

July/August/September 2017

The Official Publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota

Vol. 74 Issue 1

## Commander Williamson & President Alm take Command of the South Dakota VFW Organization



### Special Acknowledgments To

First Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran - Rick Williams was elected during the 88th annual South Dakota State Convention in Pierre, South Dakota June 25th, 2017. Commander's Theme will be "The Future is Now"

VFW Auxiliary President Carrie Alm, eligibility of her father who served during the Korean War. President Carrie's Theme will be "Accentuate the Positive"

#### VFW Department of South Dakota Line Officers

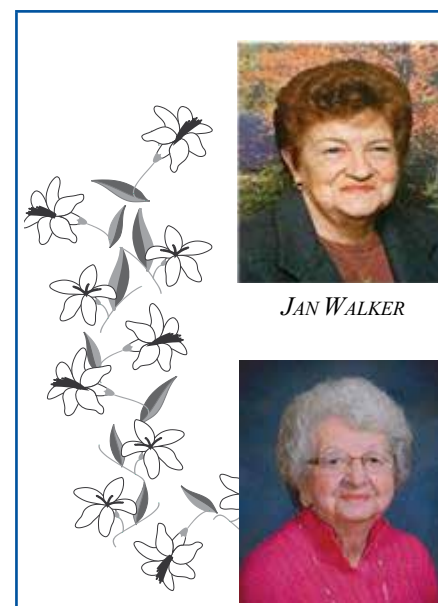


VFW Department of South Dakota Line Officers - Row 1, Surgeon, Barbara McKean, VFW Post 3298; Sr. Vice, Dennis Frisby-Griffin, VFW Post 2638; State Commander, Rick Williamson, VFW Post 3164; Jr. Vice, Sean Johnson, VFW Post 17; Judge Advocate, Cody Mangold, VFW 791; Row 2, Past State Commander, Dennis Sharp, VFW Post 2038; Chief of Staff, Todd Struwe, VFW Post 2118; Quartermaster/Adjutant, Darwin Tolzen, VFW Post 2118, Chaplain Arnold "Jerry" Heggstad, VFW Post 4674; Inspector, Kenneth Payne, VFW Post 6554.

#### South Dakota District Commanders



Row 1, District #1, Colin Reisner; District #4, Lyle Berg; District #6, Glynis Collier; Row 2, District #7, Tom Hafner; District #10, Tim Brookes.



JAN WALKER

THELMA DITTMAN

#### AUXILIARY MOURNS TWO PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

The Department of South Dakota VFW Auxiliary has lost two more Past Department Presidents within just a few days of each other this past May. Thelma Dittman, 1976-77; Jan Walker, 1984-85.

Always in Our Memories... Forever in Our Hearts.

—Auxiliary Mourns, continued on page 10

Website: [www.sdvfw.org](http://www.sdvfw.org)

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)



**WHY JOIN THE VFW** - VFW and its Auxiliary strives to do great things for deserving individuals - our veterans, their families, and their communities. From local grassroots ideas to national influences, we work everyday to make a difference. It's our strength as an organization. And, with each additional membership we only grow stronger. Every eligible veteran should consider becoming a member of this elite org. **Our Mission:** To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans. **Our Vision:** Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country. **Our Core Values:** Always put the interest of our members first. Treat donors as partners in our cause. Promote PATRIOTISM. Honor military service. Ensure the care of veterans and their families. Serve our communities. Promote a positive image of the VFW organization. Respect the diversity of veteran opinions.



**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

### Rick Williamson



As I assume command of this great Department, I would first like to thank Dennis for handing the reins over with the department in great shape. We have had a great year in recruiting and are very close to achieving 100%. Congratulations my friend, job well done. I know it hasn't been easy for you this year, however you have powered thru the tough times, called on your comrades when needed, and done the job of the Commander the best you could. You have challenged me a few times this year and I appreciate that. I now feel confident that I am ready, with the help of my

other officers, and your continued guidance to lead this great organization for the next year.

My theme for this year is "The Future is Now", by looking at the Council of Administration I think you will see why I have chosen this as my motto. The VFW has been saying for years that we need to get the younger veterans involved. If you look at your elected officers for this Department I think you will see that this is exactly what the Department of South Dakota has done. Our previous leaders have lead us, mentor us, challenged us, and trusted us to become not the leaders of tomorrow, but leaders TODAY. If I count correctly we have 11 members of the Council of Administration that are Post 911 Veterans. In my opinion, that is getting the younger veterans involved, not just involved but leading and making decisions for the future of our department. I am excited to take this department into the future with the excellent officer that have chosen to run for office and have been elected by you, the members of this department.

As I said in opening, Dennis has had a tremendous year in recruiting, however I am sure we can achieve 100% next year. We have a good plan in place, chairpersons who will get the job done and the motivation to serve the districts and posts with their recruiting efforts. With the help of everyone we can do this, if you need assistance with your recruiting goals

just ask, we are here to help you. So now the other saying you will hear a lot this year is "Dig In" for membership. I have designed a very nice recruiting pin this year to give to everyone who get a new or reinstate member. It will be my pleasure to have to order more just to make sure everyone gets one who earned it. Membership will be as important this year as it has in the past, I don't see that changing anytime soon. Let's Dig In, make 105% in the first 1/2 of the year and then move onto having some fun this year.

I challenge every post this year to have at least one event at their post that is fun for their members, all work and no play makes this a dull organization to be part of. We can't expect the same people to do all the work and never reap any rewards. Give me a call if you are doing a cookout, if time permits I might just be your chef of honor. If you have a golf outing, I might be able to show up and hack at a few balls with you. If you do a Karaoke contest don't call, you don't want me to show up and start singing for you. I plan on having fun as your commander, and I would be very pleased to hear that you also enjoyed this next year.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for the courtesy's you have shown to me in the past, and I have no doubt in the future also. It is truly my honor to be in this position and I will promise you I will do my very best to live up to your expectations. I will always keep the Department of South Dakota my priority when making decisions, seek guidance from my predecessors, and do what is right for our members. I can't stress it enough, I work for you, you are what makes this such a successful department. It is my privilege to be the one who gets to represent you for the next year. Please help me and "Dig In" and get a new member for your Post.

Yours in Comradeship,

**Rick Williamson**  
**Dept. Commander**

## Sr. Vice Commander's Report

### Danny Frisby-Griffin



I've received 23 Community Service reports for the fourth quarter (38% as of 6/16/2017). The Department of SD has distributed 4,421 Flags, performed 535 Honor Guards, 218 Color Guards and provided 65 funeral lunches. In the category of community service, the Department has donated \$304,388.96; 33,640 hours and driven 90,166 (\$12,623) miles. Thank you for all you do!

The Department of SD Facebook page is up and running. Please keep the posts positive and informative for our veterans, auxiliary and families. Also, we've created a closed group Department of SD Facebook page. Only authorized comrades will be able to participate and all requests to join will be validated. The private page will be used primarily to conduct business in a distributed, secure manner. I've also started working on the 2017-2018 Forms and hope to improve the forms. Please let me know. Thanks.

As the Department of SD VFW Baseball Chairman, I've been working with the Director of Baseball Operations, Rob Lind, to ensure this summer's tournaments are successful. We've been working diligently and have tried to be very responsive to any local post or coach's concerns. One area we

need help with is Comrade attendance and leadership at our tournaments. It's critical that we lead the oath, provide the honor guard and show our commitment to VFW youth baseball. We really appreciate the time and energy from our previous board members.

We have a vision for the future of South Dakota Baseball which requires us to make some changes to our services. We would really appreciate your support in achieving what we know is possible.

I had the privilege of being the Keynote Speaker for the Sioux Falls VA Memorial Day Program. In addition, I was the Master of Ceremony for a program at the Bethel Nursing Home for its first annual Memorial Day Program. The program was special due to the participation of four recent graduates of Madison High School. It was an honor to remember and memorialize those that had passed.

Thank you for your support this past year and patience as we fine-tuned the community service report and other forms. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities this year will bring.

**Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin,**  
**Department of South Dakota; 2016-2017 Judge Advocate;**  
**2017 Baseball Chairman**

## Jr. Vice Commander's Report

### Sean Johnson



Dear Comrades,

I want to thank you again for entrusting me with this honored position. I will do my best to make us shine and to help our Commander achieve his goals. With that being said, it is my intention to work very closely with the posts and districts on membership. I need your post and District Membership reports in **Oct 31 (or sooner) for extra points** or by Dec 31 for regular points.

