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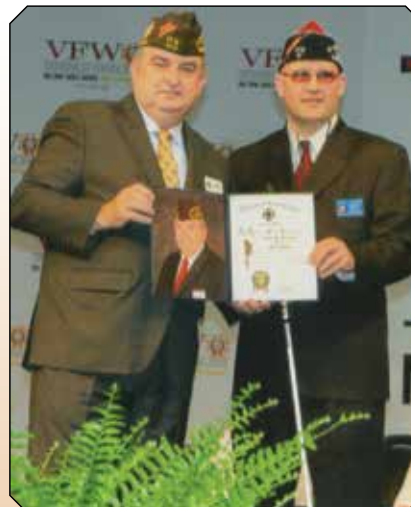
Vol. 74 Issue 2

## All-American Commander Award



*Dennis Sharp, SD Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander 2016-2017, receiving All-American Commander Award (one of 13 world-wide) from National Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Brian Duffy at National Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in New Orleans, LA.*

## National Award of Excellence



South Dakota VFW C.C. Croal Post 17, Post Commander Sean Johnson, Aberdeen has been recognized and receiving a special National Recognition Award of Excellence in the organization's Fred C. Mall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project competition. The Award of Excellence is given in recognition of the time and effort members of the Post gave in completing a project of value to their community "Project 22," which offered two free, public viewings of the documentary to raise awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide in the military and veteran community.

In announcing the award, VFW National Commander Brian Duffy said, "Through our VFW Community Service Program, we help in building a better and stronger America, and we remain dedicated to fulfilling our commitment to serve America's veterans and their families."

All-American Jr. Vice Commander Sean Johnson accepting one of many National Awards from National Commander, Brian Duffy during the National Convention in New Orleans.



## South Dakota Fall Council National Representatives

Past National Commander-in-Chief, Thomas T. Tradewell, Jr., and National District Council Member #23, Marilyn Malick to represent the VFW National Organization at the South Dakota Fall Council, Commander/President Homecoming in Oacoma, South Dakota, October 6-8, 2017. See their bios on page 4.

**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



Comrades and Sisters/Brothers,

Already two months have gone by since being installed as your Commander and all I can say is "WOW", what an honor, challenge and mostly rewarding opportunity this has been and will continue to be. We need to start the year right by working hard and early on membership. Sean Johnson and DD Couch will do all they can, however they will need your recruiting effort to succeed. I have been talking about membership forever it seems and will continue to do so until our department has achieved a minimum of 100%. As I am out and about recruiting I always get asked the same question when talking to a veteran who is not a member, and that question is "what is in it for me, or what has the VFW done for me? Well I hope not to bore you with numbers but I find that knowing the facts of our organization will help you answer these questions. More importantly once you have answered the question most every veteran you are talking with will admit that they had no idea we did that. Most of them will be willing to join a team that has their SIX and proves it. We accomplish so many things that people are unaware of that it is time we start bragging a little bit about ourselves. So here I go with the "DID YOU KNOW".

- In 2016 our Washington DC legislative team testified 22 times before Congress on many Veterans issues. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every legislative victory for veterans in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Our organization combined with our Auxiliary consists of 1.7 million members. That's a lot of voters. We also have 6,498 VFW posts worldwide.
- We have 1,945 VA accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad helping veterans file VA benefits. VFW assisted veterans with 116,791 claims in 2016. This totaled \$1.2 billion dollars in 2016.
- VFW posts around the world provided 806 million hours of volunteer hours. We also donate \$49.8 million dollars to local community service projects.
- We have honored or fallen comrades by distributing 9.5 million Buddy

Poppies last year, which raised 12.3 million dollars for needy veterans.

- Since 2004 the VFW has provided 4,609 Unmet Needs Grants to struggling military families. These grants have totaled \$3,581,947. Of these grants 2,450 have been to assist with housing needs for veteran's families.
- In 2016-17 46,000+ high school students participated in the Voice of Democracy program. 122,000+ participated in the Patriot Pen program. These two programs payed \$3.3 million dollars in scholarships, monetary awards, and other prizes.

Nobody does more for Veterans, and we prove It. Let's get out there, brag a little about what we do, and "Dig In" for new members.

VFW Baseball has come to the end of our season with some great tournament games being played. I must give a big shout out to Danny Frisby-Griffin and Rob Lynde. They did a great job this year running this program and the feedback I received from coaches, players, parents, and umpires was nothing less than fantastic. Excellent job gentlemen and I thank you for your efforts and dedication.

I had the honor of watching Past Cmdr. Sharp receive his All-American cap in New Orleans. I must admit that I really have the desire to do the same thing next year. These awards are not achieved by the Commander alone, it takes the effort of everyone within the Department of South Dakota. I hope and trust that you will help me achieve this honor again this year. Congratulations Dennis.

I also traveled to Cincinnati, Oh. to attend the Commander -in Chiefs Homecoming, was a great time and like always was great to see Chief Harman and my fellow commander from the other departments. Ohio had a very nice, well planned event for their Chief.

As I have said before if there is ANYTHING we can do to help you or your post let us know, we are there for you and will do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Rick Williamson**  
**Dept. Commander**

## Sr. Vice Commander's Report

### Danny Frisby-Griffin



What a crazy two months of baseball activity. Look for the results of our eight state tournaments in this issue of the Overseas Veteran.

We really appreciate all the local help SD VFW Baseball received from the Color and Honor Guards that made our Opening Ceremonies and sessions so special. We need to continue increasing our presence at our tournaments, both regional and state, to demonstrate how important VFW Baseball is to the leadership and sportsmanship development of today's youth. We have a bunch of exciting changes going on the next couple of months and hope to unveil the new website sometime in November just in time for the preparation for the 2018 season as well as a couple of other

programs we're working on. We've already posted the annual meeting (now going to be at Post 2638 in Madison) and the 2018 tournament dates for both regions and state on the [www.SDVFWBASEBALL.com](http://www.SDVFWBASEBALL.com) website.

As always, I look forward to working with each and every one of you "Providing Top Cover to those who served." Just a reminder, the updated forms and revised membership books are on the website (<http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms>) and if you have problems with them, drop me a note at the email below explaining exactly what happened. See page 5 for baseball tournament results.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

**State Sr. Vice Commander**  
**Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin**

## Jr. Vice Commander's Report

### Sean Johnson



Wow! The Year is in full swing and I can feel the Energy I want to take A minute to review the State Convention awards, Aberdeen received the Outstanding Safety Award, Best of the Best Unit Adoption Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Quota Buster Award, and Post 100+ 1 Award. All State Commander, All State Quarter Master Award, Baker Simpson Award, William-Radigan Award, Team Captain Eagles.

This led to the National Convention where I won the All American Post Commander Award. My Post won the Fred C. Hall Award for Project 22 Mental Health Project. We also received the Community Activity Award of Excellence.

I am just back from Jr. Vice Training in Kansas City. I am really excited about getting after membership. As I hope all of you are to. Each of us has a responsibility to recruit, it all starts with each and everyone of us recruit

them bring them in take care of them and keep them going.

#### Membership Reports in = 25%

Vermillion	Lake Andes
Parkston	Madison
Winner	Dell Rapids
Chamberlain	Aberdeen
Armour	Marty
Wagner	Mitchell
Burke	Scotland

#### Districts in =60%

#4
#7
#6

I hope to see more Reports soon sooner I get the reports I know we will get to work get out and getting recruiting I am excited!

