

In Memory of Past State Commander Walter Joynt



Walter F. Joynt
1928-2016

Past State Commander Walter F. Joynt, 87, passed away Tuesday, July 26th, 2016 at the Rapid City Regional Auxiliary House. Walter was born Oct. 21, 1928, in Hounsfield, NY to Joseph Daniel and Adeline Mary (O-Riley) Joynt. He married his wife, Dolores, on Nov. 1, 1949, who has preceded him in death after 49 years of marriage. He spent the last 17 years with his companion Patricia Larkins. He served in the military 28 years and was a three-war veteran, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He was a very active member in the VFW at the Post, State and National levels. He was an All American Post Commander and served as the State Commander for the Department of South Dakota in 1999-2000.

Under Walter's leadership as State Commander many ideas took off that developed and resulted in making the Department of South Dakota very financially stable. Other changes took place that year as well - the department switch-over to the new dues processing program, we eliminated the Spring Council of Administration, we

started a fund raising program for our state newspaper, we set up a new computer system keeping track of the quartermaster records and started a new process for managing the Memorial Park and Chapel operations. He is a Gold Legacy Life Member of the VFW, a life member in the American Legion Post 22, the Retired Enlisted Association, Military Order of the Cooties and the Air Force Sergeants Association.

Walter is survived by his eight children, Robert Joynt (Mary) of Clearfield, UT, Laurie Gainey (Jack) Las Vegas, NV, Daniel Joynt (Kim) Henderson, NV, Leanna Jenner (Dennis), Rapid City, Cecilia Eizember (David), Austin, TX, Patrick Joynt and Michael Joynt, both of Black Hawk, and Mary Cohen (Donald) Deltona, FL; 21 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandsons; and three future great-grandchildren in the ovens.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four siblings, his wife of 49 years, Dolores, and four grandchildren.

Our family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Hospice of the Hills for their compassionate care of our father.

Memorials will be given to the VFW National Children's Home and the VA Hospice at Fort Meade.

"...take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5b NIV

Newly Elected Quartermaster / Adjutant Darwin Tolzin



Newly elected Quartermaster/Adjutant, Darwin Tolzin taking the oath of office by appointed National Councilman, D.D. Couch during the Fall Council meeting in Pierre, South Dakota. L-R, Darwin Tolzin, State Commander Dennis Sharp and D.D. Couch. Darwin Tolzin Bio on page 11.

Vietnam Vets:

Still Coming Home

Their Stories - In Their Words

Steven H. Feimer • Kristine Elin-Cable

"Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home" tells the stories of 31 Vietnam Veterans who served "in country" between 1961 and 1974. Within the pages of this unique book, Veterans share stories about their lives before, during, and after Vietnam. For the first time, many of these Vets open up about their witness to heroism, sacrifice, loss, success, suffering and even battlefield humor.

You will experience through their stories the lives of these men and women before their military service, and during the life-changing events in Vietnam as they share. Remember your own experiences as these Vets chronicle their tours, and as they struggle to "Come Home" from the war in Vietnam.

A gentleman by the name of Steve H. Feimer sat down one day and decided to write about these Vietnam Veterans. He has traveled and spoken to each of them, recounting their stories in their own words. The stories will make you go back in time and some will even make you cry. All of these stories will help you realize the hurt, pain, and challenges these Veterans went through in the war zone and after coming home. This book called "Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home" has 453 pages of stories and photos recounting all those memories in Vietnam.

A website is planned and once the website is up and running you will be able to order the book online using your credit card. In the meantime, there is a preview of one of the

Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home, continued on page 10

Website: www.sdvfw.org

Visit us online to get your reporting information and
South Dakota Overseas Veterans Publication



Dick Pickering, Editor
EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letter column and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies.

We ask that you keep your articles brief. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of South Dakota or the National Organization.

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Commander's Report

Dennis Sharp



Comrades and Sisters,

Here we are, already into the Second Quarter of our year. Since being elected your State Commander, it has been a fast paced First Quarter. First the State Convention, the American Legion State Convention, State VFW Baseball tournaments, VFW National Convention in Charlotte, NC, National VFW Auxiliary President, Colette Bishop's Department visit to South Dakota, South Dakota State Fair, Labor Day parade in Wagner, SD, Celebrate America's Freedom Event (CAFE) at Mount Rushmore with National Auxiliary President, Colette Bishop and National VFW Commander, Brian Duffy in attendance and Fall Council and State Commander and Auxiliary President Homecoming, just to name a few of the events and activities during the First quarter.

It was an honor to host National VFW Auxiliary President, Colette Bishop, while she was here on her Department visit to South Dakota. She toured the State Capital, Governor's mansion and the ICBM Minute Man missile site at Wall, SD.

The State was honored to have National VFW Auxiliary President, Colette Bishop and National VFW Commander, Brian Duffy at Mount Rushmore for Celebrate America's Freedom Event. A statue of "Salute the Flag" was presented to each of them by the SD VFW Department and the SD VFW Auxiliary Department, to be displayed at both National Department Headquarters.

National Commander, Brian Duffy and National Auxiliary President, Colette Bishop are both conducting the VFW's National Program on Mental Health Wellness. It is a program designated in helping to alleviate the everyday psychological and physical stresses of PTSD and TBI experienced by some Afghanistan and

Iraq veterans. The VFW has sided with two outside non-profit mental health organizations, "ONE HOUR", which seeks treatment for brain illnesses, PTSD, TBI, and Alzheimer's. "GIVE AN HOUR" uses volunteer mental health professionals to counsel Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families coping with invisible wounds. I encourage Posts to make their facilities available to host such groups to help our veterans and live up to our motto "No One Does More For Veterans".

Thank you to all who attended the State Fair and helped with manning the VFW's table in the Veterans Building.

Thank you to Post 7319 in Wagner, SD for inviting me to their Labor Day Parade. It was a nice day and the parade was great.

The Fall Council and State Commander and Auxiliary President Homecoming was held in Pierre, SD. Training classes were conducted for Post and District Officers. Council of Administration was conducted and a new State Quartermaster was elected. The State Commander and Auxiliary President's Homecoming was well attended and both Commander Dennis and Auxiliary President Karen appreciated everyone in attendance.

District meetings will be conducted in October. Also on October 21-23, 2016, I will be attending the Big 10 Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In November, I look forward to attending the South Dakota Pheasant Hunt for Disabled Veterans in Gettysburg, SD and the Veterans Day Parade conducted by Post 1273 in Rapid City, SD.

Again thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Commander. **Tomorrow is Today.**

Dennis Sharp
Department Commander

Sr. Vice Commander's Report

Rick Williamson



Welcome to the latest issue of the Overseas Veteran. We are well on our way into Commander Dennis' year. He has hit the ground running, has all of his appointments set for the year and is doing everything that he can to insure that we as Department have a successful year. We have a dedicated team of leaders that are here to assist you and your post have the best year that you can. If you need anything, I am confident that any one of us will help you in any way that we can. If one of us can't help you, we will get to the people who can. Your success depends on you, your leaders and the effort that you put into your Post, District and YOUR VFW. I challenge you to use us in any way that you need, your questions, concerns and comments help each and every one of us become the best leaders we can be. Tap the knowledge of your state officers and help them mature into the great leaders that we deserve.

