



February 5, 2025

## **Veterans Day on the Hill 2025 (VDOTH 25)**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Greetings all;

In this packet you will find several items to provide you with further information on VDOTH 25 and ways you can get involved. This rally is a critical phase in the legislative process, it is a way to demonstrate our strength as Veterans, families, and supporters of Veterans. Our goal is to implement meaningful change, through the legislative process, to benefit our Veterans, their families, and survivors.

I know the legislative process can be frustrating, confusing, and hard to follow. I also know it is extremely important. Every benefit, state or federal, our Veterans and survivors now have started as piece of legislation that needed to navigate this process. Please know I am resource for you, whether a DAV member or not, a Veteran or not, if I can be of service please reach out.

I also know many of you may hear discouraging words from people as you talk about being active, lobbying for Veterans, organizing for Veterans Day on the Hill. I feel sorry for those people who will discourage others who are trying to make a difference for our Veterans, their families and survivors. They have lost sight of all of the good your advocacy, and others like you, have done.

This year is one of the most frustrating in over decade of doing this work professionally. It is years like this it is more important than ever we show up. Showing up works as our history shows, surviving spouses are staying in their homes, 3 new Veterans homes are opened around the state, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ever Veterans Omnibus Bills passed changing the future of Veterans legislation in Minnesota, increases in funding to prevent Veterans suicide, end Veterans homelessness, and on, and on, and on.

Together we made these changes happen. Together we can continue to improve the lives of our Veterans, their families, and those they leave behind.

Please take a look at the included information and consider participating in this process and getting as many as possible to Veterans Day on the Hill 2025.

Regards,

Trent C Dilks, Legislative Director

Department of Minnesota, Inc.  
State Veterans Service Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Phone: (651) 291-1212  
Fax: (651) 291-0115  
[www.davmn.org](http://www.davmn.org)

# VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2025

**WHEN:  
APRIL 9TH, 2025**

**DAV of MN Presents:  
Free Veterans and Supporters Lunch**  
(One Block from Capitol at 600 Cedar Street, St. Paul)

**Doors Open @ 10:00AM FOR COFFEE**

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

**PRESENTATION @ 12:00PM**

**Veterans March to the Rally @ 1:00pm**

(Short Walk from Armory to State Veterans Service Building 20 West  
12th St, St. Paul )

**CTF and MACVSO Present:  
Rally in the Rotunda 1:30-2:30pm**



**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT-  
TRENT@DAVMN.ORG:**

**NO MEMBERSHIP IN  
ANY ORGANIZATION  
REQUIRED.**

**ALL SUPPORTERS ARE  
WELCOME!**



**Topics Include:**

PASSING A CLEAN  
VETERANS OMNIBUS  
BILL

INCREASING THE  
AMOUNT OF THE  
PROPERTY TAX VALUE  
EXCLUSION

REDUCED COST  
HUNTING AND FISHING  
LICENSE FOR DISABLED  
VETERAN

**Meet Your Lawmaker!!**

A MINIBUS RUNNING  
FROM THE ARMORY TO  
THE CENTENNIAL AND  
SENATE OFFICE  
BUILDINGS 10-1130.

MAKE YOUR  
APPOINTMENTS TO SEE  
YOUR LAWMAKERS!



**DAV**  
OF MINNESOTA  
**BENEFITS  
PROTECTION**





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## **DAV MN to Assist with Cost of Busses to Veterans Day on the Hill 2025**

The Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Minnesota (DAV MN) is proud to announce we will once again be partnering with organizations/groups from across the state to bring Veterans to Veterans Day on the Hill 2025 on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The DAV MN is offering this partnership to all organizations and communities in Minnesota.

### **Details:**

- The DAV MN is offering to cover 50% of the cost of a charter bus, or large van, from communities across Minnesota.
- In the past DAV MN has assisted DAV Chapters, VFW's, American Legions Posts, and local 'Veterans Councils' with the cost of their busses. An affiliation with any particular group is **NOT** required to take part in this partnership.
- The busses are highly encouraged to come to the Cedar St. Armory for the DAV MN Pre-Rally Lunch being provided free of charge by the DAV MN. If they are not able to attend that event it is asked that they arrive at the Veterans Services Bldg. NLT 12:15 for the "March to the Capitol" for those able to participate.
- **Any group utilizing the DAV MN 50% match must offer transportation to Veterans Day on the Hill 2023 FREE of charge.** The DAV MN is proud of our history of not charging for services to our Veterans and their families and we view this opportunity as our service to our Veterans.
  - Please note we require our partners to avoid charging by any means, this includes: Free-will offerings, passing-the-hat, suggested donations, or the solicitation of donations from the riders participating.
- Submit the attached "Transportation Funding Request Form" ASAP, but **NLT March 26<sup>th</sup>**.