**Sean Johnson**

## 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 December 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



Since the last paper we finished the State Convention that culminated into a super 2016-2017 for the Department of South Dakota and our Commander Dennis Sharp.

The whole department stepped up and put the State of South Dakota on the VFW map. From all the individual achievement awards and the several Red Hat awards for Post and District Commanders. They all proved that not one person can accomplish the top but one person working with others can do unbelievable things. The bar is set very high for the coming years and that is healthy for the VFW.

Attending and returning from the National Convention in New Orleans that proved the VFW is headed in a new direction mainly caused by the membership numbers decreasing rapidly. The VFW still has a huge job to do in taking care of the needs of Veterans and lack of members equates to lack of revenue to fund everything that is needed. The VFW is teaming up with corporations throughout the Nation to generate the revenue being lost and it is exciting to see the enthusiasm on both sides. The major problem is when we

lose members we lose clout. When talking to Congress, the size of the organization is more important than how much money we have. Looking at the other side, how many people will this touch?

There is a major move at the National level to make it easier for younger families to free up time to attend VFW events. Especially at the Post level to not require some of the ritual that used to be required, and obviously took time, in trying to speed up the meeting process by spending more time of issues. The management is trying to do what is right but they sure could use input from all of us to help that process along. Please take an active role in OUR VFW's business it is huge for our future as an organization and for sure will affect my life and yours.

With everything that has gone on the future of the VFW in South Dakota is looking good. Do we have adjustments to make – for sure- but we can and will do them. We are moving forward with lots of talent in our Line Officers so down the road things look very positive. If any of you want to get involved just let us know and we will find areas where we can use your expertise we will not drive you away.

The VFW still has the same answer when asked “What will the VFW do for me?” Your answer is “we already have”. We have to keep moving forward.

‘C-O-M-M-I-T-M-E-N-T’ “To be a winner, all you need to give is all you have.”

Darwin Tolzin  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

# State Judge Advocate's Report

## Cody Mangold



Comrades,

It has been a busy one since been being elected. The community service reports have been coming in. I encourage all posts to send their reports in if they haven't yet. Please take credit for all the hard work you do. The National Convention was a great learning experience, which I greatly enjoyed. I met a lot of new people and was able to connect with some people from other states I haven't seen in years. It's that time of year again for “Veteran's in the Classroom's” and encourage you to go visit the youth.

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Cody Mangold**  
Judge Advocate

# State Surgeon's Report

## Barbara McKean



Well, school is in full swing and fall is upon us. How our your units doing with the submissions of our programs; Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year, EMS, Police, Firefighters of the Year, Americanism and School Projects? We also get to look forward to Veterans Day, which my post, 3298 will celebrate with our community on Friday, Nov 10th. What does your units do to celebrate Veteran's Day? Last and certainly not least, we need to continue to focus our attention on Membership!

Below is a link to a fact sheet on Automobile and Special Adaptive Equipment Grants that may assist with the purchase of a new or used car for Veterans or Service members who have certain disabilities due to active military service: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/media-publications.asp#factSheets>

Below the link to an eBenefits fact sheet resource includes FAQs and highlights many features eBenefits has to offer: [https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ecms-proxy/document/ebenefits-liferay/dynamic-content/ebenefits/assets/downloads/eBenefits\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ecms-proxy/document/ebenefits-liferay/dynamic-content/ebenefits/assets/downloads/eBenefits_factsheet.pdf)

I hope to see many of you in Chamberlain on Oct 6-8 for the Fall Council, we will have some great sessions and training planned. Also, it will be a good time to see our new Commander in action and catch up with old and new friends. This is going to be a fresh and exciting year for the VFW in the State of South Dakota, so plan on attending as many events as possible. I will also represent the state at the District 6 Meeting in Huron on Oct 15, 2017 at 2pm. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Barbara McKean  
State Surgeon

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

## VAVS Sioux Falls, SD

First, thanks to Commander Williamson for having the confidence in appointing me to this position. I will work closely with the other VAVS representatives across the state.

- One of the first subjects was the continued construction ongoing at the SFVA Medical Center.
- Med/Serg on 3 South will open in the next few weeks with six beds.
- New operating rooms will open in September.
- Ward 3 west will be renovated to update the chapel and provide additional office space.
- Dr. Moy gave update on the oncology center. There are seven chairs in the infusion center.

Some items that are needed for our veterans at the VA are:

- Sweat pants,
- Socks,
- Zipper hoodies,
- Writing materials.

Clothing items can be various sizes. These items will be used as Christmas gifts for the veterans at the VA.

VAVS Rep. Malcolm Haugen



## Inspector Ken Payne



Greetings Comrades,

Where did the summer go? By the time that this issue comes out we will be through with the second quarter of the VFW year. Quarterly audits have been coming in and Post Inspections are being performed by the Districts. If your Post is behind in sending in quarterly audits, do not worry, as long as they get sent in they will count for the year. Just a reminder that all Post Quarterly Audits and inspections are to be mailed to the State Headquarters. The State Office will make copies and send them to the correct person to keep them on file.

One thing that has changed for this year is the Dues Reserve Fund. There was a resolution at the National Convention to eliminate the Dues Reserve Fund. It was voted on and passed, so Posts can transfer that money out of the fund and place it in the General Fund. I am sure that the new by-laws book will have more information on this. Another change will be switching to Roberts Rules of Order for conducting Post meetings. If your Post does not have the new By-laws Book and Roberts Rules of Order, the books will need to be purchased through the VFW Store.

Now that we are well into the year, every member needs to think about membership and look for new members in your area. The more members that we have, the louder that our voice is in Washington. The VFW has been a major force pushing Veteran issues in Congress. Issues like the Forever GI Bill can be a major selling point for the VFW with new Veterans. We need to let our prospective members know what the VFW is doing to help them.

Respectfully,  
**Ken Payne**  
Inspector

## Thomas T. Tradewell, Sr. Bio

Commander-in-Chief 2009-2010

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Thomas Tradewell was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 20, 2009, at the VFW 110th national convention, held in Phoenix, Ariz.

Tradewell served in the U. S. Army from 1966-1968 and earned VFW eligibility while serving with B Company 26th Engineers 198th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal Division) in South Vietnam as a demolition specialist. His decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal.

Tradewell joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 6498 in Milwaukee where he is a Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander 1999-2000. He served as national inspector general in 2001-2002. He also served as the District 11 National Council representative for members from the Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa in 2003-2005.

Tradewell earned an associate's degree in industrial safety.

Tradewell retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service.

He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Tradewell married Sharon in 1966 and they make their home in Sussex, Wis.

## Marilyn Malick

National District Council Member #23

2017-2019

Marilyn Malick of Clinton Township, Michigan, was elected to represent Michigan and South Dakota on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary between National Conventions.

Installed at the 104th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, she will serve a two year term as one of 28 representatives who make up the Council along with the top seven National Officers, the National Chief of Staff and the four Junior Past National Presidents.

A Life Member of Fraser Cpl. Neil W. Reid Auxiliary 6691, she joined the Auxiliary on the eligibility of her grandfather Cecil Griffith, who served in the U.S. Navy in 1942-1943 during World War II. She has served in several capacities for the organization including Auxiliary President, District and Department (state) President.

In her spare time, Marilyn enjoys golfing and she has been employed as a schoolteacher for thirty-one years. She received the VFW Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award in Michigan in 2001-2002. Her husband, Joseph, is a Vietnam Veteran.

