV umbrella in early 2025 and has become quite successful and filled a needed gap after the county was unable to continue their program.
- The DAV also purchased 6 replacement vehicles for vehicles with high mileage in Hibbing, Minneapolis (2), St. Cloud, Buffalo, and Park Rapids to ensure no unnecessary delays in transportation due to broken down vehicles.

The DAV of Minnesota takes immense pride in the vital connection their volunteer drivers establish with Veterans. This connection not only ensures life-saving transportation but also serves as a welcoming gateway into the VA system.



Schedule a ride or volunteer to drive.

Metro
(612) 467-2768

Central Minnesota
(320) 252-1670 ext. 6676

Northeast Minnesota
(218) 204-0693 or (715) 398-2406

Northwest Minnesota
1-855-277-9787

Southeast Minnesota
(507) 703-1139

840,324

Miles Driven By Volunteer Drivers

140

Volunteer Drivers

38,356

Hours invested by volunteers transporting Veterans

21,410

Veterans Transported

\$1,334,405.24

Based off \$34.79 per volunteer hour total cost savings

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Volunteer Drivers

140 volunteers helped sustain Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota's Transportation program in 2025. Without their commitment to serving our Veterans, we would not be able to continue this essential service. The transportation volunteer team gave 38,356 hours and transported 21,410 Veterans to and from their VA or VA-scheduled medical appointments across the state.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS BY THE NUMBERS

140

Current/Active
Volunteer Drivers

47

Metro

62

Central Minnesota

12

Northeast Minnesota

12

Northwest Minnesota

7

Southeast Minnesota

In 2025, five exceptional volunteer drivers, each representing a different region, were honored as the "Volunteer Drivers of the Year." These outstanding individuals embody the spirit and dedication of the DAV of Minnesota's volunteer force. Congratulations to our Volunteer Drivers of the Year - 2025.

Central Minnesota: Frank Austin has significantly impacted DAV of Minnesota, volunteering over 1,700 hours since 2018 and completing 981 Veteran transports exceeding 30,000 miles. For Frank, it isn't just about transportation; it's about connection. It's friendly conversation on the way to an appointment and often finding lost connections from years ago, the steady presence that eases anxiety, and the quiet dignity afforded to each rider.

Southeast Minnesota: Greg Gabbert has been a volunteer for the Southeast DAV of Minnesota Transportation Program since 2021. Greg's commitment is not just to the veterans he transports, it's to the entire Winona program, where he has been the sole driver, ensuring that no veteran is left without a ride to the care they need. He has logged nearly 11,000 miles and accumulated over 400 driving hours.

Northwest Minnesota: Frank Kuss has driven over 7,000 miles and logged over 2,000 volunteer hours of his time for the Wheaton DAV program. After retiring from the National Guard in 1968, he became an educator and after retiring again in 2001 he continued working with others. He worked with Divine House and began volunteering as a DAV Van Driver.

Northeast Minnesota: Bruce Hasford has driven 37,801 miles and transported 485 Veterans in the last five years. What makes Bruce stand out is not just the statistics, but the spirit behind them. He embodies the quiet dedication that defines the very best of volunteerism: showing up day after day, asking for nothing in return, and making a tangible difference in the lives of those who served our country.

Metro: Stuart Johnson has only been a volunteer driver since November of 2023, but he has logged over 18,000 miles, and transported 600 Veterans. Beyond the miles and the rides, Stuart embodies the very essence of DAV's values. He consistently treats every veteran with the utmost respect, compassion, and dignity, making every journey a positive and reassuring experience. His professionalism and genuine care make him an outstanding ambassador and representative of our organization.

HOUSEHOLD DONATIONS

Household Donations

The primary revenue source for the DAV of Minnesota comes from collecting and wholesaling household donations, benefiting both statewide chapters and the department. Through collection boxes across Greater Minnesota, clothing drives, and Twin Cities residential collection, the DAV of Minnesota team coordinates pick-ups, deliveries, and distribution to our commercial partners.

In 2025, donations of clothing and household items enabled the repurposing of over 9.1 million pounds of unused or unwanted items.

In addition to the donations made this year, the DAV of Minnesota also launched a new website solely dedicated to household donations. The DAV also introduced a new donation schedule and updated routes in December. More information can be found online at <http://donatedavmn.org>.

Donating is easy – just pick the option that works best for you!

Schedule curbside pickup online at www.donatedavmn.org

Drop off at the nearest collection location!

Find it at www.donatedavmn.org/content/collectionlocations

By phone – call (651) 487-2002 or 1-855-789-0993

Email the Donation Program at donate@davmn.org

Thank you for your generous support to DAV of Minnesota. Your donations help us provide life-changing services and resources to Veterans and their families across our state.



DAV OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT FINANCIALS

In Fiscal Year 2024 DAV of Minnesota invested \$0.84 of every dollar into Veterans services in Minnesota. We are proud that money coming into DAV of Minnesota goes back to Veterans in need.

