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DIGGING IN 2018  
WITH A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

April/May/June 2018

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

Vol. 74 Issue 4

## Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the Year Winners Legislative Conference, Ft. Pierre, South Dakota



Photo shoot right after the Winners Parade March, escorted by our State Commander and President, Department of South Dakota. L-R Auxiliary National President Dee Guillory; State Auxiliary President, Carrie Alm; Voice of Democracy State Winner, Olivia Heinecke; State Commander, Rick Williamson; VFW National Commander in Chief, Keith Harman.



Row 1- Patriots Pen, Lacey Westphal, Leola, District 6; Kathryn Doom, Wagner, District 7; Luke Gapp, Vermillion, District 1; Abigail Norse, Madison, District 4; Natea Gordon, Whitewood, District 10. Row 2- State Commander, Rick Williamson; Voice of Democracy, Olivia Heinecke, Sisseton, District 4; Carolyn Blaha, Donte, District 7; Bridger Gordon, Whitewood, District 10; Modeline Loewe, Lennox, District 1; Grace Douglas, Aberdeen, District 6; State Auxiliary President; Carrie Alm. Row 3- Teacher of the Year, Tera Koupal, Wagner, grades 9-12; Heather Rowen, Aberdeen, grade k-5; Megan Wollman, Aberdeen, grades 6-8; Keith Blume, VFW, VOD Chairman; Keith Harman, National Commander in Chief; Vickie Rosse, Auxiliary, National Representative; Donita Mullinix, Auxiliary, PP Chairman.

### Capital Visit



Yesterday was a GREAT DAY for VETERANS and their FAMILIES! It was truly special to have all the veterans at the capitol yesterday along with everyone that has contributed in the effort to bring Senate Bill 91 to fruition. I know some of you were unable to travel due to weather but please know that although you may not be in the pictures you certainly were not forgotten. I also want to remind everyone that may not be aware, the SD State Veterans Endowment fund can be located at <https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-veterans-cemetery-fund/> and is open for donations.

The Veterans Council looks forward to working with the City Council and the Department of Veterans Affairs in designing and preparing for the Cemetery. I will continue to update you all as more information becomes available. Thanks again for all that you do and as always do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

**Terry A. Paulsen**  
President, CSM, USA, Retired  
South Dakota Veterans Council



**Kevin C. Jones**  
**Assistant Adjutant General,**  
**Administration and Programs**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

Kevin C. Jones was appointed Assistant Adjutant General, Administration and Programs in July 2015. Previously he held the position of director, VFW Programs, the past two years and was director, Administrative Operations from April 2006 to December 2013. He joined the VFW National Headquarters staff in 1996 as an accounting manager. His other appointments included serving as director, Marketing Services; deputy director, VFW Programs; assistant director, Development and as manager of institutional

— Kevin C. Jones, continued on pg. 3

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.

**South Dakota Overseas Veteran**  
USPS 503-160

Periodical postage paid at Sioux Falls and additional mailing office (ISS No. 7462859)

Send changes of address to:  
*Overseas Veteran*  
3601 S. Minnesota Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
POSTMASTER:  
to *Overseas Veteran*  
at Publisher's Office:  
3601 S. Minnesota Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Official Publication of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Published: Jan./Feb/March, April/May/June, July/Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov/Dec  
at American Publishing LLC  
Greendale, WI 53129  
Jenny DeBack, President  
Send news copy by the 1st prior to each publishing Month:

Dick Pickering, Editor  
404 Dogwood  
Brandon, SD 57005  
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38486 252nd St.  
Plankinton, SD 57368

## Commander's Report

### Rick Williamson



The old saying that "Time fly's when your having Fun" seems so true as I write this. It is hard to believe that my year as your Commander will soon be coming to an end. All I can think is WOW, this as been a busy year. It has truly been an honor to lead this great Department, at the same time it has been so rewarding for me as an individual. It has meant so much to have the support of my lovely wife and family as we went thru this, but more importantly the support and trust that each of you have given to me is humbling. As my term ends I can only say that I have no plans of stopping my personal growth within this organization, and I hope that in the future you all will continue to trust and support me as I search for the next road to travel to support the cause of the Department of South Dakota and the VFW.

Together we have accomplished so many things this year, and we still have a few more goals that I hope you will help with as the year comes to an end. Here is a list of things that I have been working on since the last edition:

- Continued my work with the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery Task Force. This has been a very long and important project for the veterans of this state. As most of you may have heard this is not a project anymore, this is a reality- FINALLY- we hope to find out this fall as to when the design and construction will get underway. I have spent so much time in Pierre this year testifying, lobbying, and making sure that ever legislator in our state knew just exactly how we felt about getting this accomplished. This was not a VFW endeavor alone, we joined with all the members of the South Dakota Veterans Council as one voice to make this happen. During testimony we were told more than once that when this many people join forces to do something that is so noble it is nearly impossible to ignore such a large group of people. This is really a big thing to have happen this year and I am proud of the way that everyone stepped up and let your voice be known to your local legislators. Thank You for your help each voice that they heard kept the topic in the front of their mind. I would like to thank Darwin Tolzin for all of his support as I was working on this, I think we made a great team and kept the department operating as we should.
- March 4- 9, 2018 I traveled to Washington DC for National Legislative Convention. We had 8 people for South Dakota in our delegation this year. I think that they rolled up the streets of Custer for that week as 5 of our people were from there, they may not have rolled up the streets but I am confident that law enforcement didn't have to work overtime. Carrie and I had the honor of marching our Voice of Democracy winner, Olivia Heinecke, in the Parade