It's Not the Price You Pay to  
Belong...It's the PRICE YOU PAID  
TO BE ELIGIBLE!!!

## VFW National Home for Children Introducing the 2017 - 2018 Buddy Poppy Child



The new Buddy Poppy Child for 2017-2018 is thirteen-year-old Isabel Marvin. She lives in the Florida house with her Mother Britani, Father Robert and 3 siblings, Cela (14), Robert Jr. (2) and Violet (1).

Isabel is a 7th grader and her favorite activities are social studies and Gym. "I love always being active," she says. Isabel enjoys playing volleyball and basketball. She also plays the piano, which she is learning at the National Home with her teacher Rhonda Kennedy. This summer Isabel raised a pig for 4-H, named Hampton. Hampton placed 2nd for his weight class at the fair.

Isabel's great grandfather and her father have both served in the US Army. Her dad fought in Iraq and Afghanistan and was stationed in various states as well as Korea.

"Living at the National Home is such an amazing opportunity and I am so grateful for all the hard work the VFW Auxiliary, Cooties and National Home staff does. They organize lots of events and activities - like painting classes and book talks for us. I enjoy all the many opportunities given to us every day."

The above information was taken from National Home notes, August 2017.

### Other information about the National Home

The VFW National Home not only cares for the children of veterans, but also provides a positive environment for families of Veterans, Active Duty Military, National Guard and Reservists who have been deployed. The National Home provides a stable and secure environment that may be encountered during time of crises.

The National Home provides housing for families to live in during their time at the National Home. Families may spend up to four years at no cost.

Education is provided in forms of tutoring, classes, and financial aid that will help accomplish the goals they have established.

Case management professionals, who are trained and dedicated, provide the expertise and guidance needed to help the family set goals and make choices to be successful during their time at the National Home.

The National Home provides a Military and Veteran Help Line at no charge. The Help Line provides experienced problem solvers to provide connections to help callers find help.

Families accepted into the programs are asked only one thing. They must be committed to making changes in their lives. To remain at the National Home, they are expected to progress toward the family goals they were instrumental in setting for themselves.

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 web site: [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**

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

### Reaping Our Harvest



For centuries, the arrival of autumn has been celebrated at the end of the growing season, commemorating all the hard work. It is an opportunity to look back and see what has been accomplished and what lies ahead for us.

A full cornucopia is a good sign of the bounty of harvest. In looking at what our team has accomplished from planting through harvest this season; I'd say our cornucopia is bursting. With a little germination, we grew our day-to-day goals of obtaining the maximum benefits for our veterans and their families. We supported and assisted war time and peace time veterans as well as reached out to educate, reintegrate, and facilitate the claims for those who have recently served.

Our outreach efforts yielded great results. The Department consistently put forth significant effort to enhance and expand its already extensive outreach operations. In August, we had the honor to address veterans at the Veterans Day at the State Fair and the Healing Wall ceremony in Chamberlain, as well as participate in numerous screenings of "The Vietnam War," the new 10-part documentary film series. We honored 52 South Dakota veterans for their service in Taiwan and awarded them the Republic of China mutual defense commemorative badge.

Our education team assisted veterans to secure all of their educational benefits, as well as enlist them in the on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

Our team at Michael J Fitzmaurice Veterans Home embodied the mission to honor and serve our heroes by providing high quality care in a setting that promotes dignity, independence, and a home like environment.

Fall brings many colors to our world in South Dakota. These very same colors play a role in the lives of our service members - ribbons, awards, medals, dress uniforms, daily uniforms, physical training uniforms, and vehicles for the environment they are sent to fight in. Colors are why we stand at ceremonies, games, and at our goodbye to our heroes at their last rights. Colors are an integral part of service to our country and our red, white and blue flag we fight for.

Fall is a time to reap the benefits of our harvest, and enjoy the rich brown, yellow, and red leaves scattered about. It's also a great time to remember and honor our prisoners of war and our missing in action. Governor Dugaard has designated September 15 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day in South Dakota. They suffered the horrors of being a prisoner of war and those whose fates were never accounted for. They are our heroes, please honor them.

**Larry Zimmerman, Secretary**

**South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs**

## Report of Homeless Veteran Chairman on 2017 Sioux Falls Standdown

The 2017 Standdown was held September 22 at Post 628. Many of the people are there year after year but there are always new faces. Some of them say they came here to get work but the job ended for different reasons. There were the usual tables set up from different agencies including health, financial, housing, disabilities, new and used clothing, foot care and haircuts.

Service organizations there were American Legion, Purple Hearts and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We gave out cards for the veteran to get a soda and burger from Burger King like we have for a few years and Post 628 got a case of toilet paper for me to hand out. One of their members sat with me and helped do that and he was trying to give away gas vouchers but wasn't having much luck. There was a guy there from a motorcycle group giving them out we found out towards the end and had given out a lot of them. Not sure where the glitch was with that. All in all, it was a successful day. I even gave a bag of tomatoes from my garden to a group of people who seemed to appreciate it.

DeLane Fickbohm  
Chairman



### 2017 VFW Baseball Results



**2017 10U Class A July 14-16 at Humboldt**  
Champion: Dell Rapids  
Runner Up: Madison GSN Insurance (10s)  
3rd Place: West Central 10  
4th Place: Madison Vision Clinic (9s)

**2017 12U Class A July 14-16 at Humboldt**  
Champion: West Central 12s  
Runner Up: Flandreau 12s  
3rd Place: West Central 11s  
4th Place: Winner

**2017 14U Class A July 21-23 at Milbank**  
CHAMPION: Dakota Valley  
Runner Up: Elk Point-Jefferson  
3rd Place: Madison Gold  
4th Place: Milbank  
Consolation Champion: Wagner  
6th Place: Redfield  
William Radigan Team  
Sportsmanship Award: Milbank

**2017 16U Class A August 4-6 at Beresford**  
CHAMPION: West Central  
Runner Up: Beresford  
3rd Place: Wagner  
4th Place: Volga  
Consolation Champion: Milbank  
6th Place: Madison White  
Lou Thury Team  
Sportsmanship Award: Beresford

**2017 10U Class B July 14-16 at Castlewood**  
Champion: Corsica  
Runner Up: Flandreau  
3rd Place: Platte-Geddes  
4th Place: Hamlin

**2017 12U Class B July 14-16 at Canova**  
Champion: Canova  
Runner Up: Bon Homme  
3rd Place: Castlewood

**2017 14U Class B July 21-23 at Baltic**  
CHAMPION: Baltic  
Runner Up: Tyndall  
3rd Place: Platte Geddes  
4th Place: Canova  
Consolation Champion: Hamlin  
6th Place: Parkston  
William Radigan Team  
Sportsmanship Award: Tyndall

**2017 16U Class A August 4-6 at Gregory**  
CHAMPION: Parker  
Runner Up: Tyndall  
3rd Place: Garretson  
4th Place: Alexandria  
Consolation Champion: Gregory  
6th Place: Onida Post 79  
Lou Thury Team Sportsmanship Award: Alexandria

## Cootie Corner

Hello all you Lousy Cooties,

Keep up all the great hospital work. I have seen that Rapid City is getting out there in force seeing their veteran's. I know Vern "Doc" Hansen from Sioux Falls is out there with his "Cootie" mobile and was at the traveling wall during the Sturgis rally in Chamberlain. Yankton has been out in force also getting out to see the veteran's and raising money to get some nice items for the. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Cooties or the Auxiliary of either of these let them know. "Keep 'em smiling in beds of white."