As your chairman for many of our programs this year, I would hope that you are already working the programs such as: Public Servant (EMT, Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer), Teacher of the Year, Veterans Day, Loyalty Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy. These are all very important programs that get the VFW label know in each and every community in the State. The more communities know about the VFW, the more they will support the efforts of the Post. We, as an organization, have

found that by promoting our programs, we are getting more younger veterans to become more active, or best of all join or ranks, because they want to be part of an organization that does good for children, recognizes the First Responders, Teacher and leaders of their home town. It is up to us to promote our VFW, I am sure you will reap the rewards of your efforts. The best Posts, Districts and Departments don't get to be the best by putting in the least amount of effort. You will never sell the VFW label if you don't believe in the VFW yourself.

I would like to thank our Past Quartermaster, Rick Barg, for his dedicated service to our department for the last 17 years. If you haven't heard, Rick has resigned from the Quartermaster position during the Fall Counsel and will continue to hold the Adjutant position until December. Thank you for staying around to help train the newly elected Quartermaster, Darwin Tolzin. Rick has done so much for our department over the years, but unfortunately he has had to prioritize his time to his family at this time. I wish you well my friend, thank you for your guidance. If I may ask you, don't change your phone number until at least after my year as commander, I would appreciate your continued guidance and knowledge. I wish you well in your retirement Rick, and congratulations to Darwin as you move forward keeping us in line.

Rick Williamson
Sr. Vice Commander

State Judge Advocate's Report

Willie Page



Greetings Comrades,

Everyone should be in full swing of our year and working on the different programs within our post. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about one program, or as I would say the biggest opportunity we have: Membership. Yes, I know it is talked about, even preached at every VFW function and a lot of you do a great job of recruiting and I am not asking you to change a thing. The organization is grateful for your contribution in Membership. Let us all enjoy the lives we

lead, because of the generations of the young Americans who gave their lives so that all of us could live in freedom and prosperity. Let us continue to educate our children about the price paid for their freedom. Our greatest duty to the men and women who have died in service to our Great Country, is to never ever forget what they have done for each of us and what they have done for us as a nation. May God Bless our Troops who are in harms way and God Bless America. No one does more than veterans. Thank you very much!

Willie Page
Jr. Vice Commander

State Judge Advocate Danny Frisby-Griffin



Way to go! I've received 21 Community Service reports for the first quarter (as of 9/13/2016); 34% of the posts in the department. Of those reporting, the Department ordered over 3,205 poppies for \$18,362.48 in sales. So far this year, the Department has distributed 1294 Flags, performed 89 Honor Guards, 46 Color Guards and provided 9 funeral lunches. In the category of community service, the Department has donated \$34,081.73, 7556.75 hours and driven 19,097 miles. This is amazing considering these numbers reflect only 34% of the Posts in SD. Thank you for all you do!

We're continuing the updates to our website so...if you're reading the Overseas Veteran online or looking to grab the forms, you should be able to just click on the following links (or copy and paste to browser) to get the information that you need, this is especially timely for our youth scholarship programs:

- **Voice of Democracy Brochure:** <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/2017VoiceofDemocracyStudentEntryForm.pdf>
- **Patriots Pen Brochure:** <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/2017Patriot'sPenStudentEntryForm.pdf>
- **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards:** <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/YoungAmericanCreativePatrioticArtBochureupdated201607FILLABLE.pdf>
- **Forms:** <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms>
- **Overseas Veteran:** <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-overseas-newsletter>
- **Trustee Report of Audit Form:** <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/TrusteesReportofAuditForm.pdf>



The Oakridge Boys walking the base path to their concert stage during the National Convention.

The 2nd Quarter reporting will end October 31 and are due October 10th. Please continue to submit your 1st Quarter Community Service Reports as well as collecting your 2nd Quarter data. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

I had the privilege to attend this year's National Convention and serve on the General Resolution's Committee. This was a very good learning experience and I look forward to next year's convention.

With my family, I also attend the National President's CAFÉ event at Mount Rushmore on September 17. We joined the volunteers in handing coins out to all attendees...one per.

Thank you again for your support.

Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
Judge Advocate

Chief of Staff Report Ken Payne



Comrades,

One correction from my last article: Post Quartermasters need to send the quarterly audits to State Headquarters instead of me so that they can make a copy to keep on file.

I have received quite a few of the first quarters reports. I want to thank all who have taken the time to get them in. We are now finished with the second quarter and I am receiving those reports now. If you haven't yet sent in the first quarter's report, it can be sent

any time. Almost all of the reports that I have received look very good and I want to thank those that take the time to fill them out.

I have only received a few Post newsletters. If you Post sends out a newsletter, please put me on the mailing list so that your Post can be included in the judging.

It was great to see so many at the Fall Council/Homecoming. I think that we had some good training and also a good chance to visit with many people from a round the state.

Ken Payne
Chief of Staff

State Surgeon's Report Sean Johnson



I think we can all say time is flying by this year. I had a great time at the National Conference and am looking forward to the Fall Conference in Pierre. I am really excited for this time of year when the bulk of the VFW programs are taking place.

I know that everyone is very busy with activities, but I need your help; I need Hospital chairmen to sit with their commanders and fill out their report information and send it into me, even if it is late. We need the information for your Post credit and our State Credit, so please help us out by sending in the Hospital Report.

We have 17 out of 62 reporting (27%) Hospital 1st Quarter Reporting:

Volunteers: 561	Pat Visited: 1288
Volunteer Hours: \$93,710.34	Miles: \$1,805.02
Blood Unit: \$119.00	Cards: \$146.00
Flowers: \$80.00	Donations: \$882.78
Total: \$96,743.14	

We have 7 out of 62 reporting (11%) Safety 1st Quarter Reporting:

Money: \$3,900.00	Hours: 234
Miles: 743	

If I can help, Please call me!

Sean Johnson
State Surgeon

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)



The membership campaign started on July 1, 2016 and end on April 30, 2017. This will allow time to process each winner for awards.

Who May Participate? Campaign is open to all VFW and Auxiliary members. Any member or Auxiliary member that recruits or reinstates one or more VFW members for the South Dakota VFW, will receive a beautiful distinctive South Dakota "Operation Sweep & Recruit" pin. A recruiter must recruit members only for South Dakota.

Recruiting From Another State: If a recruiter should by chance entice a member from another state to transfer his or her membership to a SD VFW Post, this member will be considered the same as a newly recruited member and the recruiter will be eligible for a South Dakota "Operation Sweep & Recruit" pin.



VFW Announces New Mental Wellness Campaign

Largest War Veterans' Organization Builds Coalition
with Give an hour, One Mind, PatientsLikeMe



WASHINGTON (September 9, 2016) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is launching a new nationwide campaign to focus on mental wellness within the military and veterans' communities. Joined by three high-profile national partners, Give an Hour, (<https://www.giveanhour.org/>), One Mind (<http://onemind.org/>) and PatientsLikeMe (<https://patientslikeme.org/>).

The VFW Mental Wellness Campaign, commissioned by VFW National Commander Brian Duffy and VFW Auxiliary National President Colette Bishop, leverages the power, influence and reach of nearly 1.7 million members in more than 6,600 VFW Posts around the world with the nation's leaders in mental health care,

research and peer-to-peer support. The campaign's goal is to raise awareness, foster community engagement, improve research and provide intervention for veterans, service members and their loved ones who may be suffering from invisible injuries or emotional stress.

"We are proud to be joined by the nation's leading mental health organizations to help change the veteran's narrative - the veteran's brand - which right now has America regarding us more as individual heroes instead of strategic assets in every community," said Duffy, who is the first Operation Desert Storm veteran to lead the 117-year-old VFW.