Yes you could say we are hitting the ground running, but we are in a unique position now that we hit a 100%

mark. It should be easier to achieve that mark again, so we need to get going and I need **everyone's** help. You will be hearing a lot from myself and D.D. Couch on this matter, so **let's get fired up and stay fired up** about membership. Remember we set our goals standards to achieve and no one else and we are the ones that achieve the results! So let's get it done.

Thanks,

**Sean Johnson**  
**Sr. Vice Commander**

## NEWS & PUBLICATION, VFW –Post –Pride: by Editor Dick L. Pickering

Look for VFW/AUX pride [WWW.sdvfw.org](http://WWW.sdvfw.org) This quarterly South Dakota Overseas Veterans publication, District/Posts newsletters and you will see examples of the hard work and support that have made VFW Posts and its Auxiliary in communities for more than 117 years. Many programs/projects and services designed to help service members, veterans and their families, when you think of the voice for veterans – you think of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Everyday, we're on Capital Hill and out in communities across this state ensuring your voice is heard – that your story is being told. If you want to know what is being done, here's the chance to read about everything we've been busy working on. Deadline for the next issue of the SDOV is September First, Two thousand and Seventeen. As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to [dpsigns@alliancecom.net](mailto:dpsigns@alliancecom.net) or [vfwsd@aol.com](mailto:vfwsd@aol.com)

## Quartermaster/Adjutant Report Darwin G. Tolzin



Another year of the VFW Department of South Dakota has concluded with our Department Convention in Pierre the 22nd to 25th of June 2017. A total of 10 White Hats were given out to very deserving comrades. Not only did they do all they could for their local Posts, but put a maximum effort into making the Department of South Dakota under Commander Dennis Sharp's guidance to put us on the map nationally. The local Posts received many deserved awards, but the most prestigious of all is that South Dakota was a **100% Membership Department Nationally**. We will have more time to expand on these awards in the next issue of the Overseas Veteran.

We had our State elections during the convention and we have a new management staff in place. Remember that these elections occur at the State level, but also at each post. These election reports are due June 1st so we are encouraging each post to be on time and we have several that are delinquent...PLEASE... get them in and we will help you if needed. The election reports are very important and every effort should be made to get them in on time and do not forget you also need installation of these officers. Refer to your by-laws for proper procedures. Please get these reports in on time and make everyone's job easier and painless.

The downsizing from 7 to 5 Districts went off without a hitch because of a lot of pre-planning. I'm sure that each and every one of us is working hard to recruit members and in some areas there just isn't anybody to recruit. We should get a little more inventive on how and whom we recruit as we know there are several out there that we haven't touched. Probably the biggest challenge we have to be sure that when we recruit younger members and that we also give them a reason to there whether in a task or something else that makes them feel they are a productive part of our organization.

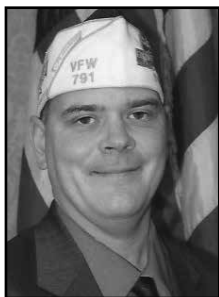
Several of us are headed to New Orleans this month for our National Convention and sure hope some of you can join us. There is a wealth of knowledge and information that is distributed to every one of us and we will try to bring some information and excitement back with us. We know there are some major plans to change the way we do business to continue to live up to our motto: "We do more for Veterans."

I hope that each of you had a spring and summer full of rewards and good times. We have a lot of positive momentum going into the next year. Let's get behind our Commander, Rick Williamson, and have another record year for South Dakota. I know Rick will be working hard, we just have to join his team.

"To have a good friend is one of the highest delights of life; to be a good friend is one of the noblest and most difficult undertakings."

Darwin G. Tolzin, State Quartermaster/Adjutant

## State Judge Advocate's Report Cody Mangold



I want to thank you all for the support to become the 2017-2018 Department Judge Advocate. I look forward to working with the amazing team. I would also like to thank Past Department Commander Dennis, and Past Auxiliary President Karen Sharp on a great State Convention. I would also like to congratulate Commander Dennis Sharp on reaching 100% for membership. I also would like to thank all of the Posts for all of the hard work this year to complete this goal.

The new community service reports are out on the South Dakota VFW website. The new address for the community service report is 1101 Main St., Tyndall, SD 57066. You can also e-mail it to me at [cody.mangold@hotmail.com](mailto:cody.mangold@hotmail.com).

I would like to thank you all for entrusting me with this prestigious position and look forward to representing you all well.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Cody Mangold, Judge Advocate

## State Surgeon's Report Barbara McKean



Thank you for electing me to the position of State Surgeon. I look forward to working with you and I feel honored that you have entrusted me to represent you in this position as the VFW State Surgeon for the State of South Dakota. I promise I will make myself available and do everything I can to make this a successful and productive year. If you have any question or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Barbara McKean was elected as State Surgeon of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on June 18, 2017, at the VFW State of South Dakota Convention in Pierre, S.D. Barb enlisted in the United States Air Force from 1988 to 2009, earning her VFW eligibility by serving in Korea, where she earned the Korean Defense Service Medal. Barb's assignments included: Hickam AFB, HI – Sep 1989 to Feb 1992; Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom – Feb 1992 to Feb 1995; Osan Air Base, Korea – Feb 1995 to Oct 1996; Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland – Oct 1996 to October 1999; United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO – Oct 1999 to Aug 2004; Offutt AFB, NE – Aug 2004 – Dec 2007; Peterson AFB, CO – Dec 2007 – Nov 2008;

Barb holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources and Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management. Her Professional Education includes United States Air Force Leadership Academy; 12-Months (Correspondence Course on Leadership, Management, Oral and Written Communication, Public Speaking); Joint Senior Professional Military Education; 16 hrs. (joint Military Forces Indoctrination); Junior Leadership Academy; 8 Weeks (Leadership, Management, Oral and Written Communication, Public Speaking). She is currently employed by the State of South Dakota and works in her local court house in Mitchell, SD.

Since retiring from the Air Force and relocating to Parkston, Barb has been involved in her community. She has served 5 years on the Parkston School Board and have been elected the Vice President of the school board for the past two years. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #194 in Parkston for four years and was selected "Legionette of the Year" for 2009 and held the position of treasurer in the Auxiliary for 2 years. Barb is a lifetime member of the Parkston Athletic Booster Club. She is a member of the Sacred Heart Parish where she taught religious education for the fourth, sixth and junior grades for five years. Barb is a lifetime member of the American Legion Post #194 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3298 where she currently hold the position of Quartermaster for the Post and has held that position for 5 years where she earned the prestigious "white hat" for the years 2016 and 2017. In 2017 she became a member of the Military Order of the Cooties.

Barb has been an active member of the VFW since 2012 by serving as post Quartermaster for the past 5 years for her post 3298 in Parkston. Barb is married to a fellow retired AF veteran, Charles McKean, and they have a set of twins, Jordan and McKenzie who will attend SDSU in Brookings this fall.

## Inspector 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  
Inspector

## Auxiliary President's Acceptance Speech 2017



Where else could you start but to start with, Thank You! The biggest thank you must go to my family who I would like to introduce at this time. My husband of almost 20 years, Rick Alm. My daughter, Jennifer Little, who will be serving as our Department Secretary. My granddaughter, Mickayla Little, who is a fantastic volunteer for the VFW

Auxiliary functions. My granddaughter, Jakia Cleveland, who will be serving as Department Historian and my sister, Wanda Maloney, who will be serving as Department Banner Bearer. Without their support and sacrifice of time, effort and assistance I would not have been able to even be an auxiliary guard, let alone Department President. Another huge thank you must go to Past Department President Nancy Worth and Past Commander Mike Mullen, without their help and guidance I would have never been able to make this journey. I must also recognize, Zoe Berman-Yellin, my Department Assistant Guard and Regis Blodgett, my Department Flag Bearer and my official chauffeur and body guard for the year, who are both up for almost every crazy idea I have. There are so many of you here that have played a major role in helping me through the chairs.

The friendship and guidance from our Past Department Presidents has been invaluable but most of all, Carol Gross. You see, she was serving as Department President at the first Department function I attended and treated me with such warmth and kindness it made me think that, just maybe, there might be a place at Department level where I could help. I thank you Carol and time will tell if the rest of the membership will thank you too!

Many Post members and Past Commanders have also played major roles in the spurring me on to service for these wonderful veteran service organizations, but I would be horribly remiss to not mention DD Couch, who has been my champion at all levels of my involvement with the VFW. Thank you, DD.

I am looking forward to continuing working with Commander Rick Williamson. Although we don't live together as the past two Department Presidents have lived with the Department Commanders, we have been able to coordinate things very well. After all, if I get angry with a "Rick", no one will if I am ranting about my hubby or my Commander.