Grand Commander,  
Cody Mangold

## Senator John Thune Letter to the Editor



Sen. John Thune

Among the highlights of traveling across South Dakota is visiting with the many veterans who have helped shape our communities and embody our state's selfless and giving culture. From one generation to the next, these patriots have defended our freedom and liberty, and we owe them a big debt of gratitude. In addition to giving thanks, we must also ensure they receive the care and benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice, which is why I'm glad Congress recently passed, and the president signed, several important pieces of legislation that make good on that promise.

Most recently, the president signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. I was proud to cosponsor this legislation, which will overhaul the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) current appeals process so it can process claims faster and provide additional transparency and safeguards for veterans, their families, and survivors.

The president also recently signed the "Forever GI Bill," which will grant full GI Bill benefits to Purple Heart recipients, regardless of their total length of service. The bill will also eliminate the arbitrary 15-year window in which veterans were required to use their benefits after leaving the military and expand educational opportunities for veterans enrolling in high-tech courses like coding boot camps. Broadening the reach of this invaluable education benefit will help ensure that our veterans can build from their military talents and embark on new opportunities as they return to the civilian world.

The VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017, which makes a significant investment in the Veterans Choice program, also became law in early August. These additional funds will allow veterans to get timely care in their own communities, rather than enduring long wait times and traveling long distances for care. The bill also authorizes leases for VA medical facilities, including a replacement Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Rapid City.

— Senator John Thune Letter to the Editor, continued on Pg. 9

## VFW 87th State Convention Awards 2016-2017

### Membership

First Quota Buster, Category I – Newell Post 5807; Category II – Wagner Post 7319; Category III – Mitchell Post 2750; Category IV – Brookings Post 2118; Category V – Aberdeen Post 17

### Post Poppy Awards, First Place

Ernest Bowyer Post 791, Yankton, Largest % Increase; Kenneth Kuper Post 3442, Custer, Largest # increase

### Community Service Books

First Place, Frank H. Adams Post 750, Watertown; Second Place, George Dokken Post 2118, Brookings; Third Place, Black Hills Post 5969, Deadwood

### Hospital Program Awards, First Place

Category I – Lake Andres Post 3239; Category II – Burke Post 9950; Category III – Ronald Westby Post 2638, Madison; Category IV – George Dokken Post 2118, Brookings; Category V – Kenneth Kuper Post 3442, Custer; Category VI – John M. Bliss Post 628, Sioux Falls

### Police, Fire and EMT of the Year 2016-2017

Law Enforcement Officer, Robert Lester, Lead, Sponsored by Deadwood Post 5969; Firefighter, Paul Morris, Mitchell Post 2750; Emergency Services, Joey Denison, Arlington, Sponsored by Watertown Post 750.

### Safety

Category I – Douglas Post 6897, Armour; Category II – Paul Grossheusch Post 2966, Scotland; Category III – Corn Palace City Post 2750, Mitchell; Category IV – Category V – CC. Croal Post 17, Aberdeen; Category VI – John M. Bliss Post 628, Sioux Falls

— VFW 87th State Convention Awards, continued on Pg. 10

# Special State Convention Highlights

## National Convention Patriotic Parade, New Orleans, LA



Auxiliary President Carrie Elm and State Commander Rick Williamson during the patriotic parade at the National Convention in New Orleans, LA. We're so proud of you guys.

South Dakota delegation to the 118th National Convention in New Orleans, LA enjoying being together after the New Orleans Mardi Gras parade. A great looking bunch of delegates representing our VFW Department of South Dakota.



Top five Line Officers left to right are State Surgeon, Barb McKean; Commander, Rick Williamson; Sr. Vice Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin; Jr. Vice Commander, Sean Johnson and Judge Advocate, Cody Mangold. Great group of South Dakotans.

## All-American Cover Awards



Three South Dakota Post Commanders gathered for a picture after receiving their All-American Covers. Left to right are D.D. Couch, Custer, VFW Post 3442; Sean Johnson, Aberdeen, VFW Post 17 and Diane Dickman, Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628.

## Mitchell VFW Post 2750



A veteran's parade car owned by Bob Folkerts of Mitchell VFW Post 2750. This 1959 Pontiac, a completely restored vehicle, now participates in parades around the country. Owner Bob said he has veteran's labels, Vietnam campaign medals, Veterans of Foreign Wars malta decal, plus American flags on the car during all the parades. Since May, Loyalty Day parade in Brandon, he has been to Tabor, Chamberlain, Fort Pierre, Yankton, Huron, Wagner, Delmont and the City of Farmer parades. At the Huron State Fair, Auxiliary President Carrie Elm got to ride and had a picture with Sherwin Linton. Fort Pierre parade the past State Commander and President Dennis and Karen Sharp. Real privilege to be a part of the patriotic section of the parade.



## Post 17

Aberdeen VFW Post 17 – The First Quota Buster Plus Post in Category V, Award from National Representative Jr. Vice Commander, B.J. Lawrence and State Commander Dennis Sharp.

# Highlights Around South Dakota VFW

## Past State Commander Lunch



This is just some of our wonderful Past State Commander's pictured here with our State Convention in Custer 2014.

A State Commander only holds his/her position for one year. Most will serve our Department even when their time as State Commander comes to an end. We are delighted to be able to still share VFW experiences with these individuals. Thanks to all of our Past State Commanders for all of their dedication over the years!

*Row 1 – Gary Knudson, Pierre Post 2038; Dick Pickering, Brandon Post 4726; National Representative, Past CIC, John Furguss, Nashville; Tom Sherman, Post 3342, Sisseton; Kenneth Nelson, Post 1273, Rapid City; William Cerny, Post 9950, Burke; Row 2 – Gerald Kuecker, Post 750, Watertown; Guest, Ted "Frog" Kroker, North Dakota; Larry Scudder, Post 1273, Rapid City; Vernon Hanson, Post 2118, Brookings; William Barlow, Post 3442, Custer; DeLane Fickbohm, Post 6149, Alcester; Marvin Czerwonka, Post 1273, Rapid City; Arnold Heggstad, Post 4674, Winner; Glen Walter, Post 628, Sioux Falls; Russel Dramstad, Post 1776, Huron.*



*Two Department All-American SD State Commanders from Pierre VFW Post 2038. Dennis Sharp, 2016-17 and Gary Knudson, 2005-06.*



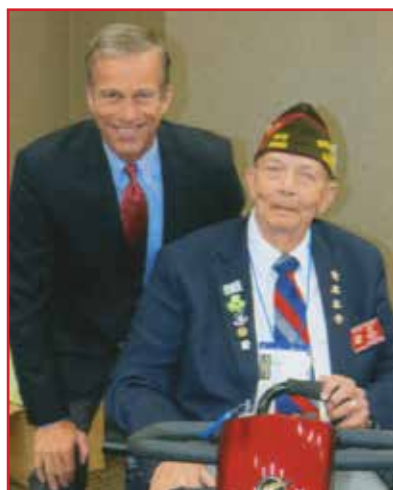
*Credentials Committee Past Department Commanders Don Dahlin, Gary Kucker and William Cerny.*