Bishop, who leads the 102-year-old VFW Auxiliary, echoed the VFW national commander's sentiment, and said, "the community is where our troops come from and where our veterans return, so it benefits everyone to know what resources are available and where to turn to for help."

From the Secretary of South Dakota Veteran Affairs Offices, Larry Zimmerman



Building on Lincoln's Promise Today and in the Future

Over 150 years ago, during his second inaugural address in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln articulated what would become the nation's obligation to veterans: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

Today, there are more than 21 million veterans – two-thirds of the 31 million total U.S. population in 1860. Caring for their particular needs, and their dependents' needs, requires more innovation and collaboration between local, state and federal governments than even a visionary like Lincoln could have foreseen.

Our team at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs partners with political leaders, businesses, associations, organizations and government agencies at all levels. These partnerships are vital as we work through the ever-changing federal programs and benefits for our veterans.

As our state's veteran population and their needs continue to change and evolve, so will our team of advocates and our deliver of service.

In fact, just this past month, we launched a new program, "South Dakota Joining Forces Initiative." The goal of this initiative is to enhance and synchronize

community-based networks of support to all current and former service members and their families. We want to ensure that they receive the support they have earned. Dr. Bill Meirose has been hired to move our mission forward and he has already begun his travels across South Dakota.

One of the greatest benefits that our department receives is from our partners who volunteer for us. Volunteers are an important part of the daily routine in the lives of residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. In 2015, we had 121 volunteers who donated 5,952 volunteer hours to assist our veterans and our staff.

From individual bedside visits, to group activities and sponsored outings, to raising money and purchasing gifts for residents, to caring for or providing entertainment at the home, volunteers and volunteer groups are an integral part of the daily living for our heroes. I can't imagine serving our resident heroes without the generous contributions of time and money from our corps of volunteers.

In many cases, due to the absence of family members, our volunteers constitute the primary source of social interaction for our heroes. Thanks volunteers. Your time and talents are priceless.

Always remember, a sincere *thank you* – means more to most veterans than any other reward.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

VFW Elects First Desert Storm Vet as National Commander

Air Force veteran Brian Duffy of Louisville, Ky., was elected as the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at its 117th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

He also becomes the first veteran of Operation Desert Storm to lead the nation's oldest and largest major war veterans' organization. Duffy served in the Air Force as a jet engine mechanic on F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft, and later as a flight engineer aboard C-141 Starlifter transport aircraft in support of several campaigns to include Grenada, Panama, and Operations Desert Shield and Storm in Southwest Asia. In his acceptance speech, the retired UPS pilot called on everyone in the VFW

to brag more about the accomplishments and public service that everyone inside the VFW knows is going on, but very few on the outside do. Among his primary objectives for the ensuing year is heightening the focus of mental health awareness and changing the veteran's narrative – the veteran's brand – which right now has 40 percent of Americans believing half of all veterans are experiencing mental health challenges, and an astounding 92 percent of employers believing veterans need access to mental health care programs. Also elected were Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith E. Harman, of Delphos, Ohio, and Junior Vice Commander in-chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrance, of Alamogordo, N.M.

VFW National Home for Children – October 2016

Introducing the 2016/2017
Buddy Poppy Child

The new Buddy Poppy child for 2016/2017 is twelve year old Jaeden. She lives in the Ohio house with her mother, two brothers and two sisters.

Jaeden is going into 8th grade in the fall and her favorite subject is science. She thinks that someday she wants to either be a pre-school teacher or work with animals. Though she doesn't have an animal this year for 4-H, her brother Dontae does and she enjoys going up to the barn with him to see him work with his pig.

Jaeden was able to come to live at the National Home through both her mother and grandfather's service in the U.S. Air Force. Her great-grandfather was also an officer during WWII. Because of this connection, Jaeden was able to move from a small apartment with her mother and four siblings, into one of the big beautiful homes – two story brick with an enclosed porch, covered patio and a fenced side yard.

Her grades have improved as well with the help of resources like the computer lab and libraries on the campus.

Jaeden – "I am proud to be the Buddy Poppy Child and represent the VFW. It is an honor and privilege and a chance for me to give back. This experience is something I will remember for a lifetime."

Share your love with a Veteran's family in crises. Donate, donate and donate some more! Anything you donate will be greatly appreciated.

For more information, visit the VFW National Home for Children website at www.vfwnationalhome.org or call 1-800-424-8360.

Verne H. Hansen
VFW National Home for Children Chairman

VFW National HQ Gets New Leadership

Along with the election of the VFW's first Desert Storm veteran as national commander came the appointment of the new adjutant general and the election of the VFW's first woman as quartermaster general. Debra Anderson, who is also a Desert Storm veteran, held previous positions as assistant quartermaster general and director of Human Resources and Investment Coordinator prior to her election to quartermaster general. Bob Wallace is the VFW's new adjutant general, as well as the executive director of the VFW Washington office. He served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam and is the recipient of three Purple Hearts. He was also the VFW national commander from 1991 to 1992. Learn more at: <http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2016-Articles/New-Adjutant-and-Quartermaster-Generals-Named-at-VFW-National-Convention/>

Why Join the VFW?

The answer is really rather simple: It is veterans fighting for veterans!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States has and continues to reach out to America's heroes around the world. The VFW has their back during long and often dangerous deployments.

The VFW provides support during a transition back to civilian life which can be difficult for the veteran as well as his/her family. The VFW support veterans and active members with programs that make a difference: educational programs and resources, financial assistance during hard times, and help navigating the sometimes torturous VA system.

The VFW is able to do this at no charge to a veteran because of patriots like you who give generously to the VFW. All this once again proves that:

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS



A Brief History of Charles E. Thorne VFW Post 2038, Pierre, South Dakota



This is a brief history of Post 2038 and the Post Home and is written mostly from memory. In 2006, VFW Post 2038 celebrated 75 years. At that time I talked with Floyd (Art) White about his recollections of the Post history. Art was the Post Commander in 1949/50. This is what Art remembered and most of this is what he told me about the Post. Please note that all of this is not on record. This is what an old soldier remembered.

Charles E. Thorne, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2038 was chartered in 1931. The Post was named for a WWI soldier/hero from Pierre, SD. 'Charlie' (as everyone called him) died in France on the battle field trying to save a wounded comrade. Charles E. Thorne earned the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for his actions.

After Post 2038 was formed and chartered the members met at various places until Charles Hyde donated a special room at the St. Charles Hotel to the Post for their meetings and storage for their property. The records and the charter members are recorded in the Charles E. Thorne ledgers and files for your reference.

Floyd (Art) White told me a lot that I did not know about the Post and how it became a big part of his life the same as it has been for mine. Art returned from WWII in 1945 and joined VFW Post 2038. At that time they were meeting at the St. Charles Hotel. Art became active and was elected Post Commander in 1949/50. He was called back for military duty in 1950 and served in Korea. When Art returned from the Korean War he resumed being active in the VFW. The St. Charles Hotel was still used as the Post Home.

Talk got around to perhaps leasing or buying a Post Home. Art had a vacant lot in the southwest part of Pierre that he had not planned to develop. He also had an acquaintance who owned a vacant business lot just off the highway on Chapelle St. They made a trade and Art donated the lot on Chapelle St. to Post 2038 for a building site.

At the time the Sr. Vice Commander (Art couldn't remember the name) was a real go getter and had a lot of ideas. Pierre was in a building mode and a lot of people were building and using concrete blocks for basements, retaining walls and other construction. The Sr. Vice noted that a lot of alleys had stacks of new leftover concrete blocks that would probably never be used. He brought up the idea that if the VFW members could get enough people to donate these unused blocks they could put up a VFW Post Home. A campaign was started and soon they had enough blocks for their building. Most of the labor was volunteered. They were all Veterans and either knew

how to put up a building or found it easy to learn how.