If you would like more information, or to sign-up for the 50% match, please contact DAV MN's Trent C Dilks at [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org) to discuss the details.



Of Minnesota Foundation  
20 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-2002  
Phone: 651-291-1212  
Fax: 651-291-0115  
[www.davmn.org](http://www.davmn.org)

## Veterans Day on the Hill 2025 Transportation Funding Request Form

PLEASE SUBMIT ASAP but NLT March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to ensure transportation information can be shared  
Form Should be Submitted to [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org) or faxed to 651-291-0115

**Name and Address of Requesting Organization** (who/where to send the check to):

**Name of Primary POC:**

**POC Email:**

**POC Phone:**

**How can local Veterans sign up to ride the bus:**

**Where will the bus depart from** (list multiple locations if applicable):

**Estimated Departure Time of Bus** (list multiple times if applicable):

**Estimate of Attendees:**

**Total Cost of bus/van** (provide an invoice, quote, etc.):

**Additional Information/Comments:**

**Please Read and Sign:**

- The DAV MN will reimburse VSO's, local clubs, etc. if you require a payment to a vendor directly, please contact [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org) to discuss.
- This reimbursement is only offered to entities that agree to not charge, solicit donations, "pass-the-hat", etc. as part of offering this bus. This transportation must be offered free-of-charge and not tied to any fundraising for the service.
- Attached should be a more detailed sheet with additional information, if you do not have that form please contact DAV MN.
- You do not have to be affiliated with DAV MN, a VSO, local council etc. to participate in Veterans Day on the Hill. Spouses, family members, and community supporters are encouraged to attend.

**Signature of POC:**

**Date:**



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## **This year let's make sure to meet our lawmakers while at Veterans Day on the Hill 2025!**

**How do you find out who your State Representative or State Senator is and how do you contact them?**

- Enter your home address here: <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>
  - This will tell you your State Representative, State Senator, etc.. and their phone numbers.
- You can also call 651-296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550, ask who represents you, give them your address, and get their numbers to give them a call.

**When you reach their assistant what should you do?**

- Inform them you, and if you know of others from their area, will be at the Capitol for Veterans Day on the Hill 2025 on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Invite them to either stop over at the armory, or ask for a time between when you plan to arrive and 1pm march to the rally to meet in their office.
- Let them know there will be a DAV minibus running all morning from the Centennial, Senate, and armory to catch a quick ride over if they'd like.
- If you have time, highlight some of the topics important to you like; property tax value exclusion, hunting and fishing license for Veterans, education for dependents, etc..

**Just before Veterans Day on the Hill 25 touch base to confirm how many are coming, verify a meeting, or get details on meeting up in the armory.**

**The meetings with your Representative and/or Senator are one of the most important parts of Veterans Day on the Hill. This is your chance to hear directly from your lawmakers, ask questions about actual support, and get commitments of support as session nears the end. If you have any questions, or need help setting up your meeting please reach out to [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org)**

# Veterans Day on the Hill 2025 Map (Arrows)

## CAPITOL COMPLEX VISITOR MAP

Recommended parking for persons with disabilities visiting the State Capitol or MN Senate Building





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## Veterans Day on the Hill 2025 Additional Information, Resources, and Strategies