—Aux. President's Acceptance Speech continued on Pg. 9

## Commander's Acceptance Speech 2017

Comrades, Brothers, and Sisters,

Thank You for this very special honor of being your commander. Without your encouragement and trust, I would not be standing up here today and by honor, I mean that from the bottom of my heart. Only 12 years ago I joined this great organization, to be your commander today seems like a whirlwind journey, that has seen so many wonderful friendships develop. From these bonds, many mentors have helped me along the way to which I would like to Thank, without naming anyone for fear of forgetting someone. I know who you are, and I am quite sure you know also.

I will work as hard as possible to make this year a successful one, we have such great people to assist when needed and give guidance when called upon. I have no doubt we will have issues that will come up, and I will promise you that I will be fair, honest, and follow the bylaws of our VFW. Our team, that has been elected to surround me, will always do what is best for the Dept. of S. Dak and its members. I will work very closely with my President Carrie Alm, to whom I congratulate for your election, and her staff. Carrie, we will have a great year, we may not always see things eye to eye but we will always do what is right for our department. I cherish the friendship that we have made, and we will always have fond memories of doing this together. We will have fun, if not I may have to resign...

not really.

I would like to bring some fun back into our VFW, with that I would like to challenge every post in the state to hold a fun event this year for their members. We can't work all the time, we need to take time to let our workers have some enjoyment. Maybe a barbeque, golf outing, fishing tournament, or anything else you can think of. Just try to remember those that work to make this organization what it is. Let's have fun and create more friends along the way.

Carrie and I have chosen our special project to be the installation of a 80-ft. flagpole at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. We will be conducting some raffles this year to help with this project. Any help would be appreciated, bring your cash for the raffles. This flagpole will have a plaque recognizing the Department for our donation. We are looking at appx. \$10,000.00, but we feel it is achievable for our veterans of this state.

In closing I would once again say thank you, thank you, thank you. It is an honor, and please remember that I, and our dept. staff, work for you. We are here to help when needed, give advice when asked, and to serve you to make your year the best we can. "Dig In" for membership, have fun, work together and God Bless you all.

**Rick Williamson**  
State Commander

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



The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) has ventured out on a new program - Operation CARS (Calling All Returning Servicemembers). SDDVA has been making phone calls to veterans who have transitioned out of the military in the last year. It's a great opportunity to express our gratitude and ensure they know what South Dakota has to offer veterans and military families.

SDDVA has been providing these heroes with contact information for their county or tribal veterans service officer (VSOs). These leaders are a great stop for returning veterans and their families to get connected with their community. South Dakota currently has 70 county and tribal veterans service offices.

SDDVA recently partnered with the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulations (DLR), the Governor's Office, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development in an effort to recruit veterans for our South Dakota workforce. DOL provides employment assistance, eligibility determinations, and direct referrals to job openings through the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program. The SDWORKS job matching system was enhanced in March 2015 to include the capability for veterans to search for jobs using their Military Occupational Classification (MOC) code. Veterans can also convert MOC to equivalent civilian employment opportunities using these two DOL websites: Crosswalk (<https://www.onetonline.org/crosswalk/>) or My Next Move (<https://www.mynextmove.org/vets/find/military>).

Throughout our collective endeavor, our campaign has focused on 12 good reasons veterans should live in South Dakota: two

VA Health Care systems, 11 Community Based Outpatient clinics, no state income tax, low unemployment, a Military Interstate Children's Education Compact, an Army and Air National Guard footprint on both sides of the state, a second place rating among the 50 for military retirees, veterans preference, a safe place to live and raise a family, veterans can receive credit for military training when obtaining licenses, no time limits for veterans to use tuition benefits at institutions under control of the South Dakota Board of Regents, and veterans exempted from 12-month residency requirements.

SDDVA also recently modified statutes to ensure eligible veterans receive preference for appointment, employment, and promotion at all levels of government, including state, counties, municipalities, and school districts. Applicants do not have to live within the state boundaries to use this benefit. If the applicant possesses at least the minimum qualifications necessary to fill the position, the veteran shall be granted an interview.

As the Fourth of July nears, remember it is a celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, one of the most famous and cherished documents.

It's a celebration of the values that this country was founded upon.

It's a celebration of the ideals of democracy, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is a time for us to embrace the foundation this great country was built on and share this legacy with our children and our grandchildren.

As we gather with friends and family this Fourth of July, let us all CELEBRATE our independence. May God Bless America.

**Larry Zimmerman, Secretary**  
SD Department of Veterans Affairs

## VFW National Home for Children



On Memorial Day, the children and families at the National Home paid tribute to our Nation's fallen heroes with patriotic events and activities.

Today, military families continue to experience the strain of deployments. High operational tempos are still tearing at the fabric of families, shattering family stability, quality of life, spouse employment and more.

The National Home helps families face problems such as post-traumatic stress, reintegration, high unemployment, divorce, suicide and domestic violence. The Home also offers veterans across the nation free assistance through our Military and Veteran Family Helpline. For many veterans the National Home is often their last hope.

The Arizona House built in 1955 and sponsored until 2001 by South Dakota (47 years). The National Home grew from a spirit of concern for those left behind in WW I. The idea for the National Home for children was originally planted in 1923, when the Military Order of the Cooties presented the concept of a Home for the Orphans of the VFW at their National Convention.

Amy Ross, working with the Michigan VFW, was enthusiastically searching for jobs for returning WW I Veterans and eventually found 9,000 jobs in Detroit. This tireless effort by her lead to meeting with millionaire Corey Spenser, who donated 472 acres at Eaton Rapids, MI.

Amy Ross died in 1924 at the age of 25 and was given a Military Funeral by the VFW. In an editorial that was written, it stated that the "VFW National Home is the greatest objective ever placed before and Veterans organization. It will give every VFW Post something tangible to work for. To this day the VFW National Home remains the singular project of its type in our country devoted to the care of Children and Families of our Veterans and stands as a living memorial to the National Heroes.

Story of action taken by the WW I VFW Veterans at their 1925 Convention. Herd of Holstein Cows.

The SD Cottage (house) was completed in 1954. I saw it in the fall of 1955 on my way from the National Convention in Boston. It is a two story, 1933 three bedroom square foot, brick building with a basement, one and one half baths up and one bath and utility down.

The reason the Department let it go was financial. After 47 years, it needed a new furnace, air conditioner, new shingled roof, chimney repair, all three baths reconditioned, plus paint.

—NATIONAL HOME, continued on page 5



## VFW Baseball History

(modified from <http://www.sdvfwbasketball.com/history>)



**Danny Frisby-Griffin**  
VFW Baseball Chairman

The South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars baseball program has given boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 16 a chance to play baseball since 1959. Originally Junior-Junior Baseball, it was renamed Teener Baseball in 1959, and again in 1992 to VFW Baseball. From 1959 to 1968, a playoff was held between the State A and State B Tournament winners as part of competition that led to a National Teener Tournament in Hershey, PA. The National Tournament has since been discontinued. In 1973 a Class AA Division was formed creating a third State Tournament and allowing more players to participate in tournament competition. The Varsity Division is divided into Class A and Class B. A team sportsmanship award is presented to each Class in the Varsity Division by the

South Dakota Baseball Umpire Association in memory of long time umpire Jim Thury who umpired several State VFW Tournaments and games in all divisions.

In 1992 the first 13-14 year old tournament was held and since then it has been divided into Class B and Class A brackets. In 2004 the South Dakota VFW started to present the 13 and 14 year old division with team sportsmanship awards at the state tournaments. It was named the "William Radigan Team Sportsmanship Award" after William Radigan from Vermillion. Bill was on the original baseball committee in 1959 and served as State Adjutant/Quartermaster for the first forty years of this committee. His commitment to this program and the youth of South Dakota has made the longevity and success of South Dakota VFW Baseball a reality.

The 12 under division was introduced in 2006 with AA, A and B classes with 32 teams who participated in the first year. The first two years the tournament was held in Mitchell, South Dakota with all classes at one location. After that Sioux Falls and Brandon were added to the rotation of tournament locations. Today there is a Class A and Class B. Since 2014 the Class B tournament was held in a Class B community, the Class A tournament was held in a Class A Community.

In 2009 the 10 under division was held in Flandreau, South Dakota with 28 teams. There were three classes AA, A and B. The second year the tournament was moved to Mitchell, then rotated between Sioux Falls, Brandon and Mitchell.