The Post Home on Chapelle St. opened in July of 1952. It was advertised as having air conditioning and electric coolers for the beverages. The building had a full basement and it was a very nice place for socializing and holding meetings, dances, etc. The Post occupied the building until 1966 when they negotiated with the Elks for their building at 401 S. Central. It should be noted that Past Post Commander Dean Whalen and Viola purchased the original Post Home for \$27,000, contract for deed.

The BPO Elks had built a new building next to the Hills View Golf Course and moved to that location in 1966. The VFW purchased the Elks building and property at 401 S. Central Ave. that same year. The bank loans from 2 banks totaled \$97,500.

The new Post Home operated as a supper club and lounge open to all members and guests. There was a dance every Saturday night and the VFW members and Ladies Auxiliary served banquets, weddings, funerals and other events including many State VFW meetings and conventions.

Post Commander Al Reidinger began inviting other service clubs and businesses to help cook and serve the Friday night steak suppers. This tradition carried on until the kitchen had to be closed for lack of revenue in 2014. Through the years just about every service club, business, and government organization in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area helped out with Friday night Steak Nite at the VFW.

After food service was discontinued the lounge remained open for another 18 months when it too was closed. At that time the membership voted to list the property for sale. The Post met in the meeting rooms until June of 2016.

The Auxiliary to Post 2038 is still very active and at this time they are meeting at the Fort Pierre, SD Senior Center. VFW Post 2038 meets at The American Legion Post 8 Cabin.

Both Post 2038 and Auxiliary have and will always serve Veterans and volunteer to help the community and do other charitable work. The members are still very active in local, state and national VFW programs.

At one time the Post had a very active VFW Teener Baseball program. In 1966 the Pierre Teeners advanced to the National Finals and were the 2nd place national champions.

The Ladies Auxiliary has had several members that served as SD State President. Post 2038 has had two SD State Commanders as members. Currently, SD State Commander Dennis Sharp and SD State Auxiliary President Karen Sharp are members of Post 2038.

Researched By:

Gary Knudson: Adjutant and Past Post, District and State Commander

Bohn Appointed as Director of the Dakota's VA Regional Office

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the appointment of Shawn Bohn as the new director of the Dakotas VA Regional Office. Mr. Bohn, who was appointed on March 20, 2016, will oversee the administration of federal benefits to over 154,000 veterans, service members, their families and survivors living in South Dakota, North Dakota and 15 counties in north-western Minnesota.

The office provides nearly \$36 million in monthly federal benefits, through a variety of compensation, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Bohn was the Veterans Service Center Manager, of the VA Regional Office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Director's Report

Each year, we pause on November 11 to remember the sacrifices and contributions Veterans have made and service members continue to make to the greatest nation in the world. After retiring from a career in the Navy and now working for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA), it's not only humbling and inspiring to honor others' military experiences but also experience our country's continued dedication to Veterans.

Although Veterans Day is only one day, staff at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center and our five community outpatient clinics are committed to serving Veterans every day. In fact, Veterans who chose to continue serving comprise about one third of our staff. Veterans Day offers another opportunity to renew our pledge to improve Veterans' access and satisfaction.

Recently we began offering same day appointments in primary care and mental health. In addition, Veterans may now directly contact audiology and optometry services to make appointments. A wide variety of specialty care services are also available using telehealth, which saves Veterans time and money in traveling for appointments. Veterans are making strides in Integrative Health working with conventional medical therapies to help with chronic illness and pain. Construction in various stages at the medical center continues with more projects planned in the next two years to provide state of the art care in a healing environment. In 2017, the Sioux City, Iowa VA outpatient clinic will also relocate to a new, larger clinic in North Sioux City, SD and will expand services available. We also continue to work with community health care providers to ensure Veterans receive the care they need when they need it.

If you are a Veteran who has not enrolled with VA, you may be missing out on benefits you earned and deserved. If you have questions about your personal situations, please call Eligibility at 605-333-4196. We would be honored to provide your care. If you are enrolled, thank you for choosing VA for your health care.

**Darwin G. Goodspeed, Fache
Director**

Adjutant/Quartermaster's Report Rick W. Barg



We have started another year of leadership as I write this article and I'm resigning from my position of State Adjutant as of December 1, 2016. My wife, Marva needs me at home to help her with daily chores, her knees are getting weaker each day and I need to be with my best friend. At the Council of Administration in September at Pierre I officially resigned my position as State Quartermaster. Darwin Tolzin from Post #2118, Brookings was elected as State Quartermaster. In December Darwin will become the State Adjutant/Quartermaster. He has been working with me for a couple months and is picking up many of the routine duties that must be done. I ask that you all

support and work with Darwin, he has many good ideas and he will do his new job at high standards.

I hope you all take the time to review the membership book and read your general orders each month concerning information on our many VFW programs and report forms that are in the current monthly general orders. Congratulations to the Posts that have reach 100% in membership this year, a great job well done.

The Department will be sending out information on the Burger King Program again this year, so if your community has a Burger King I hope you take the time to be part of this program this year.

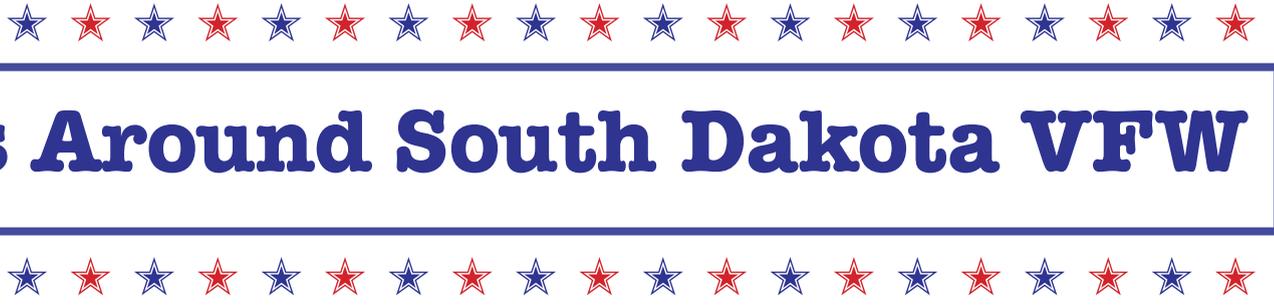
The Internal Revenue Service has required all Posts who have under \$50,000 in gross receipts to file an N-990, which can only be done over the internet. Google IRS, go to forms, under forms look for N-990 and fill out the necessary forms and send it in.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last seventeen years. It has been a great trip of meeting so many veterans, VFW members and other members from different departments. A special "Thank You" to all the officers who helped purchase my "Silver Legacy Life membership." That was a great gift. I also would like to thank the officers and members of District #2 for the big surprise of a "State Adjutant/Quartermaster Pin with a Diamond." That really made my day. Thanks to everyone and please support Darwin in his new position, I know he will do a fine job.

Again, if you have questions please feel free to call State Headquarters. Crystal and Darwin will do their best to solve your questions.

Yours in Comradeship,

**Rick W. Barg
Adjutant
State of South Dakota VFW**



Highlights Around South Dakota VFW

VFW Post 2638



Past State President Imogene Ellis cutting the ribbon at the Grand Reopening.