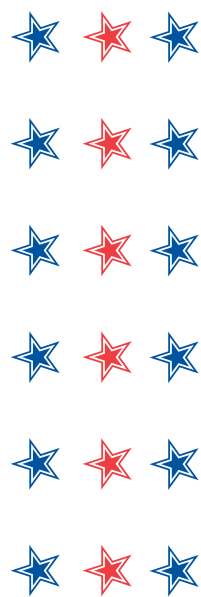
*Final salute at the Memorial Service during the State Convention in Pierre. Left to Right are National Guard Member, Auxiliary President Karen Sharp; Auxiliary Chaplain, Sandi Moss; National Guard Chaplain, Past Commander Mike Mullen; Chaplain Jerry Heggstad; Sr. Vice Commander, Rick Williamson and State Commander, Dennis Sharp.*



*Patti Mitchell accepting the award for sponsoring the 10th Annual Day County Coyote Hunt for Military Support Groups presented by Commander Auxiliary/President Dennis and Karen Sharp during the 87th Annual State Convention in Pierre.*



*South Dakota Senator John Thune and All-American State Commander after the visitation of the Senator.*



## Post 3298 Forward Support Company Barbecue

*Submitted by William Hoffman*

Hutchinson County VFW Post 3298 adopted Forward Support Company 153rd Engineer Battalion prior to their mobilization last November. Throughout the past year we have assisted the unit and dependents in various activities. The photos are from a barbecue hosted by the Post when the FSC Family Support Group met to make posters and banners for the unit's return later this month. There were 3 VFW members cooking the meal and three Auxiliary members serving the meal. Approximately 70 Family Support Group members attended this event. VFW National Adopt-A-Unit provided the funds for this event. Post 3298 contributed limited funds.



*Parkstons VFW Post 3298, Adopt-a-Unit Barbecue held Sunday, 27th 2017 in Parkston, SD. L-R Past Post Commander, Billy Hoffman; District #7 Commander, Tom Hafner; Post 3298 Commander, Lenny Nolz.*



**WE SUPPORT  
OUR  
VETS**



## 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! It has been a whirlwind of a year so far and we are just getting started. Right after convention, we came home and I was in our local 4th of July parade. It was a great time! The Black Hills area has several parades and most are started with a B1 Bomber fly over which is very exciting.

Right after that, I started packing and was on my way to National Convention in New Orleans, LA. The most positive part of my time there was all the wonderful cuisine I was able to try. Of course, there were meetings and trainings too! In case some of you have not heard, all the suggested amendments and bylaw changes were defeated. The city is absolutely beautiful and full of culture. The other thing I am positive about when it comes to convention is that it was HOT, HOT, HOT!

I was home only a short time (long enough to do events at the VA Dom and State Veterans Home in Hot Springs) before

turning around heading to the 3rd Annual VFW Auxiliary Retreat at The Roost in Grenville. It was another great time of learning, crafts, programs and comradery. Again, I want to encourage anyone that can attend to come, it is not for just officers, it's for all auxiliary members and we even had a couple Post members there this year. Sr. Vice President Mary is already starting to plan for next year's retreat, so plan on coming if you can.

Membership is a big focus for us this year and I want to remind everyone as they are recruiting, think of both sides of our organization when you are out there. If you are a Post member, please help us by finding out who their eligible family is that could be recruited for the Auxiliary. Don't forget those husbands, dads, and sons over 16 are all eligible now for the auxiliary. We need more Auxiliary Brothers! If you are an Auxiliary member, make sure that all their eligible family members belong to a Post. We are "Cross-Promoting" our organizations by doing this.

Fall Council/Commander & Presidents Homecoming is in Oacoma at Cedar Shores on Oct 6-8. Hope that all of you

are coming for all or part of the weekend. Commander Rick was kind enough (or crazy enough) to let me pick the theme for our homecoming and it is "Here Come the Brides". We are digging out those wedding dresses we have never put on since our wedding or the bridesmaids dresses we hoped we never had to wear again and wearing them to the dinner that night. Formal attire is not required, it is strictly for fun.

October will be busy following Fall Council/Homecoming as I will be traveling to Big 10 Conference in Minneapolis, then on to Virginia for the Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) and President Dee Guillory's Homecoming.

Hope you all have a safe and enjoyable fall and holiday season. Enjoy time with family and friends! Please keep our veterans and active military in your mind and heart throughout the season. I look forward to seeing all of you at different events throughout the fall.

Loyally,

**Carrie Alm**

**Department President 2017-2018**

### Auxiliary Sr. Vice President

*Mary Kirkvold*



Please remember our Veterans and their families, that is what we are all about.

September 22nd, 2017, Post 628 in Sioux Falls, had their annual Stand Down for the Veterans. It is so sad to see so many veterans in such dire need of the items they were given. I witnessed them leaving with warm coats, boots, socks, sweats, hoodies,

coveralls, blankets and several other items. They received hair cuts and pedicures, along with flu shots. The VFW served brunch as well. Thank You to "ALL" the Merchants, vendors, and DAV, American Legion, and the VFW for giving out Information. I also would like to Thank "ALL" the Volunteers for making this event a success!

Since my last report, I attended my first National Convention, in New Orleans. I had a great time, and took in all I need to do next year. We must work harder to make 100% in membership. It was great to see so many VFW Auxiliary and VFW Post

members attending from South Dakota.

I also attended the State Fair, in Huron. District 1, had the first day to welcome and visit with the veterans that came through our building. It was so good to see so many familiar faces.

As I continue my Journey, I'm looking forward to Fall Council and Homecoming, in Oacoma, and Big 10 in Bloomington, Minn.

We had our 3rd annual Retreat in Granville. We receive a lot of Information and Ideas, from Past Department Presidents, along with other Auxiliaries.

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

*Sandi Moss*



The hot summer is over and Winter is sliding into our lives. Soon Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here but first, we need to increase our Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Membership is the key to our Auxiliary. Without Membership we cannot grow and prosper. Without growing and prospering we will

not stay alive to help our Veterans, AND that Ladies and Gentlemen is our reason for being. No one does more for Veterans than the VFW and its Auxiliary, but, if we do not grow our Membership we will die!

I am challenging every Member to carry an Auxiliary Application with them at all times. I have handed out 6 copies in the last five days. One key to getting a new member is to ASK!!!! Many potential Members have never been asked. Seems strange doesn't it? I had been eligible for over twenty years before someone asked me to join this wonderful organization. Please remember to ASK – the lady at checkout, the gentleman bagging your groceries, your next

door neighbor, your son or grandsons football coach, the list is almost endless. Many more individuals became eligible two years ago, just ASK!!

National has started the "Catch 5" program this year. They are giving (actually, you earn it!) a pin out for your first FIVE new Members or Rejoined Members. The pin is in the shape of a catcher's mitt. You, as the recruiter of **FIVE New or Rejoined Members**, are responsible for sending the form, completely filled out to National. Paperwork was handed out at Fall Council, or, you can go on line and get a form to fill out.

New Members sound easy, but many are confused about **Rejoined Members**. If a Member did not pay their dues for 2017, they are no longer a Member, period. We cannot reinstate them as we did in the past. They must fill out a new application for a new Membership and start over. If your Auxiliary still carries a Cancer Plan, they have to start their eligibility over again.

MALTA is now open and running, giving us a great tool. As we recruit new members, the information can quickly be forwarded to National and our new Members will quickly be able to get the tools they need to be an active and productive Member. All Members with Computers can access MALTA.

Nancy Worth, our National Recruiter Trainer, is available to help you as needed.