Revenue and Support

Fiscal Year 2025

30 June 2024 - 1 July 2025:

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	WITHOUT DONOR LIMITS	WITH DONOR LIMITS	TOTAL
Contributions	\$57,555	87,450	145,005
Grants	\$119,744		119,744
National service allocations	\$144,219		144,219
Registration and fees	\$30,753		\$30,753
In-kind contributions	\$52,834		\$52,834
Other income	\$82,724		\$82,724
Investment Income	\$76,836		\$76,836
Gain/(Loss) on sale of property and equipment			
Net assets released from restriction	\$60,535	(\$60,535)	
Gross income from enterprise operations	\$826,479	26,915	\$853,394
Gross income from enterprise operations	(2,784,712)	-	(2,784,712)
Net income from enterprise operations	\$1,991,404	-	\$1,991,404
Total revenue and support	\$2,817,883	-	\$2,844,798

Expenses

Fiscal Year 2025

30 June 2024 - 1 July 2025:

EXPENSES	WITHOUT DONOR LIMITS	WITH DONOR LIMITS	TOTAL
Program Services			
Veterans services	\$1,499,237		\$1,499,237
Transit network	\$510,504		\$510,504
Total program service expenses	\$2,009,741		\$2,009,741
Management and general expenses	\$429,940		\$429,940
Total expenses	\$2,459,681		\$2,439,681
Change in net assets	\$378,202	26,915	\$405,117
Net asses, beginning of the year	\$1,886,587	\$9,735	\$1,896,322
Net assets, end of year	\$2,264,789	\$36,650	\$2,301,439

The DAV of Minnesota spent 82% of our funding on Veterans Programs and Services. With 61% focused on Veterans Services and another 21% focused on transporting veterans to and from their VA medical appointments.

DAV OF MINNESOTA

OUTDOORS PROGRAM

2025 Highlights

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota Outdoors Program highlights the powerful role outdoor recreation plays in supporting the heart, soul, and overall well-being of disabled Veterans. By connecting with nature and fellow Veterans, participants reduce isolation, build camaraderie, and strengthen both their mental and physical health.

In 2025, the program hosted a variety of outdoor trips across Minnesota, Canada, and Texas, offering Veterans meaningful experiences centered on fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation.

Voyageurs National Park Houseboat Trip - A five-day houseboat adventure on Rainy Lake welcomed Veterans to unplug and reconnect. From fishing and paddling to exploring the park and relaxing on the water, this trip offered a peaceful escape and unforgettable camaraderie.

Canada Drive-In Experience - Veterans traveled to northwest Ontario for a six-day stay in lake-side cabins. Surrounded by pristine wilderness, participants spent their days fishing or enjoying quiet moments at the resort.

Williams Narrows Retreat - Hosted at Williams Narrows Resort, this four-day trip provided Veterans with the opportunity to fish, relax, and strengthen bonds in a scenic lakeside setting.

Texas Hog Hunts - There were two exciting trips to Texas offered nighttime hog hunting paired with daytime fishing and relaxation, delivering both excitement and camaraderie.

Late Winter Getaway in Ozello, Florida - Escaping winter's cold, the Veterans enjoyed fishing, crab trapping, manatee viewing, hiking, and leisurely golf cart rides. The trip fostered healing, connection, and mutual support in a restorative coastal environment.



The DAV of MN Foundation is proud to announce the continued support of the Veterans Outdoors initiative. A flagship program designed to address the complex needs of Minnesota's veteran community through high-impact, nature-based therapy.

By prioritizing physiological stress reduction and peer-driven camaraderie, the Foundation is redefining how veterans heal from the visible and invisible wounds of service.

As the DAV of Minnesota enters its second century of service following its 2025 Centennial, the Foundation is doubling down on "wilderness medicine." Unlike traditional clinical settings, the Outdoors Program utilizes natural landscapes to facilitate holistic healing. Our mission has always been about fulfilling the

promises made to those who served. By moving the therapy room outdoors, we aren't just giving veterans a hobby; we are giving them a proven pathway to regain their sense of purpose and rebuild the brotherhood and sisterhood they miss most after leaving service.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS / TIME CAPSULE

The Disabled American Veterans of the World War was formed in 1920 by World War I Veterans to help disabled Veterans and their families. Over 200,000 Americans had been disabled in the Great War, but there was little help from the government. The DAV stepped in to help.

It was chartered by congress in 1932, and it currently has a national membership of nearly one million Veterans. The Minnesota DAV began with three chapters, Minneapolis Chapter 1, St. Paul Chapter 2, and Hibbing Chapter 3, all formed in 1921. The state organization was recognized in 1925.

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota proudly marked its 100th anniversary this past year, celebrating a century of service, advocacy, and impact for Minnesota's Veterans and their families. To honor this milestone, the DAV held a Centennial Dinner and Gala at Treasure Island Resort and Casino for the Spring Convention in Welsh, MN.

In addition to the celebratory gala, the DAV of Minnesota commemorated the 100 years of service and advocacy with a historic Centennial Time Capsule.

The time capsule sealing ceremony was held days before Independence Day. Since its chartering on July 1, 1925, DAV of Minnesota has been at the forefront of championing Veterans' rights, providing essential services, and fostering a community of support for those who have served.

The milestone event sealed a cedar-lined time capsule containing artifacts representing a century of impact, commitment, and advocacy for Minnesota's Veterans and their families. Contributions from DAV chapters and community leaders, including official coins, a copy of the original 1925 charter, and advocacy materials marking the first-ever Veterans Omnibus Bill passed in Minnesota; Special artifacts such as the DAV Centennial Medallion, centennial pins, podcast recordings, annual reports, and a signed letter from current staff were preserved within the capsule.

The Centennial also reflected the shared legacy of DAV chapters across the state, many of which were founded the same year and are also celebrating 100 years of continuous service in their local communities. These grassroots chapters have been a lifeline for generations of Veterans, providing critical support, fellowship, and advocacy at the local level.

Despite the remarkable year of celebration, the DAV is excited to continue building, growing and supporting Veterans in Minnesota for the next 100 years. One area the DAV is hoping to expand is the current programming available, specifically for Veteran food insecurity and medical needs like equipment and caregiving. By creating these new programs, the DAV can target vital needs of Veterans and continue improving the aid and support available to local Veterans.