On October 1, Ronald Westby VFW Post 2638 celebrated our Grand Reopening after being closed for over 10 days. In early August, the Post experienced a small electrical fire motivating the membership to accomplish some very necessary updates.

The Madison, SD, VFW was chartered at Lake Post 2638 August 17, 1935 and renamed as the Ronald Westby VFW Post 2638 on August 26, 2005. Madison VFW has a rich tradition of enhancing the lives of those around our Lake County area through community service programs and special projects. Post 2638 has provided assistance to the families of veterans on active duty, supporting our local military units deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, veterans in South Dakota's Veterans' homes and assisted living facilities.

It is our hope the updates to Post Home's exterior create a great first impression and the interior provides a brighter and fresher, welcoming environment for our members and guests. If you're in the neighborhood stop, say hi and check us out.

Annual Veterans Stand-down



The Sioux Falls Annual Veterans Stand Down was held September 23, 2016 at Post 628. The doors opened at 9:00 a.m. with a long line of veterans ready to come in. There are many different organizations ready to assist them, including the staff from the VA Hospital to check on minor aches and pains as well as giving them a flu shot if they want it. They then proceed down a line of tables with all kinds of handouts for them including clothing and products to help them keep clean. This year, there was a bicycle repairman as well. There are three people there to give haircuts and trims to those who want one. This year seemed to have more female veterans in the lines than years past for some reason, or many reasons. The State Homeless Veterans Chairman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, DeLane Fickbohn is pictured at his place in line. The State VFW gave \$5.00 worth of Burger King cards to those in the line and Post 628 had gas vouchers available for those who qualified and clothing vouchers for female veterans. There are also meals ready for the hungry served by volunteers. It was a successful day that helped many veterans like the ones in the past. If you post does anything to help the homeless, report it on your hospital report.

VFW Disabled Pheasant Hunt



Pat McGrath, Mr. SD VFW Disabled Pheasant Hunt, was presented a picture of the 12 years that he started and ran the program in Faulkton, SD. Pat was instrumental in getting the Veteran's here and feeding them and coordinating the flights, licenses, hotel and working with National VFW on all of this. He had Veteran's in the Classroom at the school where the Veteran's talked about their experiences. Many lunches were served by his wife, Sandy, at the farm where they hunted. Gettysburg Winston M. Toomey VFW Post 8530 is taking over the project since Pat cannot because of health issues.

VFW Post 3298 and its Auxiliary Adopts FSC 153rd Engineer Battalion

In accordance with the Adopt-A-Unit program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Hutchinson County VFW Post 3298 and its Auxiliary pledge assistance and support to the officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted men and women of FSC 153rd Engineer Battalion, to show the concern, gratitude and admiration felt for those serving this great nation.



From Left to Right – 15G Darren Bigge, Auxiliary President Donna Nolz, Post 3298 Commander Bill Hoffman, FSC Company Commander CPT Marc Rieger.

Donation made to Veterans at the SD Human Service Center

The V.F.W. State officers along with the V.F.W. Auxiliary VAVS Representative visited the Human Services in the month of May. They presented the donation of two Driveway bean bag games and the Walker Bags for the Veterans to Jeff Thurman Activity Director at the Human Service Center. Pictured Kathy Ryken, Norma Bender, Paul Payne, SD Hospital VAVS Representative Leanne Payne, State Past Auxiliary State President Nancy Worth, Human Services Activity Jeff Turman, SD Past State Commander Mike Mullen, District I VAVS Representative Dorothy Stanage, and Judy Potts.



WARNING: VA ID Cards Are Easily Scanned

All Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare System are advised to guard their VA ID cards as new cards are being created.

Fall Council



Left to Right – Jerry Heggstad, State Chaplain, John Smart, National Representative, Dennis Sharp, State Commander.



Karen Sharp, State Auxiliary President; Vicke Rosse, National Council Member #23, Sandi Moss, State Auxiliary Chaplain.



National Representative John Smart presenting a National recognition certificate to State Commander Dennis Sharp.

Labor Day Parade



Left to Right – Willie Page, State Jr. Vice Commander, Dennis Sharp, State Commander, Karen Sharp, State Auxiliary President at the Wagner Labor Day Parade.

Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars - Dept. of South Dakota



Our State Auxiliary President Karen Sharp's theme this year is:

NOW IS THE TIME

Family - Support, Serve, Honor & Respect



Auxiliary State President's Report

Karen Sharp



The first-quarter of the year is already past and what a whirlwind of activity it was. First was the excitement of being installed as Department President at the State Convention; then, giving greetings at the American Legion Auxiliary State Convention; gone for 10 days to drive to the National Convention in Charlotte, NC, and return home; attending the Retreat in Grenville; hosting National President Colette Bishop for her visit to SD, followed the next day attending Veterans Day at the State Fair in Huron, and then, returning on Saturday to help at the Veterans Building during our District's day. Labor Day found us participating in the parade and other activities in Wagner, SD. I attended the VFW National Auxiliary Celebrate America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) at Mt. Rushmore. I enjoyed and was proud to represent South Dakota in the Parade of Flags, and Commander Dennis

and I were honored to present two "Stand for the Flag" statutes to National Commander Brian Duffy and National Auxiliary President Colette Bishop.

The Fall Council came and went, and Commander Dennis and I thank all who came for the Homecoming festivities. We really appreciate your support.

Commander Dennis and I are working on the VFW and Auxiliary National Program for Mental Health Wellness. Make a commitment to KNOW THE FIVE SIGNS and GIVE AN HOUR. If everyone does this, just even once a month, what a difference we can make. Review materials sent out by National and also materials that will be forthcoming on the Department level. This is a program that needs the participation of EVERYONE. I know that we can count on all our South Dakota VFW and Auxiliary members.

October will be filled with District meetings and the Big Ten Conference in Kalamazoo, MI. I hope to see a large contingency from South Dakota in attendance.

I hope to attend the South Dakota Pheasant Hunt for

Disabled Veterans in Gettysburg, SD, in November. Commander Dennis and I have been invited by Post 1273 in Rapid City, SD, to participate in the Veterans Day parade in Rapid City on November 11, which we are looking forward to. If you have an event or meeting that you would like us to attend, do not hesitate to contact us.

Keep working on membership. Remember 100% Plus One is the ultimate goal for the year, but we must not forget the quarterly goals. The monetary awards to the Department are vital to our budget. Don't forget those new members, many whom are just waiting to be asked. Membership as of September 10 is 78.02%. That's good, but we still need more. Membership is our greatest strength.

If you have questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me. I'm here for you.

"NOW IS THE TIME"

Karen Sharp
SD VFW Auxiliary President

National Council Member #23 Report

Vickie Rosse



VFW Post and Auxiliary Members,

The 2016-2017 VFW/Auxiliary year is well on its way, hope you are keeping up with the changes and events.

The electronic version of the 2017 Podium Edition containing the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws, Booklet of Instruction and Ritual is available NOW on Amazon and

Barnes & Noble. The printed version of the Podium Edition (with red cover) will be available soon from the VFW Store.

Are you an Auxiliary Treasurer? Are you new to the position or in need of guidance or assistance? Check out the 2016-2017 Treasurer's Guide available here: Member Login; Program & Publicity Resources; Resources for Your Auxiliary; 2016-2017 Treasurer's Guide.

You are encouraged to watch the video "Local Auxiliary Treasurers and Trustees Training" available behind Member Login at the Online Auxiliary Academy. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is pleased to announce the following additions to the Online Auxiliary Academy: update on MALTA Membership System, floorwork on the Ritualistic Opening, Ritualistic Closing and Traditional Memorial Service. We hope you continue to watch and use the videos available for educational and training purposes.

Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy and National President Colette Bishop want to officially inform you of their joint special project for 2016-2017: The VFW **Mental Wellness**

Campaign to support our service members, Veterans and families coping with invisible wounds.

Coming home from hazardous duty must be traumatic for our Veterans. As civilians, we just don't understand, but we can help. We can educate ourselves on the signs and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. We can demonstrate to the Veteran that we care enough to try to make their lives less stressful by reacting with compassion and love. "Know the 5 Signs" is a 20 minute course in "mental CPR" and will help you learn the signs that could one day help you save a life and after the course, make a pledge to change directions. Goals of the course are: know some basic mental health statistics, recognize the five signs that might indicate someone is in emotional pain and might need help and be able to suggest some resources to those who might need help.

Your Post and Auxiliary can get involved by conducting a Community Service Project. It can be as simple as providing a confidential place for Veterans to air their story; maybe with other Veterans or a mental health professional. It can be a visit to Veterans of distribution of mental health care resource materials from your area with contact information. Let's join Chief Brian and President Colette in their worthwhile project.

One of the fundamental differences between the VFW Auxiliary and other Veterans' service organizations is our eligibility requirements. In order for an individual to be considered for membership, his/her eligible veteran:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national;
- Must have honorable service in the U.S. Armed

Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard)

- Must have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition as reflected by **one** of the following
 - A VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States
 - Receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earning Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces.

The eligible veteran and the prospective VFW Auxiliary member must have a familial relationship within two generations; step, half and adopted family members meet the "two generations" standard set forth by the IRS. However, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews of the eligible veteran do not meet the "two generations" standard and are therefore not permitted to join the VFW Auxiliary.

Proof of veteran's service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The local VFW Auxiliary's Investigating Committee is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every person accepted for membership. A careful check of eligibility at the time the person joins will help to avoid any future concerns.

Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration by phone at 1-866-272-6272 or online at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

Vickie Rosse
National Council Member #23



Auxiliary Department Membership Report



National Membership Achievement Award

Each VFW Auxiliary or VFW post member who secures 20 new members (not rejoined) from July 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017, with the official form received at National Headquarters by May 31, 2017, will be honored with National Membership Achievement Award. Awards will be presented at the National Convention in 2017. Department treasurers are not eligible.

Auxiliary Award

\$50 to each Auxiliary when they reach 100% plus by June 30, 2017, based on June 30, 2016, total membership numbers.

Goals will be individualized for each Department and be given at the start of the 2016-2017 year.

- Quarter 1 by October 31
New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$200
- Quarter 2 by January 31
New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$350
- Quarter 3 by April 30
New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$400
- Quarter 4 by June 30
New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$500

Circle of Excellence Department Monetary Award

\$1,000 to the Department if they achieve all the criteria for the Circle of Excellence.

Awards for Department Membership Chairman

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in the program.
2. Unwarranted Support Certificate to the Department Membership Chairman in each Program Division with the best promotion of "Just One More Member Matters."

3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on the criteria on page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on page 12.

Awards for National Chairman

1. "Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes" Keepsake to each Conference Chairman for participation in this program.

Ways to Keep New Members and Rejoins, Encourage them to Participate

- Monthly sign up sheets for regular events
- Emails and phone calls for special events
- Be specific about what they will be doing, including the time commitment
- Have activities that are family-friendly every three months, or once per quarter.

Mary Kirkvold

Department Membership Chairman 2016-2017

VFW National Convention 2016



Nancy Worth (back row, far right) with National President Francesca Guilford and 2015-2016 Outstanding President Runner-Up for each Membership Group.

National Presidents Visit

Department President Karen Sharp and Department Commander Dennis Sharp welcomed the National President Colette Bishop and Dave, First Dude, to Pierre on August 29, 2016. During their visit, they went to Missile Site, Wall Drug, toured the Capitol Building and the Governor's Mansion.



Department President Karen Sharp and Department Commander Dennis Sharp welcomed the National President Colette Bishop and Dave, First Dude, to Pierre on 29 August 2016. During their visit they went to a Missile Site, Wall Drug, toured the Capitol Building and the Governor's Mansion.

Auxiliary Chief of Staff

Jan Endes



Greetings Auxiliary Members,

I am very excited and honored to be your Department Chief of Staff/Extension Chairman for 2016-2017. Thank you, President Karen for placing your trust in me.

What does Chief of Staff do? She/he is the main point of contact for the extension program. This includes establishing new Auxiliaries and maintaining our current Auxiliaries in the Department. She/he serves as Auxiliary advocate and assistant.

Need Help? Why having an Auxiliary can boost your Post.

Does your Post...

- Want to increase membership and participation?
- Want to win more Department and National awards?
- Want to involve your community in more of your events?
- Want to offer more meals to the public?
- Want to serve more veterans, active-duty military and their families?

What VFW Auxiliary can do for YOU...

- Open the doors to new members.
- Help with family-oriented events.
- Help spread the word on scholarship programs.
- Offer valuable assistance for meal and event preparation.
- Assist with Buddy Poppy Drives.
- Boost the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.

The above is a preview of the PowerPoint presentation offered by the VFW Auxiliary. It offers the advantages of the VFW Post having an Auxiliary work with them on their projects and goals. This is the **perfect** time to institute new Auxiliaries with our bachelor VFW Posts in South Dakota. We have this wonderful new source for new members for the Auxiliary, and that new source can do nothing but make us stronger and more effective for our VFW heroes.

I will be sending a letter to all of South Dakota's VFW Posts (and to their District Commanders) that currently do not have an Auxiliary encouraging them to institute one. I will be happy to visit with the Post and answer any questions they may have in starting an Auxiliary. Please contact me by phone at 605-452-3270 or by email at tendes@goldenwest.net.

I am asking all District Presidents to contact your Department Commander. Encourage them to support an Auxiliary for those bachelor Posts. Offer your assistance in instituting new Auxiliaries. I am also asking all Auxiliary Presidents and Auxiliary members to contact your Post Commander. Encourage them to support an Auxiliary for those bachelor Posts. They know, first hand, the advantages of having an Auxiliary.

Let your uncommon hero know that as their spouse, child, sibling, parent, grandparent, grandchild, they have our love and support. As Auxiliary members, we can help them accomplish their goals, projects and programs for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As Auxiliary members, we can aid the VFW in serving our community, our Veterans, our active military and their families.

**"Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes"
"Now Is the Time – Family – Support, Serve, Honor & Respect"**

Jan Endes

Department Chief of Staff/Extension

Christmas at the Capitol

The 2015 Christmas at the Capitol theme was "Christmas Around The World". With carols playing and thousands of people filing past, as well as numerous postings on Facebook, what a perfect way to show off our Veterans who have certainly been around the world to protect our freedom!

Auxiliaries were asked to put a copy of their beloved veterans' photos with name, rank & years served on a small jar flat. A map was to be placed on the other side with auxiliary name & town. A hole was poked in the top & bottom of the flats & they were hooked together to run vertically down the length of the tree.

As in years past, we were given short notice that we'd been selected to decorate a tree. This proved to be no hill for climbers and we ended up with 500 ornaments: Beresford, 9; Brookings, 66; Custer, 3; Faulkton, 34; Pierre, 150; Plankinton, 177; Sioux Falls, 6; Sturgis, 1;

Winner, 54. One of those ornaments held a photo of VFW National Commander Biedrzycki & National Vice-Commander Duffy.