Teams were first divided into classes by city population. That was changed in 2004 when teams were divided up by their school enrollments. Due to declining populations in rural areas the state rules were changed in 2005 to allow girls to play.

The program is headed by a State Chairman, Director of Baseball Operations, Advisory Committee and State Baseball Regional Commissioners. Each year an Annual Meeting is held to discuss rules and pick tournament sites. Along with the commissioners and state baseball committee members, each registered team has a vote.

Regional and state tournaments are held in late July and early August of each year. Each summer approximately 100 teams and 1,200 players will participate in the program state wide. The 2017 State Tournament Dates/Sites are as follows:

—BASEBALL HISTORY, continued on page 10

## Mitchell VFW Post 2750

Below are two articles describing the wonderful projects SD VFW Post 2750 is involved in. The projects have been successful secondary to all the volunteer time that our veteran members have contributed. This has helped unite our membership and will be tremendous assets to our community as well as to the future of our Post 2750 in Mitchell, SD.

**Martin Christensen, Commander  
VFW Post 2750**

### Veterans Memorial Park

On 1 May 2016, six of our members volunteered to help raise funds, plan and design the Veterans Park on the location of our old VFW building. We assisted in selling tickets for a golf cart that was raffled off which raised \$16,000. We also helped design and solicit bids for bricks which will be displayed in the Memorial Park. We also assisted in major fundraising projects which raised over \$250,000 which came from Mitchell businesses and citizens. The project will be started in April 2017 and finished by September 2017.



### Post 2750 Second Floor remodeling project

Beyond our control and desire we lost our post home and club when a common wall collapsed during the demolition of an adjoining building. This demolition was being done by another entity. With the funds from the settlement and numerous fund raising projects we purchased a two story building and renovated the bottom floor. The building had contained a retail store. We did most of the work ourselves, but we soon exhausted our funds. We put in bathrooms, a bar, furnishings and completely redone the bottom floor. We have completed the bar area, installed a new furnace and air conditioner and added a very nice patio area in the rear of the building. We had to do this part first in order to have an income to meet day to day expenses. It is a very nice bar area that we are very proud of. Still, we have one huge shortcoming. We have a nice bar that was needed, but we don't really have a "Post Home." We do not have a hall or room where we can hold meetings. We are not able to get together with Veterans and their families, have any type of social functions, or conduct VFW ceremonies and business. Currently, we have to close the bar to hold meetings or have the meeting in our basement.

Our solution is to finish off the second floor to complete our new Post Home. This presents some challenges and problems, as it is completely unfinished. Handicap access and fire code compliance are major considerations. As are electrical wiring, lighting, bathrooms and heating/cooling. Our memorabilia display area will be an integral part of the post meeting hall. Items donated by Veterans and their families will be placed in display cases and/or mounted on the walls. Pictures of any Veteran in uniform will be encouraged.

Our estimated costs for renovations is \$350,000 which includes a fire suppression system, sprinkler system, fire safety, second floor fire escape system, handicap elevator, second floor bathrooms and plumbing, electrical, insulation, HVAC, wallboard, false ceiling and a small office.


We began working on the project initially beginning with the clean-up, removing all the old contents and installing a base floor. All rooms and walls were then framed, followed by insulation, wallboard, texturing and painting. We then installed a false ceiling and completed hooking up the sprinkler system and HVAC system and electrical outlets and finished the wiring.

We are in the process of finishing the ceiling and then finishing the bathrooms, kitchen and floor. This summer we hope to begin to install the elevator on our exterior back wall.

Since beginning in January 2016, so far, over \$51,745 and 3034 hours were donated by members, community businesses and residents. \$7084 was raised by selling raffle tickets for an M-1 rifle and bayonet. Additionally, door to door solicitation brought a total of \$8008. Public speaking to various businesses and civic organizations warranted another more funds: Palace City Lions (\$10,000), PBO Elks #1059 (\$5,000), Mitchell Exchange Club (\$500), DAV (\$10,000), Rotary Club (\$1500), and Mabee Eye Clinic (\$500). Grants were obtained from the following: South Dakota Foundation (\$10,000) and Sam Welder Foundation (\$10,000). GoFundMe.com yielded \$2500.

## From the Past

SD Overseas Veteran - July/Aug./Sept. 2000 Issue



### RAYMOND GALLAGHER - MILITARY AFFAIRS

*Write up from invocation brochure which will be displayed with his picture in the Hall of Fame.*

Having served in the United States Navy in the 1940's, followed by graduation from University of South Dakota Law School in 1948, Raymond (Ray) Gallagher was elected to the post of National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and served that post from 1969 to 1970. His term as Commander-in-Chief came at a time when the country was divided over our involvement in the Vietnam War. While others were protesting our involvement in the war effort, Ray, as an ally to then President Richard Nixon, was organizing "Operation Speak-Out," asking Americans to speak out in support of the U.S. Troops in Vietnam. During his tenure as Commander-in-Chief, he traveled to Vietnam to see first-hand the conditions our soldiers were facing. As the U.S. began withdrawal from Vietnam, Ray also became a voice on the national level in support of increased funding for benefits for Veterans and Veterans' Hospitals. He was only the second national Commander in Chief from South Dakota (the first being Merton Tice, Mitchell in 1954). Ray will be remembered for his candor and openness about issues at a time when controversy over war involvement was intense.

## District Commanders Corner

The Program of presenting a **Life Membership Baseball Style Cap** to any member who paid their entire Life membership proposed by the District Commander's Conference and endorsed by the Council of Administration proved extremely successful as the Department had **174** New Life Members from 1 July 2016 thru 30 June 2017. Caps have been distributed to each of the individuals holding the District Commander position last year and they will be getting them to the Post Commanders or the deserving individual in the near future. The previous District Commanders would like to extend a huge Thank You on behalf of the Department for your participation in this Program.

The New Council of Administration has authorized the extension of the Program of the presenting a Life Membership Baseball Cap to any member who pays their Entire Life Membership during the period 1 July 2017 thru 30 June 2018. This Program comes at no additional cost to the Department. District Commanders have the Caps in hand and they will be presented as memberships are paid and verified.

These Life member Baseball Caps are also available to any Life Member who wishes to purchase one. The cost is \$15 each.

Again, this is an effort to increase Life Membership and Promote our Organization. Support at all Levels is necessary for this effort to succeed. Points of contact concerning this Program are the individuals listed below.

State VFW District 1 Commander Colin Reisner, District 4 Commander Lyle Berg, District 6 Commander Glynis Collier, District 7 Commander Tom Hafner, District 10 Commander Tim Brookes.

*Submitted by District #7 Commander Tom Hafner*

### Dave Cauley, Past State Commander 2010-2011, Vietnam Veteran

Dave's military service stories is being presented in the new book "Vietnam Veterans Still Coming Home" soon to be published and available. See article on page 12. **The following was rec'd from Gary Knudson regarding Dave Cauley, PSC.**

Sunday I talked with Dave Cauley for the first time since last summer. Dave was very talkative and had some good and bad news. If you hadn't heard, he and Jan took a cruise to Hawaii last year. On the way over Dave got one of those shipboard viruses that we hear about. He spent most of the time confined to their cabin. He said he enjoyed just looking out over the balcony watching the ocean go by. He can see the best in everything, what an inspiration to us all.

He and Jan are planning another trip to Hawaii in August, this time they will stay at a resort that is just for military and dependents. After he told me about his travels, past and future he told me they have diagnosed him with Alzheimer's. After all that Dave had been thru, now he and Jan have that to face. He didn't sound defeated, only that he has to face this thing and he will. He knows what is happening, he had an uncle die from the dreaded disease. Yesterday he sounded so good and coherent and we must have talked for 15 minutes. He said he has good days and bad, yesterday was a good day. He wanted me to tell all his friends what is going on with Jan and him and what they face. He told me Jan had given him a book with lots pictures of the Reagan years, ( he isn't much for reading anymore,) it makes him too tired. He can't talk too long, it wears him out but he asked everyone to drop a line or a short phone call would be fine.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The 2017-2018 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy themes have been released. The Voice of Democracy theme is: "AMERICAN HISTORY; OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE." The Patriot's Pen theme is: "AMERICA'S GIFT TO MY GENERATION." It's important to note that the deadline has changed from previous years. The deadline for entries to Posts is October 31, 2017. The updated entry forms will be up on the VFW website no later than April 1st, and will be available from the VFW store soon after.