I do want to assure all Life Members that the new cards should be out in the near future. Please have patience, National has thousands to get out. We all are aware how computers can change our planned schedules. National sent out information the end of August that the Life Membership cards would be out in 6-8 weeks. If you do not have a card at all, you may print or download the image of your card from MALTA. Log into MALTA and select "View Card". No problem if you don't have a printer, you may access MALTA on a smartphone or tablet and show the image of your membership card at any meeting as proof of your membership.

Our first quarter goal is 31 October. We need to send **45 New or Rejoined Members** to National prior to 31 October!!! I know that we can fill our first Quarterly Goal if we reach out and ASK people to join our organization. Let's go out and ASK!!!

**Sandi Moss**

**Jr. Vice President**



## Auxiliary Awards at State Convention 2016-2017, Pierre

- Buddy Poppy Contest – Best Hat, Brookings; Best Clothes, Beresford- Gerri Dahlin; Category 1, Goodwin; Category 2. Brookings (this display was inspired by the Patriotic Art entry from Brookings).
- Outstanding Presidents – Category 1, Clarice Foland, Alcester; Runner Up, Verlana Mehlhaff, Eureka; Category 2, Colleen Miller, Plankinton; Runner Up Donita Mullinix, Beresford; Category 3, Nancy Worth, Sturgis; Runner Up, Elsie Forsch, Burke; Category 4, Penny Galinat, Pierre; Runner Up Shirley Christensen, Yankton;
- Veterans and Family Support – Patti Mitchell, "Day County Coyote Hunt", Assistants to help National Guard Units & Families
- Best Promotion of programs – Category 1, Alcester; Category 2, Canton; Category 3, Brookings; Category 4, Pierre
- Collected the most money – Aberdeen; Overall Promotion of program, Goodwin; Unmet Needs, Elk Point
- National Awards presented to – Patti Mitchell; Vissia; Jan Endes; Leanne Payne; Sandi Moss; Mary Kirkvold; Donita Mullinix; Tammi Chase
- Americanism – Category 1, Connie Jung, Eureka; Category 2, Jeanie Starr, Plankinton; Category 3, Carol Hess; Category 4, Jan Endes, Winner
- Best promotion of Patriotism in Youth – Jan Olson, Brookings; Marion Neuroth, Beresford; Tammy Chase, Sisseton
- Best Revitalization of an Auxiliary to Brookings - Janice Olson; Best use of publicity by an Auxiliary to Revitalize – Brookings
- Hospital – Best Promotion of Military Suicide Awareness – Winner; Best Veterans Voice Writing – Deadwood; Best Sponsorship of Programs – Custer; Best Promotion of Burrito pillowcases – Brookings
- Best Sponsor of events in the 4 categories – Goodwin; Plankinton; Brookings; Winner
- Legislative – Most Communications, Lois Knudson, Pierre; Best Get Out To VOTE – Angela Ross, Sturgis; Best Promotion of Priority Goals, Jan Endes, Winner. Most Legislation Reported, Jan Endes, Winner
- Membership – 100%+ or otherwise noted: Canton, Alcester; Brookings; Brandon; Sisseton; Milbank; Faulkton, 100%; Gettysburg; Scotland 100%; Parkston; Plankinton; Wagner 100%; District 8; Pierre; Winner; Burke 100%; Sturgis; Quinn 100%; Custer Greatest Numerical Gain – Gettysburg, Pierre with 17 each. Greatest Numerical - Alcester, 154.54%; Gettysburg, 105.30% percentage. Gettysburg and Pierre tied for the Greatest number over quota.
- Scholarships – Category 1, no entries; Category 2, Beresford; Category 3, Brookings; Category 4, Rapid City. VOD – Scotland; Patriotic Pen – Brookings;
- Youth Activities – Most Random Acts of Patriotism card/coins, Tied with 500 each, Sturgis and Canton. Best Publicity, Brookings. Most Activities/Citations, Scotland

## Donation to Yankton Special Olympics



The Auxiliary to Ernest Bowyer VFW Post 791 of Yankton was glad once again to donate to the Yankton Special Olympics at the July meeting.

With the help of the Leprechauns, VFW Post 791 members and Auxiliary, the help and support of our Community, and with a special "Thanks" going to Gene Ebnetter for his great support and success in helping us reach our goal through the weekend of St. Patrick Day. Shirley Christensen presented Sheri Duke, Head of Delegation Special Olympics, a check for \$4,250.

The fund will stay in Yankton to help support their special projects though the year. Thank you again to all that made our project a great success, the VFW Auxiliary.

## Three Sisters Rally



They travel together, meeting as often as possible at family gatherings and nearly every year, Marlys Silver of Florida, Imogene "Ige" Eliis of South Dakota and Dorothy "Dottie" Christianson of Minnesota, attend VFW Auxiliary National Convention Together.

Marlys said her sister, Imogene, was the reason she joined the Auxiliary in 2003. She wanted to attend Imogene's installation as Department President. Marlys' eligibility comes from her husband, Edward Silver, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. He was a navigator stationed in Australia. Marlys retired from a career in advertising in New York City. She and Imogene both belong to Auxiliary 2638 in Madison, South Dakota.

"We love each other," she said of her sisters. "So we do so many things together, and we have an incredible time."

Imogene, who became a member in 1959 and has been involved ever since at local, Department and District levels, also joined on the eligibility of her husband, Army veteran Robert Ellis. The retired bookkeeper continues to volunteer many hours a week for her Auxiliary.

Dorothy, a retired nurse, joined the Auxiliary in 1984, and to this day, dedicates her time volunteering to promote Auxiliary programs and cook meals for Auxiliary 1914 fundraisers in Saint James, Minnesota. Her husband, Robert Christianson, also served in the Army during WWII, when he was stationed in the Pacific.

## Food Donation to the VA Hospital from Huron Post 1776

On July 30, 2017, restaurant RL-0305 with the help of Janet Tuenge (culinary manager), Eric Krueger (CGM) and Mariah Wehde (CGM) volunteered to cook meals for forty veteran patients admitted to the Sioux Falls Regional VA Hospital. VFW Post 1776 and it's Auxiliary here in Sioux Falls, volunteered to serve the food in coordination with Dick and Bev Freng, who also provided refreshments for the hospitalized veterans. The meals consisted of grilled chicken, grilled shrimp skewers, along with rice, broccoli and of course our famous cheddar bay biscuits. The VFW and it's Auxiliary volunteers then celebrated with their own lunch here at the Sioux Falls Red Lobster, where they thanked our crew for the food and cooking meals for everyone. Several of the volunteers shared with Janet that many of the Vets who would not normally leave their rooms, came out in droves to enjoy lunch provided by Red Lobster - "Creating Happy Memories" for the Veterans as well as the volunteers!

— *Senator John Thune Letter to the Editor, continued from Pg. 5*

The current Rapid City CBOC is outdated and too small to meet veterans' needs. When I met with VA Secretary Shulkin and the rest of the state's congressional delegation this spring, the secretary indicated that he wanted to make these improvements in Rapid City, which is separate from former VA Secretary Robert McDonald's decision on the potential realignment of VA services in the Black Hills. That proposal is on hold while the VA reviews its national footprint and veteran needs.

I recognize that many South Dakota veterans still prefer to seek care at the VA, and that there have unfortunately been shortfalls in the implementation of the Choice Program. That is why I reintroduced a bill to make a position within the VA Office of Inspector General for a Choice Act ombudsman to serve as an independent, central collection point of complaints, which will help the VA and Congress better address any issues with the program.