Flags were placed at the top of the tree along with a star and an angel holding a world globe. White lights were strung on the tree and two of the bulbs at the top were replaced with green bulbs, the color of hope, renewal and well-being, in recognition of a national campaign for our veterans.

The VFW Auxiliary tree was on the third floor where people could stop even longer to view. The names from all ornaments were also listed in alphabetical order by Auxiliary, and placed in frames below the tree.

Thanks to **ALL** who helped... the assemblers, the decorators, and the un-decorators. This truly illustrates our loyalty to our Veterans!

Pictured are Penny Galinat, Karen Sharp, Mary

Jenner, President Nancy Worth, Commander Mike Mullen, Nancy Chester, Deb Fahey. Kneeling, Lois Knudson and Kat Craig.

Pick up your photos while in town for the Legislative Conference/VOD Banquet & be sure to save your photos for future trees; hopefully, we'll be accepted in 2016!

Note: Now is the perfect time to start working on ornaments. Collect veterans' photos and scan them to your computer. A thumb drive is handy and makes it easy to share the photos. When assembling ornaments, use a heavy-duty glue to alleviate their falling apart in shipping and in the heat of the capitol building. Although we get short notice at a very busy time - they deserve it!

Deb Fahey



Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home, continued from page 10

stories in the book which can be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/VietnamVetsStillComingHome/. You can learn more about the book, pre-orders, and release date. The price of "Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home" will be \$59.95 plus \$5.95 shipping and handling.

You can also pre-order the book by contacting DAV Headquarters at (605) 332-6866 or e-mailing davsd@midconetwork.com



"...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion..."

TAPS
May their souls rest in peace.

COMRADES, IN DEATH AS IN LIFE, WE SALUTE YOU!

Armour, Douglas County VFW Post 6807
Guenther Clarence (Catis), WWII, USA, Life, POW

Wagner, Rollie Bucholz VFW Post 7319
Kocmich, Robert L., Korea, USAF
Ernest E. Merkwan, WWII, USA
Kenneth, Ray, WWII, USA

Sioux Falls, John M. Bliss VFW Post 628
Zafft, Norman, WWII, USN, Life
Bonrud, Richard, Korea, USA, Life
Horsted, Robert, WWII, Germany, USA
Brokaw, James, WWII, USA, Life
Bohlke, Richard, Korea, USN, Life
Anderson, Wavrin, Korea, USA, Life
Lynch, John, Vietnam, USA, Life
Nady, Leo, WWII, USA, Life
Wood, Theodore, WWII, USA, Life
Hejl, Wesley, WWII, Life

Yankton, Ernest Bowyer VFW Post 701
Wilcox, Marvin, WWII, USA, Life
Chavis, Robert, Vietnam, USA, Life
Stiral, Edwin, WWII, USA, Life
Hansen, Duane, Korea, USA, Life
Hanson, Arnold, WWII, USN, Life

Huron, Tomczak-Bartels VFW Post 1776
Wipf, Sam L., Korea
Patridge, Max, Life
Johnsen, Farrell B., WWII, Life
Wiedenman, Rod, Vietnam, Life
Neiffer, John, USAF, Past Post Commander

Watertown, Frank H. Adams VFW Post 750
Raderschadt, Lewis W., Korea, US, Life
Hasner, Francis E., Life
Monahan, Gene D., Korea, USA, Life
Thompson, Harlin, WWII, USA/USN, Life

Madison, Lake VFW Post 2638
Eich, Lawrence, WWII, USA
Ylema Lawrence, WWII, USA
Wieckert, Dave, Korea, USA

Rapid City, Rushmore VFW Post 1273
Kerr, James, WWII, USAAF, Life
Quick, Carl, WWII, USMC, Life
Osterholt, Floyd, WWII, USA, Life
Glowcheski, Ronald J., Korea/Vietnam, USAF, Life
Joynt, Walter, WWII/Korea/Vietnam, USAF, Gold Legacy Life, Past District 10 Commander, Past SD State Commander
Roybal, Joseph E., WWII, USA, Life
Namanny, Edwin, WWII, USA

Alcester, VFW Post 6149
Hanson, Robert E., Korea, USAF

2016 Capital Christmas Tree – "A Monumental Christmas"

Again this year, the Auxiliary has been accepted and selected to have another tree, sponsored by the Pierre Post 2638. This year's theme is "A Monumental Christmas." Our Veterans make Christmas monumental. These heroes don't wear capes...they wear dog tags! Random Acts of Patriotism (RAP), need metal holders for the dog tags, photos of our veterans on the tags of ornaments, etc. If able, please forward money to defray the cost of the project. This has always been just a beautiful setting at the capitol building during the Christmas holiday.

For further information, contact Deb Fahey, 406 S. Polk, Pierre, SD 57501. Reach us at 605-280-6572 or proudangler@pie.midco.net.

The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

– William Tyler Page

Day County Coyote Hunt



Day County Coyote Hunt
February 3-4-5, 2017
South Dakota
NATIONAL GUARDS
FAMILY SUPPORT
10th Annual Day County Coyote Hunt
Assisting Veterans and their Families




Distinguished members of the VFW and its Auxiliary play a vital role in the support and benefits that our South Dakota National Guards troops enjoy today. Specifically, the Day County Coyote Hunt, which since its inception, has raised funds for the needs of our troops and their families. The DCCH originated in 2008. It was the dream of Patti Mitchell, who currently holds the position of State VFW Veterans and Family Support Chairman.

Patti and her partner, Skip Dolney have committed themselves to an annual pilgrimage of planning and implementing a coyote hunt that has produced thousands of dollars for the support of our hometown troops here in South Dakota.

The coyote hunt takes place in February of each year and is based out of The Roost, located in Grenville, South Dakota. The DCCH is limited to 50 two men teams, beginning with Friday night

rules meeting and supper provided by Patti and Skip. Entrants may hunt the entire state of South Dakota. The DCCH has been attended by active duty personnel, National Guards Soldiers, Veterans and non-military people from a multi-state area. Yes, there are Patriots among us.

As I contemplate what Patti has done with the DCCH, I am reminded of a segment of poetry in prayer by Margaret Echhardt which says:

*Instill in our hearts
 The will to serve others,
 All children, as well as
 Their fathers and Mothers.*

As a member of the VFW, I challenge all who read this to Promote, Encourage, and Donate to help Patti serve those who are currently serving our country. Please contact Patti at The Roost in Grenville, SD. 605-486-0016 or web page www.theroostsd.com



Darwin Tolzin Biography

Being selected as the State Quartermaster is a very humbling experience thinking that each and every voting member trusts me to do what is right. I can not help but thank each one of you for your trust. I know that I will do the very best to make this Department continue to be on top.

My background is I grew up on a farm north of Lake Preston and spent the first 18 years of my life as a farmer. In 1959, I enlisted in the Navy spending time in Kodiak, Alaska (3 years), Point Mugu, California, San Diego,

California, Long Beach, California and on board the USS Kearsarge CVS-33 (2 years) and two trips to Vietnam. After a 10 year stint in the Navy, I decided to change my life to civilian and was lucky enough to stay on with the Navy in a civilian career and was able to combine my military and civilian time and was able to retire in 2007 after 37 years of service. Then moving back to South Dakota (my roots) and becoming very involved with the VFW and its programs.

My hobby during this time was playing fast pitch softball

and the very highest level in California. World champs once, All American a couple of times and a lot of fun. I was able to coach travel ball, high school, Jr. college and probably the most enjoyable, coaching for three years in the Netherlands and being able to work with the Olympic teams both in the USA and Netherlands.