## Women Veterans of Eastern South Dakota and Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

Attention Women Veterans/Women Veteran Employees: The Sioux Falls VA plans to host a Women Veterans Conference later this year. We're asking for your input about what you would like to have at your conference. Please contact Brenda Fredericks at [brenda.fredericks@va.gov](mailto:brenda.fredericks@va.gov) or call her at Ext. 6250.

—*NATIONAL HOME, continued from page 4*

Repairs and replacements cost was estimated to be about \$20,000, with a total of \$60,000 spent by the Department of Arizona to date. This includes eleven years of maintenance at plus or minus \$4,000 per year or \$334 per month. This is on a home worth at least a half a million.

There are 42 single 3 bedroom houses and 3 2-bedroom duplexes. 72 children, 35 mothers, fathers, parents. 11 unoccupied due to renovation, moving in-out.

The article by Pat was neat to receive for this report. It does show how important the National Home is to the VFW, and we can all be proud of the Home.

When thinking about where to spend your extra money, just donate it to the National Home. Donate - Donate - Donate.

For more information visit the VFW National Home for Children website: [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org) Or you may call 1-800-424-8360.

**Verne H. Hansen, Chairman  
VFW National Home for Children  
VFW Department of South Dakota**

# Special State Convention Highlights

### All State Post Commanders



(L-R): Sean Johnson, Aberdeen VFW Post 17; Dale Stibral, Yankton, VFW Post 791; Diane Dickman, VFW Post 628; William Huffman, VFW Post 3298; Rolland Harvey, Brookings Post 2118; James Osnes, VFW Post 9950; Daniel Haase, VFW Post 2966

### All State Post Quartermasters



(L-R): Earl Mike Boxa, Burke VFW Post 9950; Rodney Polhamus, Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628; Colin Reisner, Yankton, VFW Post 791; Barbara McKean, Parkston, VFW Post 3298; Jerry Seiner, Wagner, VFW Post 7319; Joseph Sedlacek, Scotland, VFW Post 2966; Darwin Tolzin, Brookings, VFW Post 2118

### All State District Commanders



(L-R): District 2, Thomas Anez; District 6, Pam Heiser; District 7, Tom Hafner.

### 87th State Convention, Pierre, South Dakota – June 2017



A large portion of the Auxiliary in attendance are pictured here surrounding National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Vince B.J. Lawrence.



Collage Presentation presented to Commander Dennis Sharp by National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Vince B.J. Lawrence, National Representative, during the State Convention banquet.



Gordon Paul retiring as Chief of Staff and turning it over to the new "Chief of Staff" Todd Struwe of Brookings, Post 2118, for the 2017-2018 year.



State Commander, Dennis Sharp accepting a special VFW Henry rifle from a national membership contest, being at 97% plus by May 2017. Presenting this award during the 87th annual State Convention banquet, is National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Vince B.J. Lawrence.

## WE SUPPORT OUR VETS



Christine Bestgen of the "Our Fallen Heroes" Foundation accepting a \$1,000 check from Past Auxiliary President, Karen Sharp. Funding this was from the Coyote Veterans Hunt, Director Patty Mitchell.



National Representatives-Our own (L-R): National Council member #23, D.D. Couch; National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Vince B.J. Lawrence; Auxiliary National Conductress, Sandra Onstwedder; another of our own, Auxiliary National Councilwoman #23, Vickie Rosse.



### Baker-Simpson Award

Baker-Simpson Award was presented to Sean Johnson of VFW Post 17, Aberdeen. This award is presented to the most Outstanding Post Commander of the Year, 2016-2017. Sean Johnson was also awarded the Captain of the Post Commanders Team.

(L-R): National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Vince Lawrence; Recipient, Sean Johnson, and his companion dog "Cole"; State Commander, Dennis Sharp.

### Eagle Scout of the Year 2016-2017

SETH SMITH FROM BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA TROOP #1

Scout project – Seth built 4 raised gardens, 4’x15’ with concrete paveway around them for people in wheelchairs to plant and work their flowers and garden patches. Congratulations Eagle Scout, Seth Smith.



Plaque and a check for \$100 was presented by National Jr. Vice Commander Vince B.J. Lawrence and State Commander Dennis Sharp.

### EMT Emergency Medical Service of the Year 2017



Joey Denison of Arlington, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Watertown VFW Post 750. (L-R): National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Vince B.J. Lawrence; Recipient of this award, Joey Denison; State Commander, Dennis Sharp.

### Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2017



Robert Lester of Lead, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Deadwood VFW Post 5969. (L-R): National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Vince B.J. Lawrence; Recipient of this award, Robert Lester; State Commander, Dennis Sharp.



### Firefighter of the Year 2017

Paul Morris of Mitchell, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Mitchell VFW Post 2750. The Recipient of this award was unable to attend the Convention in Pierre. The award will be presented by our State Officer at a Post meeting in July.

### William J. Radigan Award

William J. RXXX's Award was presented to Sean Johnson of VFW Post 17, Aberdeen. This award is presented to the most Outstanding Post Commander of the Year, 2016-2017. Sean Johnson was also awarded the Captain of the Post Commanders Team.



(L-R): National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Vince Lawrence; Recipient, Sean Johnson, and his companion dog "Cole"; State Commander, Dennis Sharp.

### Endorsement

Council Endorses Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic of Illinois' Big Ten Candidate for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief 2019-2020



All American Department Commander; Four Term National Judge Advocate General; National Parliamentarian; Desert Storm Veteran

### Auxiliary State and District Officers —see page 9



State Commander, Dennis Sharp and Auxiliary President, Karen Sharp being escorted by Robert Folkerts from Mitchell VFW Post 2750, during the Loyalty Day parade in Brandon, South Dakota. This 1959 Pontiac was restored after finding it at the bottom of a slough and then set in a shelter belt for 13 years by Robert. His schedule is to have this vehicle in as many state parades as he can.

### Armed Forces Day

On May 20, 2017, Dennis Sharp presented Pierre Burger King a plaque for its support of VFW Unmet needs program.



Pictured: Lois Knudson, O'Dean Solberg, Chris Forester; BK Manager; BK Assistant Manager, Dennis Sharp; Gary Kneudson; Gordon Paul; Avery Sharp; Karen Sharp; Penny Galinat; and Bill Weischedel (kneeling).

We honored five WWII Veterans on "Loyalty Day." Thirty-six attended an honor dinner for Dr. Stanley Allen, Carl Lindner, Bob Ries and Harry Pieschke. The five were each given a "Loyalty Day Certificate of Honor" for their loyal and faithful service. A patriotic salute was performed in their honor.



Front Row (L-R): Dr. Stanley Allen, Carl Lindner, Bob Ries, Maxine Nordseth, Verlyn Nordseth, Harry Pieschke, Mrs. Harry Pischke Back Row (L-R): Aux. President Joan Bowers, Ray Kerkstetter



## Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Dept. of South Dakota



Carrie Alm's theme this year is:  
**"Accentuate the Positive"**



### Auxiliary State President's Report

*Carrie Alm*



Greetings to everyone and I am looking forward to a great year working with all those wonderful people that are willing to give of themselves to benefit our veterans who gave so much for our freedom!

Our official new year starts with State Commander Rick Williamson and my installation on June 25, 2017 at Convention. As you can guess, we have been busy up until that with planning, prepping and organizing. We look forward to this year with great promise of being able to serve our veterans with pride. Our themes work well together and show you how we will be looking at our year to serve. My theme is "Accentuating the Positive" because it is too easy for our world to dwell on the other and we want to do positive things for our veterans. Rick's theme is "The Future is Now" and that speaks to me saying, you cannot put off to tomorrow, what can be done for our veterans today.

This year is showing a little bit of change on the part of our leadership. We appreciate anyone and everyone that donates their time, but sometimes staying in the same spot year after year isn't always what benefits your organization. Due to my thoughts on this, I have added several co-chairmen to many

of our committees so that we will maybe get some different outlook and new ideas. You might see some different ways of supporting our veterans this year or different fundraisers for different programs. We never discourage anyone from helping or giving their ideas to us, so please let us know if you have any great ideas that would benefit our organization. I don't want to make things too drastic or stressful on anyone, but as you know, eventually certain committee chairman decide not to help anymore or have to leave abruptly due to health, etc. By doing the co-chairman idea, more than one person also knows how things are done down the road when those things happen.