Congress also passed the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, which provides long-awaited and much-needed reforms to a department that has been mired in red tape for far too long. This legislation protects employees who are willing to call out bad behavior and gives the secretary the freedom to dismiss employees who are not doing their job. Misconduct within the VA steals valuable resources that should be devoted to veteran care.

I'm also pleased to report that the VA acted on my request to more prominently feature the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) on its website, VA.gov. I suggested to Secretary Shulkin that the VCL be displayed in the first of four rotating banners on the VA's website or be given a dedicated button that is immediately identifiable on the VA's homepage. Within days of receiving my letter, the VA reordered its banners to feature the VCL, and I look forward to working with the VA to further promote this critical resource. Any veteran or member of his or her family can contact the VCL 24 hours per day, seven days per week by texting 838255 or calling 1-800-273-8255 and pressing one.

Our commitment to the men and women who serve in the military doesn't end when they no longer wear the uniform. In many cases, that's when they need us the most. We owe these heroes and the future defenders of freedom more than we'll ever actually be able to repay, but that shouldn't stop us from trying.

If you would like additional information on my activities in the Senate, please feel free to visit my website, <https://www.thune.senate.gov>. You can also follow me on Twitter and Instagram (@SenJohnThune). Thanks again for contacting me. Please keep in touch.

Kindest regards,  
**John Thune**  
United States Senator



— VFW 87th State Convention Awards, continued from Pg. 5

#### Publications Content

First Place, John M. Bliss Post 628, Sioux Falls, 5 or more times a year; Four or less times a year – First Place – Rollie Bucholz Post 7319; Second Place – Ronald Westby Post 2638, Madison; Third Place – Lincoln Post 3164, Canton

#### Eagle Scout of the Year 2016-2017

Seth M. Smith, Brookings Sponsored by Brookings, Post 2118

#### Loyalty Day Program, First Place

Category I – Hutchinson County Post 3298, Parkston; Category II – Three Rivers Post 4726, Brandon; Category III – Corn Palace City Post 2750, Mitchell; Category IV – George Dokken Post 2118, Brookings; Category V – Kenneth Kuper Post 3442, Custer; Category VI – John M. Bliss Post 628, Sioux Falls

#### Tice – Baker – Radigan

Baker-Simpson Award – Outstanding Post Commander, Sean Johnson, Aberdeen  
William J. Radigan Award – Outstanding Post Quartermaster – David Johnson, Aberdeen

#### Tice – Gallagher Award

Outstanding District Commander, Tom Hafner, Aurora County Post 6554, Plankinton  
Captain, All-State District Commander Team, Tom Hafner, Aurora County Post 6554, Plankinton

#### Captain Post Commander Team

Sean Johnson, C.C. Croal Post 17, Aberdeen

#### Captain Post Quartermaster Team

Davin Johnson, C.C. Croal Post 17, Aberdeen

#### Double Eagle Award

Past State Commander 2013-2014, D.D. Couch, Custer  
Most Valuable Comrade Award, Dwight Griffiee

## Editor's Note

This being the second edition, in not sending out the hard copies to members, please forward to everyone that is on your emailing list. Again advising them of the change of distribution. Now poster, to review/download on the VFW website, [www.sdvfw.org](http://www.sdvfw.org).

Respectfully,  
SDOV Editor

**Everybody Knows SOMEBODY  
Eligible for  
VFW  
So Why Not Ask That Veteran  
to Join Your Post?**

## The Benefits of Hospice at End of Life

By: Jennifer Doblak, RN Hospice Liaison and  
Shelly Simantel Horr, LSW Hospice Liaison



Everyone at Compassionate Care Hospice believes that patients are entitled to live as fully and as comfortably as possible. We believe in affirming life and assisting our patients with end of life wishes when possible so they can enjoy the time that is left. Hospice provides palliative care to reduce pain and help control other symptoms that are typically seen at end of life. Pain can stem from the physical, emotional and/or spiritual strain of being the caregiver, family member or the patient. Care

is delivered by a TEAM of professionals, including volunteers, to meet the individualized needs of the patient and family unit. Compassionate Care Hospice creates a comprehensive plan of care that is continually reviewed and adapted to meet these ever-changing needs. Care is provided wherever the patient calls 'home'.

Hospice care is an earned benefit for those receiving Medicare and/or Medicaid with minimal or no cost to the patient or family. Hospice is also a benefit of many private insurance companies and cost varies depending on the specific plans coverage. Hospice is also a VA benefit for veterans who are enrolled in the VA Health Care System. In order to be assessed for hospice there needs to be a physician order for Compassionate Care Hospice to assess/admit as well as a terminal diagnosis. The patient or Power of Attorney will also need to sign consent paperwork in order for the hospice nurse to assess. Hospice cannot look through a chart or touch the patient until these pieces have been completed.

Hospice isn't just for cancer anymore. There are many qualifying diagnosis's such as Dementia, AIDS, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Multiple Sclerosis and any end-stage organ failure such as Congestive Heart Failure, COPD, Kidney or Liver failure. We care for many Vietnam veterans who have been afflicted with lung disease.

By electing hospice care the patient and family can receive many benefits from the service. We often receive feedback from families saying "I wish we would have started hospice sooner". Many times, hospice is elected in the final days or hours of life and there simply isn't enough time for the patient and/or the family to experience the full benefit. Again, care is delivered by a TEAM of professionals based on the needs of the patient and/or family. This might include Physician Care, a Registered Nurse Case Manager, Social Worker, Hospice CNA, Chaplain, Volunteers, Bereavement Support and Grief Counseling. Hospice can provide medications and medical equipment to help alleviate symptoms that are related to the primary hospice diagnosis. Short-term respite care, short-term acute in-patient care or 24 hour at-home care during a crisis are also options available to our patients still living in their own home.

Compassionate Care Hospice also has two specialty programs that are unique to our program and not offered by any other hospice in the area. They are Cardiac Connections and Pulmonary Connections, which are specific to heart and lung disease. We are the only hospice who has a full time Certified Nurse Practitioner on staff who oversees the Cardiac Program and makes patient visits. We also have a Respiratory Therapist on staff who makes patient visits on Pulmonary patients.

Compassionate Care Hospice believes in quality care which in turn improves quality of life for everyone involved. The best way to determine if you or a loved one would benefit from the services provided by hospice is to call us at **1-866-338-2066**. We would be happy to give a no-name, over-the-phone consultation at no cost. Or, if you would simply like a more detailed program explanation, we can do that too!

*Remember comrades, the more comrades we can get involved, the easier the job becomes. So please don't ask, "What does the VFW do for me?" Ask, "What can I do to help the VFW and my fellow veterans?" If you keep passing the load off to someone else, pretty soon that someone else isn't going to be there. He or she will have passed away. So please do help, it feels good.*



*"...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!