- **Know who represents you at the state level, and how to contact them.**
  - You can find your State Representative's and State Senator's information here:
    - <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>
- **Organize a bus or van to transport Veterans to VDOTH 25.**
  - The DAV MN is offering 50% reimbursement for busses from across MN. Detailed information in this packet.
- **Invite your lawmakers to the lunch, rally, or for an in-office appointment that day.**
  - All state lawmakers will be informed and invited by the VSO's and MDVA, however, it has much more significance if the invite comes from a constituent.
  - There will be a minibus running regularly from the armory to the State Office Building and Senate Office Building from 10am through lunch. You can ride it over, or you can let your lawmaker it is available to ride over to the armory for them as well.
- **Get informed on the issues and stay up to date on progress.**
  - The nature of a legislative session is the situation is constantly changing, find a reliable source for updates from VSO's and lawmakers themselves to get the most recent information.
  - Sign up for MinnFluence. Minnesota's only Veteran specific advocacy network. This will connect you directly with your state lawmakers on Veterans issues. <https://davmn.org/legislation/voters-voice/>
  - You can sign-up for DAV MN's E-News at: [www.davmn.org](http://www.davmn.org)
- **Know the issues.**
  - Contact your VSO's to find out what issues they are working on, read the emails for the Commander's Task Force Legislative Agenda, follow the progress of specific legislation.
- **Learn the process.**
  - Many of our members don't fully understand what goes into an idea becoming a bill, and a bill becoming a law. Look for local resources, retired lawmakers in your community, or contact DAV MN to schedule a legislative discussion in your area.

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- **Stay focused.**
  - There is a lot, lot of partisan activity every year in St. Paul. While passions in other areas may be strong, remember we are here for a single purpose. Veterans.

#### **Additional Information, Resources, and Strategies (Cont.)**

- **Avoid Partisanship.**
  - As a VSO we are non-partisan and do not participate in partisanship, political endorsements, or petty partisan battles.
  - As you serve as a Veteran Advocate, I encourage you to take the same approach in your veteran advocacy.
- **Hold your elected representatives accountable.**
  - We have witnessed instances where the rhetoric doesn't match the actions of our elected official. They may campaign on, "I support our Veterans" but when it comes time to include Veteran specific legislation they are nowhere to be found.
- **Organize, organize, and organize.**
  - Whether you are in DAV, AL, VFW, or no VSO take an active role to find interested Veterans and supporters in your area and get them involved.
  - If your Chapter or Post doesn't currently have an active BPTL or Legislative Chair, get one.
  - If you aren't getting the information you need from the state level VSO's let us know and offer specific suggestions or assistance.
- **Don't get discouraged.**
  - We have had successes over the past several years and despite the rhetoric, work is getting done.
  - Don't let those who aren't involved discourage you from taking action for our Veterans.

**Additional Information or Resources Contact:** [Trent@davmn.org](mailto:Trent@davmn.org)





## **MinnFluence- Serving Minnesota's Veterans**

I am thrilled to share with you all MinnFluence, and a little bit about how this can, and already has, changed the landscape of Minnesota's legislative landscape for Veterans, their families, and survivors.

### **What it is-**

MinnFluence is a tool to help connect Veterans and their supporters, directly with their lawmakers at the State level when important action needs to be taken. It is a local alert network that the DAV MN can use, to let you know when your lawmaker is needed to move forward legislation, when votes happen it can update you on how your lawmaker voted, and can keep you informed better throughout the legislative process.

### **How it works-**

When a new MinnFluencer signs up it will ask for address, email, phone, etc.. With that information it will fill in who your State Rep. and State Senator are and what committees they are on, any leadership positions, etc.. With this information the Department's Legislative Director can track key legislation, and when your Rep. or Senator are needed to support something, get a hearing, or could hold a key vote, it allows the DAV MN to reach out to you specifically to take action.

### **What you need to know-**

The next page will have the flyer with QR Code or you can find registration at [www.minnfluence.org](http://www.minnfluence.org) This is not a SPAM generating tool, everything sent out has to be created by the Dept. Legislative Director. Your information will never be shared, sold, or used for anything but to alert for legislative issues. **You do not need to be a Veteran to sign up. All are welcome.**

The MinnFluence Network was already instrumental in the passage of key Veterans legislation in Minnesota, and if we work together to build a larger network our power will only grow.

Regards,

Trent C Dilks  
Legislative Director  
Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of MN

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- Get Timely Minnesota Veteran Legislative Updates
  - Quickly Engage Your Legislators
- Take Action for Minnesota Veterans, Their Families, and Survivors
  - No Need to be a Veteran to Sign Up

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How to Join:

Scan The QR Code Below With Your Phones Camera

**Or Go To:** [www.minnfluence.org](http://www.minnfluence.org)

Fill in the Information Under “Sign Up for Alerts”

You Will Have Added Your Voice to Support Minnesota’s Veterans