We are having our 3rd annual Auxiliary Retreat again this year, to once again be held at The Roost in Grenville starting lunchtime Thursday, August 17th and continuing until after breakfast on Sunday, August 20th. We will have some laid back training, fun crafts, field trips, lots of food and comradery, open to all members! This is not an officer only and is open to all members of our auxiliary (men or women)! You might even find some time to fish if that's something you like to do! This retreat is possible because of the wonderful hospitality and kindness of our auxiliary members, Patti and Skip. You do not have to attend all four days if that is not a possibility, come as you can and come as you are! Please contact me if you are interested in registering to attend any

or all of the retreat at 605-517-0287 (call or text) or email at [littlegirlz3@msn.com](mailto:littlegirlz3@msn.com).

As of July 1st, the new member year starts all over again. Don't wait or hold off, start communicating with members to get those memberships paid. You can always encourage them to transfer to life membership with the bonus being they don't have to remember to pay yearly. Be sure to check out the General Orders and review the wonderful incentives being offered to us by the Department Membership Chair, Sandi Moss. Remember, if all members of our auxiliary just talked to one person and recruited them as a new member, we would double in size by next year.

Remember, everyday is buddy poppy day, so during the summer months, take advantage of the nice weather and have your Post and/or Auxiliary get a few members together and get out there to distribute poppies. The best time to do this is during your local towns summer celebration or festival.

As I have said, I am excited to have a very positive year! Working together for our veterans is always beneficial. I encourage you to contact me for anything you may need. Please feel free to use the contact information listed above in the paragraph about the retreat.

Loyally,

**Carrie Alm, Department President 2017-2018**

### Auxiliary Sr. Vice President

*Mary Kirkvold*



We are starting our New Year at the VFW and VFW AUXILIARY. Some of us did not make 100% in membership this past year, we need to change that. Start now, when the reminder letters get sent out, ask our members to pay their dues at once, not to put it off. When making out your Year End Report, start keeping track of the events, donations, pictures, etc., it makes it much easier at the end of the year.

#### FIGHTING FOR VETERANS!

Around the world, the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary, is reaching out to America's heroes-during long, dangerous deployments, during the often difficult transition back to civilian life and always in the years that follow. The VFW and VFW Auxiliary supports our veterans and service members with programs that make a real difference...educational resources and support...financial assistance during hard times. These programs are available at no charge to veterans and their families, thanks to the generosity of members of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and millions of patriotic supporters.

#### LETTERS FROM THE HEART

"It warms my heart to see that people still care about Veterans and their families."

"The VFW and the VFW Auxiliary, has proven I am not as alone as I thought and felt. The men and women who make up the body of this organisation have my deepest respect".

"Anytime I've needed them, the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary has always been their for me. They've helped more than I could ever say".

**Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Mary Kirkvold**

### Auxiliary Jr. Vice President & Membership/Leadership Chairman Report

*Sandi Moss*



The Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention for this year is over. It was an inspiring and a learning event. Many awards were given out during the Convention. The State Auxiliary gave out many awards to Auxiliaries for 100% or above in the Convention. We are trying to get 100% before 1 July. There were eighteen Auxiliaries over 100% and the others were over 90%, so the goal is possible. The National Auxiliary made 100% for the second year in a row!

We are now starting a new year. This year I am Junior Vice President and Auxiliary State Membership Chairman. I am very excited about this position. There are many people eligible to become an Auxiliary Member, all we have to do is ask them. We are a team and as such, we have the ability to recruit new members and get many to rejoin. Almost everyone is interested in being a member of a winning team.

Sometimes in our enthusiasm we recruit a new member and go out to get another right away, not a good idea. New members need mentoring. They joined but now what do they do to help our team? We need to be there to answer questions for them and not let them become overwhelmed. The VFWA offers many leadership opportunities and best of all, we help our Veterans. We must take the time to teach them our many programs and help them find their niche in our organization.

We are now able to recruit not just women into the Auxiliary but men as well. There are many people out there who are proud of their fathers, mothers, husbands, grandmothers, grandsons, and granddaughters and, if asked, would join our Organization. In order to recruit those eligible we need to learn all that the VFWA has to offer. Veterans and Family Support is our largest program from helping older Veterans and those returning from current conflicts to the VFW National Home, we support our military heroes.

Our VFW and VFW Auxiliary family is over one and a half million strong and getting larger everyday! Everyone feels better when they can give to others, volunteers do that

everyday. Our Nation was founded by Volunteers and through our Organization we are helping keep our Nation strong. Volunteering makes a person feel useful. As a member of the VFW Auxiliary our usefulness know no boundaries. A growing membership signifies a healthy organization. We can keep growing by recruiting new members and the only way to that is to ASK!!!

I will gladly answer any questions that you have about membership. My number is 605-341-0442. We service Veterans everyday in thousands of ways. We cannot continue to do this unless we grow our Membership. Our Veterans have sacrificed through the years, we are blessed to be able to give back to them through the VFW Auxiliary every day, from raising funds for different programs to working the very same programs. There will always be a need for more members to keep these programs going. We need new members so that there will always to someone to pass the knowledge on to, just as there has always been someone there to pick up the baton and continue the fight for our freedom. God bless our Veterans and God bless the USA.



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY Department of South Dakota Officers - 2017-2018

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## South Dakota VFW Auxiliary State Line Officers



*Row 1: Chaplain Donita Mullinix; Sr. Vice Mary Kirkvold; State Auxiliary President Carrie Alm, and Earl her companion dog; Jr. Vice Commander Sandi Moss; Treasurer Carol Gross. Row 2: Guard Patti Mitchell; Conductress Wanda Mix.*

## VFW Auxiliary District Officers Department of South Dakota



*Row 1 (L-R): Dist #1, Cindy Williamson; Dist #4, Sharon Welnitz; Dist #6, Nancy Chester. Row 2: Dist #7, Leanne Payne; Dist #10, Nancy Worth.*

### —Aux. President's Acceptance Speech from on Pg. 3

I am hoping to celebrate many "positive" advancements for our Auxiliary and veterans in the upcoming year. Many of our PDP's have stepped up to mentor newer members to ensure our heritage will not be lost. I am very excited with the enthusiasm level of the Auxiliary's Program Chairman and I'm "positive" their efforts will be rewarded. As you may have noticed I like using the word positive – thusly my motto for this year "Accentuate the Positive." Going forward into each new challenge, and adding a heightened level of communication will ensure us "positive" results for Veterans. Our incoming National Presidents, Dee Guillory, has a motto of "Catch the Dream" and I think all of us have dreams for the advancement of veteran's rights and benefits.

The auxiliary is blessed with a wonderful slate of National Officers who are approachable and helpful. We are thankful they sent us a Big 10 gal, Sandra Onstwedder, to serve as my installing officer and National Representative for our Convention. Thank you Sandra.

Mostly, I would definitely love to see each Auxiliary's President, Treasurer, and Membership Chairman create a close and personal relationship with National Ambassador, Debbie McCollum, and Big 10 Conference Coach, Brenda Bryant, as they are serving as leaders of the membership program for the upcoming year. We all must strive to make the Department of South Dakota do their part and achieve 100% membership because without members our programs have no chance of succeeding and our organization has no chance of surviving.

Once again, thank you to each and every one of you and may we go forward this year and "Accentuate the Positive" and "Dig In" to do our best for the Veterans of South Dakota and our country.

Thank you.

**Carrie Alm**  
Auxiliary President | 2017-2018

## Past Auxiliary President Report 2016 – 2017



The whirlwind is calm as my year as Auxiliary President has come to an end. It has been a tremendous journey. It was such an honor and privilege to have been selected to serve as the VFW Auxiliary President for the year 2016—2017.

The last-quarter of my term was just as busy as the previous three. In April, I attended the Spring District meetings in District 6 and 10. The redistricting has been achieved thanks to all the hard work of many. It will be a transition, but I have no doubt that it will be good for everyone.

May found Commander Dennis and me attending the Loyalty Day parade in Brandon, which we enjoyed immensely. The Brandon VFW does a great job. I was also honored to attend the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics in Spearfish. It was a very humbling experience.

Convention was held in June, which made for a lot of preparations throughout the whole year, but especially the last few months. I wish to thank all the members of Post 2038 and Auxiliary for all their hard work in making the convention such a success.

In July, Past Commander Dennis and I are looking forward to attend the National Convention in New Orleans. We have a good representation going, and I'm sure that South Dakota will come home with many awards acknowledging all the hard work of all the members.

I have placed my name in nomination for District 9 (Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota) Trustee for the VFW National Home for Children. If elected, I will be serving a six-year term. It is my understanding that life members of the National Home will be sent ballots in the near future. When you receive your ballot, I would appreciate your vote.

As I said before, it has been an honor and privilege to have served as SD VFW Auxiliary President. The experiences, knowledge, and friendships gained in this past year will be with me forever. I will never be able to adequately express my gratitude to the members of the SD VFW and Auxiliary.