**Yankton, Ernest Bowyer Post 791**  
Tramp, Arnold, Korea, USA, Life

**Watertown, Frank H. Adams Post 750**  
Schamens, Charles E., Korea, USAF, Life; Hanten, John B., Korea, USA; Stickland, Larry D., Dester Storm/Shield, USA, Life; Case Jack D., Korea, USAF, Life

**Alcester, Post 6149**  
Rolfes, Conelius J., Korea, USA, Life; McKellips, Roger, WWII, USAF, Life

**Mitchell, Corn Palace City Post 2750**  
Coates, Gailen L., WWII, Army Air Corp, Life; Anderson, Robert W., WWII, SDNG

**Vermillion, Haakon County Post 3061**  
Kronaizl, James, WWII, USMC, Life, Past Post Commander; Engbrecht Alvin, Life

**Parkston, Hutchinson County Post 3298**  
Tiede, Harold T., WWII, USA, Life

**Sioux Falls, John M. Bliss Post 628**  
Jarding, Louis, WWII, USA; Popkes, Berdell, Korea, Life; Kapsch, LeRoy, Korea, USN, Life; Munce, Kenneth, WWII, USA, Life; Steffen, Donald, Korea, USA, Life; Smith, James, Vietnam, USAF, Life; Sowell, Pearl "Tex", WWII, USA; Axtell, Robert, Vietnam, USN; Cusylos, Stephen, Vietnam, USA, Life; Jamison, Robert, Korea, USAF, Life; Bobleyk, Allen, Korea, USA, Life; Bresee, John, Korea, USA,

Life; Verly, Eugene, WWII, USMC; Gramlick, Greg, Vietnam, USA, Life; Carson, Dale, WWII, USN; Johnson, Lowell, Germany, USAF, Life; Gerlach, Earl, WWII, USAAF; Lee Gordon, Korea, USA

**Madison, Lake Post 2638**  
Eich, Lawrence M., WWII, USA; Sample, Bertrand E., Korea, USAF, Life

## #1 Disability Among Vets isn't PTSD, It's HEARING LOSS

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs ranks hearing loss as the number one disability among vets. At least 60 percent of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan — some 600,000 vets — suffer permanent hearing loss or tinnitus, a chronic ringing in the ears. It's also the fastest-growing of all postwar disabilities, more than doubling over the past decade, and among the most costly in terms of lost productivity. Lose your hearing and you're more likely to lose your job, suffer from high stress, or experience social anxiety, depression, and early-onset dementia. And though it can be treated, there is no cure.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Audiology Department offers comprehensive services to Veterans with hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance concerns. Auditory system disabilities (including hearing loss and tinnitus) are among the most common service-related disabilities in every period of service since WWII.

Your VA Audiologists are healthcare professionals trained to identify, diagnose, treat and monitor disorders of the auditory and vestibular systems. Most audiologists are trained with a doctoral degree (e.g., AuD, PhD). All VA audiologists are required to maintain a state license.

**VA Audiologists provide a range of clinic services to our Nation's Veterans and Service members. Services include:**

- Diagnostic hearing evaluations
- Hearing aid fittings
- Vestibular Assessment
- Ototoxic medication monitoring
- Tinnitus Assessment
- Compensation and Pension Exams
- Aural Rehabilitation
- Vestibular Rehabilitation
- Hearing Conservation
- Tinnitus Rehabilitation

**Our VA Audiologist are leading hearing care into the future utilizing upcoming technology.**

This article highlights the invisible war wound of hearing loss and its impact on the everyday life of our Veterans and is an excellent read.

Sources: *Vantage Point*, 2017. *Official Blog of The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs. HCE Hearing Center of Excellence. <http://Hearing.health.mil> Bradley, Ryan. 2016. *New Republic Magazine. Full Metal Racket.**

## SD VFW is Here to Help with Veterans Affairs Benefits Questions

South Dakota VFW Service Officers are trained experts, helping veterans develop their case with ease by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations and medical histories. As skilled professionals, we assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pensions and death benefits, and employment and training programs. Furthermore, we won't hesitate to request hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments when needed.

VFW Service Officers are with America's veterans every step of the way once they're ready to file a claim. This is a service the VFW is proud to offer – free of charge – to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process.

Learn more about Veterans Affairs benefits (assistance, va claims, separation benefits, veteran affairs benefits) and what to expect after you file a claim. Visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claimexam.asp> or contact our local VFW website at [www.sdvfw.org](http://www.sdvfw.org).

## Advocacy at Home

The holidays are around the corner and that means your members of Congress will be at home. Start planning now to visit them in their district office or attend a town hall meeting. You can find our latest talking points on our website at [www.vfw.org/VFW-inDC/Action-Corps](http://www.vfw.org/VFW-inDC/Action-Corps) and click on "Know these Issues." Getting pro-veteran legislation passed starts and ends with grassroots advocacy.



## Calendar of Events: Recruit New Members

Oct 29	District 1 Meeting, 2pm Elk Point District 7 Meeting, 2pm Winner
Oct 31	Deadline for Post Level VOD/PP
Nov 7	Election Date (Vote)
Nov 8-14	Pheasant Hunt, Gettysburg
Nov 11	Veterans Day, Hold/Attend a Program
Dec 1	Deadline for reporting SDOV
Jan 19-21	Coyote Hunt, Roslyn
Jan 27-29	Legislative/Mid Winter Conference, Ft. Pierre
June 14-17, 2018	VFW/AUX State Convention, Sioux Falls

## WANTED

### Outstanding Service Officers

We would like to read the hard work of our Post and Department Service Officers are doing. If you would like to see them receive some much deserved recognition, send us a brief note explaining why.

Please forward to:

Dick Pickering, 404 Dogwood Street  
Brandon, South Dakota, 57005  
or email [dpsigns@alliancecom.net](mailto:dpsigns@alliancecom.net)



## 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](http://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](http://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.

## Thoughts by which to Live Your VFW and AUX Life

Promises may get friends, but 'tis performance that keeps them.

One thing I do know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

- Albert Schweitzer

The speed of the leader determines the rate of the pack.

To be a leader we should strive to lift people up. To encourage them, and to set an example that will be an inspiration to others.

- Wilfred A. Peterson

The only failure that lacks dignity is the failure to try.

- Malcom Mac Neil

The Pessimist see the difficulty in every opportunity.

The Optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.



## Ask an Eligible to Join the VFW

**Think of a Friend...**If he were a member, he would now have a \$1,000 Personal Accident Protection Insurance Policy that covers, him, absolutely free.

**Think of Comradship...**Everyone needs and enjoys friends.

**Think of Veterans Legislation...**We are still helping to protect our fellow veterans as well as ourselves.

**Think of the Disabled, the Widow, the Orphaned Child...**Our Service Officers Program is second to none.

**Think of the Buddy Poppy...**When you sell the poppy you are helping not only your Post Relief Fund but the disabled veterans and the National Home as well.

**Think of the National Home...**Doesn't it make you feel good to know that you are helping to care for the children of our fallen comrades?

**Think of America...**She still needs you.

**Think of a Friend...**Won't you share all of this with him? Why not ask a friend to join now...do it for them, do it for yourself.

### How Many Members Did You Sign Up Today???

## S.D. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Benefits:** 425 E. Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501

**Claims:** 2501 W. 22nd St., Sioux Falls, SD 57117

[www.vetaffairs.sd.gov](http://www.vetaffairs.sd.gov)

## Ready to Join the VFW

Contact any member or stop by your local Post for additional information or visit us on the web at [www.sdvfw.org](http://www.sdvfw.org)



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 (January 2018) of the *South Dakota Overseas Veteran*, the **deadline is December 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

Open to the Public  
Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. to Close  
[www.vfw628.org](http://www.vfw628.org)

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; Rock and Cindy Williamson. **Bronze category**: Wagner VFW Post 7319; Leonard Kisely; Dick Pickering.