Please stop by the State office in Sioux Falls and say hello! I would love to meet you. Thanks again for your trust and comradeship.

Overseas Veteran Option

At this year's Department Convention held in Deadwood, it was voted to have the Overseas Veteran to be posted on the State VFW website. Those members who would like to continue to receive it by mail may still do so.

You must complete the following form and send it to the Department Headquarters by May 15, 2017. If we have not received your information by May 15, 2017, you will no longer receive the Overseas Veteran by mail.

Name: _____
 Last First Middle

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Mail to: South Dakota VFW Headquarters
3601 S. Minnesota Ave.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

Cootie Corner

First, I would like to welcome the MOCA of Yankton. They are applying for their charter. We wish them well and good luck. We will help in any way possible.

The General Orders will be out soon with the information on both the Grand Scratch and 9th District 5-State Pow Wow to be held at Yankton this coming year.

Veterans' Day and Christmas are coming soon. Take

the time to visit a veteran in the hospital.

Pay your dues early.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Keep 'Em Smilin' in beds of white.

Yours in L.O.T.C.S.,

Dale Stribal

Grand Commander



Pictured Left to Right: Robert Bender, Michelle Hough and Dale Stribal



The organization with in the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars, known as the Pup Tent #13 (Cooties) to the Veteran Center in Sioux Falls, SD. In September, Dal Stribal, Grand Commander, Seam Squirrel, and Robert Bender, Grand SD Inspector presented Michelle Hough, Vet Center Director a check to be used for indigent individuals coming to the Vets Center.

VFW
at Work

Bookmark this site!

www.vfw.org/vfwatwork

Read inspiring stories of how VFW Posts and Auxiliaries across the country are helping our defenders and our communities.

VA Makes Changes to Veterans Choice Program

Changes Remove Barriers and Expands Access to Care

Who can help Veterans with questions at the VA Sioux Falls:

Primary Choice Champion: Robert Taylor
Email: Roberttaylor26@va.gov | Phone: (605) 336-3230, Ext. 7921

Secondary Choice Champion: Lisa Seeley
Email: lisa.seeley@va.gov | Phone: (605) 336-3230, Ext. 6578

Who can help Veterans with questions at the VA Black Hills:

VA Black Hills Choice Champions:
Cynthia Heaton | Phone: (605) 720-7181
Valerie Anderson | Phone: (605) 347-2511, Ext. 7632
Barb White | Phone: (605) 745-2000, Ext. 2253

Dept. Post Advertisers - Please mention you read their ad POST SCHEDULES	
<p>John M. Bliss Post #628 9 am-10 pm, Mon.-Thurs. 9 am-2 am Fri. & Sat. Lunch served 11 am-1:30 pm, M-Fri Dinner specials every Fri. & Sat., 5-8 pm</p> <p>Book your wedding reception with us! Call 605-338-9421 Follow us on Facebook at VFW Post 628 <i>Serving the Sioux Empire since 1921</i></p>	<p>Brookings George Dokken Post #2118 SMOKE FREE! Bingo: Mon., Thurs. and Fri. Lounge: Bingo nights & Sat. Hall: Available for rental 520 Main Avenue 605-692-6771</p>
<p>C.C. CROAL POST #17 ABERDEEN, SD Post/Auxiliary Meetings Second Thursday - 7:30 PM Room for Parties All Occasions M-S Hours: 2 PM - 2 AM</p>	<p>Black Hills Post 5969 Deadwood Wednesday: Hamburger Night Friday: Dinners Lounge & Gaming</p>
<p>FRANK H. ADAMS POST #750 808 South Broadway Watertown, SD Open Monday thru Friday 2:00 p.m. till 2:00 a.m.; Saturday 12:00 till 2:00 a.m. All Veterans and visiting members welcome Post Meeting Nite 3rd Wed. Aux. Meeting Nite 2nd Wed.</p>	<p>THREE RIVERS POST #4726 BRANDON, SD (The most eastern Post in SD) Interstate 90, Exit 406 Post Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.. Auxiliary Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Welcome Veterans & Friends to Our Freedom Grill and Bar Lounge.</p>
<p>Ernest Bowyer Post No. 791 209 Cedar St. Yankton, SD (605) 665-3562 Open 3 p.m. Sun. thru Sat. All Veterans and Visiting Members Welcome Meeting Night 2nd Tuesday</p>	<p>Rollie Bucholz Post 7319 Wagner, SD 57380 PHONE: 342-9804 Open Daily: Mon.-Sat. at 5:00 All Veterans & Guests Welcome Short Orders served during week. Saturday evening special dinners served Post Meeting - 3rd Tues. Auxiliary Meeting - 2nd Tues. Bingo every Wed. night</p>
<p>Rushmore - Post #1273 420 Main St., Rapid City, SD 57701 PHONE: 342-9804 Meeting Nights MOC/MOCA Pup Tent 17 - First Thursday VFW & Auxiliary - Second Thursday Joint Meeting - Fifth Thursday of any Month With Five Thursdays Hours of Operation Sunday-Friday - 11:00 am to Closing Saturday - 10:00 am to Closing Sunday - Closed Monday-Friday Daily Lunches 11:30 am - 2:00 pm Saturday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers or Chicken Strips and Fries Monday Night Family Dinner Starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Friday Night Fish Fry Starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Ronald Westby Post #2638 510 S. Washington Ave. Madison, SD 57042 256-6771 Open Mon.-Thur. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fri-Sat 11 am to Closing Sun. 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Meeting Nights: VFW 2nd Tuesday - 6 p.m. Auxiliary 2nd Monday - 5:15 p.m. Brunch 2nd Sunday 10 am - 12:30 p.m. EVERYBODY WELCOME</p>
<p>Sturgis Veterans' Club 868 Main Street Sturgis, SD 605-347-4682 Open Mon. - Fri. 4:00 PM to close Sat. noon to closing Short orders & dinners available VFW Post #2730 & Auxiliary AL Post #33 & Auxiliary DAY Chapter 11 & Auxiliary</p>	<p>Kenneth Kuper Post #3442 721 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD 605-673-4262 Lounge Opens 2pm Post & Auxiliary Meetings Third Thursday - 7pm Visit us on your trip to the Hills</p>

DEADLINE

For the next issue (Jan. 2017) of the *South Dakota Overseas Veteran*, the deadline is December 1, 2016.

Please submit your articles to me by that date. Send to: Editor Dick L. Pickering, 404 Dogwood Street, Brandon, SD 57005. Or email them to:

dpsigns@alliancecom.net

Valued Supporters of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran Publication

The VFW Department of South Dakota has implemented a new program to assist in the cost of the *Overseas Veteran* publication by providing the opportunity for individuals to show their support of the award-winning *South Dakota Overseas Veteran* paper. Your name will appear in each of the four issues as a valuable supporter under the category of your donation.

The donation are categorized as follows: Bronze, \$10.00 per year; Silver, \$20.00 per year; and Gold, \$30.00 per year.

The following supporters are Gold category: Jeff Wilkes; Johnathan Thorun; Mike Boxa; Betty Foxa; Arnold Sattler; Burke VFW Post 9950; William & Pat Cerney; Robert Folkerts; Gail Arnott; Charles Kerkhove; Henry Whitney Custer VFW Post 3442. Silver category: Dennis Brady; Hobart Cole. Bronze Category: Mavis Hameck; Wilfred Arens; Wagner VFW Post 7319; Leonard Kisely; Dick Pickering.