I wish President Carrie Alm and her team a wonderful year as they embark on their journey. It is a memorable ride. Good Luck and Best Wishes.

NOW IS THE TIME

**Karen Sharp**  
SD VFW Auxiliary President  
2016-2017

—BASEBALL HISTORY, continued from page 4

#### Class A

- 10U – Humbolt; July 14-16
- 12U – Humbolt; July 14-16
- 13/14 Jr. Teeners – Milbank; July 21-23, Regions held the week prior
- 15/16 Teeners – Beresford; Aug 4-6, Regions held the week after 13/14 State

#### Class B

- 10U – Castlewood/Hamlin Area; July 14-16
- 12U – Canova; July 14-16
- 13/14 Jr. Teeners – Baltic; July 21-23, Regions held the week prior
- 15/16 Teeners – Gregory; Aug 4-6; Regions held the week after 13/14 State

Each tournament game is required to have the Pledge of Allegiances and the VFW Baseball Sportsmanship Code recited by the players before the game starts. The purpose of this program is to create fellowship, leadership and teamwork among the youth of South Dakota. The South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to have an opportunity to provide such a program to the youth of our state. We really need Comrade support at our regional and state tournaments. If you're available, please contact me. Thanks.

**Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin**

Department of South Dakota | 2017 Baseball Chairman

## Past Commander's Report

### Dennis Sharp



Comrades and Sisters:

The year of serving as your Department Commander has come full circle as of June 25, 2017. Since the last article for the Overseas Veterans, I have been busy finishing the year's obligations.

I attended the South Dakota Veterans Council meeting in April, and VFW spring meetings for District 6 and District 10, and installed officers.

In May, Auxiliary President Karen and I attended the Loyalty Day parade in Brandon, SD, which we enjoyed very much. We had the honor and privilege to ride in a 1959 Pontiac Bonneville convertible,

We both want to say thank you to Bob for providing the convertible to ride in the parade.

May also brought on VFW State Judging to determine awards for Post Commanders, Post Quartermasters, District Commanders and Department winners. It was a long day, and winners were announced and presentations made at the State Convention in June.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as your State Commander this past year. I am sure that I have made mistakes. In a year when there was a big transition in the Department, we have taken the challenge and moved forward. We have met goals in membership that has not happened for some time. Thank you to all who helped guide me and advise me through that process. It has been a challenging and fun year. It has brought many new experiences and friendships throughout my travels. I have made friendships and memories that will never be forgotten.

I wish Rick Williamson the best as he assumes the duties and responsibilities as Department Commander. I know that he and his line officers will do whatever is best for the Department, and I will be there for any help or support when needed.

Thank you for a great fulfilling and rewarding year.

**Tomorrow is Today**

**Dennis Sharp**

Department Commander 2016 — 2017

#### Jan Walker

Jan Walker 80 of Spearfish, passed away peacefully on May 22, 2017 surrounded by her beloved siblings Ruth, Sharon and Ward.

Jan was born August 18, 1936 in Rapid City, daughter of Jack and Virginia Beaird.

She was raised in Vale, SD by her Mom and Stepfather "Daddy Chan" Williamson. She married Jim Smith in 1954 and had 4 children; Kathy (Mark), Donna (Doyle), and Patti (Rob) son, David deceased at age 5. She has seven grandchildren: Corey, Michelle, Jason, Lezlee, Michael, Tyler and Lucas. She also has four great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Jan has had a variety of occupations starting out as a dental assistant, working for Boeing in Rapid City and New Orleans, LA, technical writer in the Aerospace program at Cape Canaveral during the Gemini and Apollo production, and employment office manager in Pomona, CA. In 1974, Jan and her husband Ron returned to South Dakota and were owners of the Unique Boutique gift store in Spearfish, and of Walker's Veteran's home in Spearfish until her retirement in 2006. In her "spare" time, she was very active in Women's Auxiliary at VFW, becoming secretary, treasurer, local president and serving as State President in 1984.

A memorial has been established in her name to the VFW Auxiliary in Spearfish and would be a special honor in her memory.

#### Thelma B. Dittman

Thelma B. Dittman, 89, of Brookings, SD passed away on Monday, May 01, 2017.

Thelma B. Dittman was born on March 24, 1928 in Eureka, SD, the daughter of Rudolph and Emelia (Pfeiffer) Kurle. She was united in marriage to Albert C. Dittman on September 26, 1948 in Eureka, and worked as a volunteer secretary for him at the North Central Research Station in Eureka. After moving to Brookings in 1971, she was employed for several years at the 4-Seasons Clothing Store.

She was also an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Hospital Auxiliary, the Faculty Women's Club, and a charter member of the VFW Auxiliary, the Art Museum, and the Extension Club. Thelma held many offices at the local, state, and district levels of the VFW Auxiliary and attended 16 national conventions. She was named Outstanding President at the VFW National Convention in 1977, and served on the National Publicity Committee. She was also named Outstanding District VFW Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Chairman for four years, Outstanding State VFW Auxiliary Historian for two years, and Outstanding State VFW Hospital Chairman by the National Organization. Thelma received the Outstanding Community Leader award from Modern Woodman, and received a Proclamation by Brookings Mayor Reed declaring "Thelma Dittman Day" in 2010 for being named the Community Service Volunteer of the Year in 2009. She spent many days volunteering at the hospital and the local nursing homes. She enjoyed travel, sports, cooking, baking, gardening, and especially spending time with family and friends.

Thelma is survived by her two daughters, Bonnie Luecke of Brookings, SD and Vickie (Craig) McQuarie of Hoven, SD, seven grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband (Albert), two brothers (Erwin and Eugene), two sisters (Alice and Verna), one grandson (William), and one great grandson (William).

#### Veterans Day at South Dakota State Fair Veterans Building Open for Vets Free Admission for Veterans on Thursday, August 31, 2017

The Veterans (DAV) of South Dakota will have a display booth at the Veterans Building at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron on August 31 through September 4th.

VETERANS DAY – "HEROES DAY" will be held Thursday, August 31 during the South Dakota State Fair. The South Dakota Veterans Council will host a program at 10am with the presentation of the "Chester Sorenson Veterans of the Year Award."

*"...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!

#### Watertown, VFW Post 750

Devine, Russell L., WWII, USN, Life  
Byer, Dale C., Vietnam, USAF, Life  
Corothers, John M., USN Life  
Pietz, Ivan A., WWII, USN, Life  
Lindgren, Gary L., Vietnam, USN, Life

#### Newell, VFW Post 5807

Reid, Lester, WWII, USA  
Bossert, Peter, USA

#### Vermillion, VFW Post 3061

Kronaizl, James, WWII USMC, Life,  
Past Post Cmdr.  
Taggart, Michael, Vietnam, USA

#### Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628

Lanpher, Everette, WWII, USN

Austin, Willie, Vietnam, USA, Life  
Gorseth, David, WWII, USA, Life  
Martinello, Anthony, Vietnam, USMC, Life  
Walsh, Warren, WWII, USN, Life  
Rhead, Richard, China Serv, USN, Life  
Ritz, Lawrence, WWII, USA, Life  
Puetz, Engelbert, Korea, USMC  
Rhebb, Keith, Korea, USA, Life  
Boyt, Robert, WWII, USA, Life  
Clayton, Willkiam, WWII, USA, Life  
Kealey, Daniel, Korea, USA, Life  
Gregerson, Richard, Korea, USMC  
Mossefin, Wallace, WWII/Korea, USA, Life  
Coulter, Marvin, Korea, USA, Life  
Schmidt, Harvey, Korea, USA, Life  
Rickert, Alan, Korea, USAF, Life  
Pasek, Edward, WWII/Korea, USA, Life  
Bailin, Marvin, WWII, USA, Life

Clark James, Vietnam, USA, Life  
Wermers, Ralph, WWII, USA/USAF, Life  
Kaveny, Thomas, Vietnam, USMC, Life  
Dahl, Stanley, WWII, USA, Life  
Gornaas, Levor, Vietnam, USN  
Van Heerde, John, USA

#### Custer, VFW Post 3442

Thompson, Roy E., Life, Past Post Cmdr.

#### Gettysburg, VFW Post 8530

Merrill, Allen E., Vietnam, USA, Life

#### Alcester, VFW Post 6149

Holtkamp, Walter, WWII, USA, Life

#### Yankton, VFW Post 791

Cook, Charles, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, USA, Life

Hemmingson, Boyd, Vietnam, USN, Life  
Schaefer, Harold, Korea, USA, Life  
List, Darwin, Vietnam, USA

#### Wagner, VFW Post 7319

Anderson, James T., WWII, USMC  
Kocer, Fred D., Korea, USA, Life  
Robertson, Lionel "Jim", Korea, USA Life

#### Madison, VFW Post 2638

Foley, Joseph C., WWII

#### Mitchell, VFW Post 2750

Adams, Arthur R., Korea, USMC, Life  
Buus, Darwin, Korea, Life  
Frederick, Richard, Desert Storm/Shield, USA  
Radel, Donald, Korea, USA  
Reimnitz, Gerhard, WWII, USN Life



## Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 2017-2018

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### Inspector

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### District 1 Commander

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### National Legislative Committee Member

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## Cootie Corner

Greetings All you Lousy Cooties,

The Grand of South Dakota was held on April 21, 2017 in Yankton, SD where a lousy time was had by all in attendance. South Dakota also happened to host the 5 state Pow-Wow in Yankton this year on June 16-17, 2017. I also want to Congratulate Sandi Moss on here time as

the 9th District of the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary Representative. If you are interested in becoming a lousy Cootie, please feel free to contact any of the following below.

**Our Grand Elected officers are:**

**Commander Grand: Cody Mangold**, 1101 Main St., Tyndall, SD 57066 | 605-770-1030

**Grand Sr. Vice & Hospital Chairman: Ken Moss**, 10577 Dogwood Lane, Rapid City, SD 57702 | 605-341-0442

**Grand Chaplain & Inspector: Colin Reisner**, 101 E. 14th Ave., Tyndall, SD 57066 | 605-464-7544

**Judge Advocate: Bill Rueppel**, 915 Douglas Ave., Yankton, SD 57078 | 605-661-7796

**Surgeon: Vern Anderson**, 6604 W. 46th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57106 | 605-361-3935

**Grand Historian: Larry Scudder**, 329 Custer, Rapid City, SD 57701 | 605-342-9559

**Grand Adjutant: Laddie Novak**, 1218 W. 9th St., Yankton, SD 57078 | 605-260-1070

**Pup Tent Seam Squirrels:**

**Pup Tent 1**, Sioux Falls, 2nd Wednesday of the Month | 7:30 pm

**Vern Anderson**, 6604 W. 46th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57106 | 605-361-3935

**Pup Tent 12**, Yankton, Last Wednesday of the Month | 7:30 pm

**Dale Stribal**, 4333 SD HWY 50, Yankton, SD 57078 | 605-668-0892

**Pup Tent 2**, First Thursday of the Month | 12:30 pm

**Larry Scudder**, 329 Custer, Rapid City, SD 57701 | 605-342-9559

*"Keep 'em smiling in beds of white"*

**Cody Mangold, Commander Grand 2017-2018**



## Medical Centers of the VA South Dakota Health Care Network

### VA Black Hills Health Care System

#### Fort Meade Campus

113 Comanche Road  
Fort Meade, SD 57741  
(605) 347-2511  
Toll Free: 1-800-743-1070  
www.blackhills.va.gov

### VA Black Hills Health Care System

#### Hot Springs Campus

500 N. Fifth Street  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
(605) 745-2000  
Toll Free: 1-800-764-5370  
www.blackhills.va.gov

### Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

#### 2501 W. 22nd Street

PO Box 5046  
Sioux Falls, SD 57717  
(605) 336-3230  
Toll Free: 1-800-316-8387

## NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

VFW National Veterans Service works to ensure veterans receive every benefit available to them from their government. Our nationwide network of service officers was established to help veterans and their families file claims with the VA.

This service is available at no charge and made possible through donations. Over the past three years, the VFW has helped more than 284,000 veterans recover nearly \$7 billion in compensation and pension.

**Visit [VFW.org/nvs](http://VFW.org/nvs) to find a service officer near you.**

## South Dakota Overseas Veteran quarterly publication

At the June 2016 Department State Convention held in Deadwood, SD, it was voted to have the South Dakota Overseas Veteran publication to be posted, reviewed/downloaded on the WEBSITE: [WWW.SDVFW.org](http://WWW.SDVFW.org) Please advise and assist all members of this change.

Thank you note from Patriot's Pen Winner Avery Blackman:


*Thank you for the trip to Pierre. I loved touring the Capital and meeting the other writers. Also, thank you for the generous prize money, it is going into my savings account for college. Sincerely, Avery Blackman, Edison Middle School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.*

Thank you note from VOD Winner Max Hawkins:

*Before this year, I had very little interaction with any veteran organization. I didn't know what to expect from the Voice of Democracy essay contest, But I sent my application hoping for the best. Boy was I pleasantly surprised by what the VFW is! You were all incredibly helpful and kind along every step of the way. From helpful tips when I turned in my application, to great conversations at the post and state meetings, to informative guides in D.C. and Philly, the VFW members represented their organization well. In addition to that, the scholarship contest itself is unique and important for our country. Everyone should analyze his/her responsibility to American - not just high school students. Writing the essay was more meaningful than almost all other scholarship essays I wrote this year.*


*For your excellent members and great scholarship competition, I thank you! It's been a privilege and an honor to work with the VFW of South Dakota!*

Max Hawkins




**FIRST PLACE WINNERS**

**Voice of Democracy**



**MAX W. HAWKINS**

**Patriot's Pen**



**AVERY E. BLACKMAN**

**God Bless America**

## Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home — Their Stories in Their Words



After six years in the making, **Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home** is nearing the final stages of publication. Using "their words," the authors tell the stories of 31 Vietnam Veterans who served "in Country" between 1961 and 1974. Within the pages of this unique book, Veterans share photographs and stories about their lives before, during, and after Vietnam. These are the stories of ordinary men and women who went to war in Vietnam, some enlisted, some were already career service personnel, and others were drafted.

If you would like to receive more information on the book release date and how to order a copy, you can visit us at our website at [www.thevietnamvets.com](http://www.thevietnamvets.com) or follow our progress on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/VietnamVetsStillComingHome/?ref=aymt> homepage panel

**On Behalf of Our Veterans,  
Thank You for Your Support.**

### 147th Field Artillery Celebrates 100 Years!!

Who: 147th Artillery Soldiers past and present

What: Open House and Social

When: 14 October 2017

Where: Watertown, SD

## South Dakota State Fair Volunteers

### JUST A REMINDER . . .

I am still in need of **golf cart drivers** for all of fair week. I would love to put any veteran on a golf cart. There are a lot of 12-4pm and 4-8pm shifts open. Please call me at 352-5997 or email me at [dickorbevfreq@santel.net](mailto:dickorbevfreq@santel.net)

Thank you,  
**Bev Freng, State Fair Chairman**



We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we too, have been there. Since 1899, the VFW has been the nation's leading veterans service organization in the fight to better the lives of all those who've worn the uniform of the United States military. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us. Stand strong with the other 1.4 million members of the VFW as together, we continue to fight for all that's good **FOR VETERANS.**

## DEADLINE

For the next issue (October 2017) of the *South Dakota Overseas Veteran*, the deadline is September 1, 2017.

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](mailto:dpsigns@alliancecom.net)

Dept. Post Advertisers - Please mention you read their ad

## POST SCHEDULES

### 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

Book your wedding reception with us!  
Call 605-338-9421  
Follow us on Facebook at VFW Post 628  
*Serving the Sioux Empire since 1921*

### Brookings

George Dokken  
Post #2118

Bingo: Mon., Thurs. and Fri.  
Lounge: Bingo nights & Sat.  
Hall: Available for rental

**520 Main Avenue**  
**605-692-6771**

### 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**

### Black Hills

Post #5969  
Deadwood

Wednesday: Hamburger Night  
Friday: Dinners

**Lounge & Gaming**

### 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.**

### 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.*

### 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**

### 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

### 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

### 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**

### 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  
DAV Chapter 11 & Auxiliary

### 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

## 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 donations 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**: Jonathon Thorburn; Ray Kerstetter; Lowell Stevens; Johnathan Thorun; Mike Boxa; Betty Buz; Arnold Sattler; Burke VFW Post 9950; William & Pat Gerney; Robert Folkerts; Charles Kerkhove; Henry Whitney Custer VFW Post 3442; Marvin Gall; Linda Fox; Paul & Leanne Payne; Ken & Michelle Payne; Jerry Gilmore; Wayne & Sharon Mitchell.

**Silver category**: Gary Hills; Hobart Cole. **Bronze category**: Wagner VFW Post 7319; Leonard Kisely; Dick Pickering.