of Winners. Olivia represented South Dakota extremely well, and according to her she had an awesome time, made a bunch of new friends from all over America, and got to see so many sights in our nations Capital. It was so fun to talk with her when we finally got to see her, she was so excited that I found it entertaining to listen to her explain all the things they had done. When we got in the lineup for the March her nerves started to kick in and she so reminded me of my own son on his wedding day. Never the less she did great and has some great plans for her future, I would hope you would join me in wishing her the very best in whatever she does in the future. She is truly a wonderful young lady and a great South Dakotan.

Now a few things to accomplish yet this year:

- Membership, we are on track for getting to 100%, we made 97% by April 1st which was a huge goal set out by the National Commander. Thank You to every member of this department for helping to get there. DD Couch and Sean Johnson have done an outstanding job as our Membership Chairmen, but they know that they can't do it without you. Please if you know of anyone who is an eligible veteran let us know, we want then in our ranks, they have earned the right to stand among us, we NEED to invite them to our Posts and make them feel like they are part of this family. Again, Thank You for all you have done and all that you will continue to do for our VFW.
- May 28, 2018 Black Hills National Cemetery, The VFW will host the Memorial Day Ceremony again this year, PDC Mike Mullin has been putting the program together, for that I am grateful. I will be in attendance as your Commander. I would like to invite anyone who wishes to attend to do so and represent your Post. BG Kevin Griese will be our speaker for this event. I look forward to this as BG Griese was my Battalion Commander in Iraq in 2004. He is also a member of our own VFW. He will have a great message I am sure.

As I close I would like to once again thank everyone for the support and kindness you have shown to me over the last year, I could not be prouder of what we have accomplished this year and want you to know that it could have never been done without you. I will always be here for any member of our Department if you need me. I wish Danny the best as he prepares to be your next Commander, and pledge to all of our line officers that I will be there for you as well, you have my number, I am at your disposal. God Bless each of you, being your Commander has been a wonderful experience and my pleasure. Now one last time, Let's "Dig In" and get a new member for our VFW. Thanks, and have a Blessed Day

**Rick Williamson**  
**Commander**

## Sr. Vice Commander's Report

### Danny Frisby-Griffin



It's hard to believe that Spring is right around the corner and we'll be getting ready for Loyalty Day, Memorial Day, State Convention, July 4th, VFW Baseball Tournaments, National Convention, Sturgis Bike Rally Recruiting Support and the start of a new school year. Before we know it, it'll be 2020. YIKES!

As of **March 7, 2018**, I've received **27 Memorial Day** reports and **29 Veterans Day** reports. Please, continue to send me your Memorial and Veterans

Day program reports as well as your Loyalty Day Reports. Your Loyalty Day Reports need to be turned in by the first week in May to receive points during the All State Judging.

The Public Service Awards Panel evaluated the 14 EMT, Firefighter and Law Enforcement submissions. The winners were announced during the Council of Administration portion of the Legislative Conference.

- EMT: Patricia Pape; Parkston SD; Post 3298; District 7
- Firefighter: Captain Troy Scandin; Sioux Falls SD; Post 628; District 1
- LE: Officer DesaRae' Gravatt; Wagner SD; Post 7319; District 7

The Department submitted our candidates for each of the categories to VFW National Headquarters by February 1. The presentations will be 6/16/2018 at the State Convention.

During the Annual VFW Baseball Meeting, the 2018 Tournament Host Sites were revealed. We will need everyone's assistance in making sure the tournaments are successful, especially during the presentation of colors.

- 2018 Class A**
  - 16U 8/3-6/2018 (West Central) (Regions during week of 7/23-27 and must be complete by 7/27)

- 14U 7/20-22/2018 (Flandreau) (Regions during week of 7/9-12 and must be complete by 7/12)
- 12U 7/13-15/2018 (Madison)  
10U 7/13-15/2018 (Madison)
- 2018 Class B**
  - 16U 8/3-6/2018 (Salem-Montrose) (Regions during week of 7/23-27 and must be complete by 7/27)
  - 14U 7/20-22/2018 (Gregory) (Regions during week of 7/9-12 and must be complete by 7/12)
  - 12U 7/13-15/2018 (Webster)
  - 10U 7/13-15/2018 (Platte-Corsica)
- 2019 Tournament Dates**
  - Class A and B 10U and 12U: 7/12-14/2019
  - Class A and B 14U: 7/19-21/2019 (Regions must be completed by 7/11)
  - Class A and B 16U: 8/2-4/2019 (Regions must be completed by 7/26)
- 2020 Tournament Dates**
  - Class A and B 10U and 12U: 7/10-12/2020
  - Class A and B 14U: 7/17-19/2020 (Regions must be completed by 7/9)
  - Class A and B 16U: 7/31-8/2/2020 (Regions must be completed by 7/24)

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 convention registration are on our website (<http://www.sdvfw.org>) and if you have problems with them, drop me a note at the email below explaining exactly what happened.

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



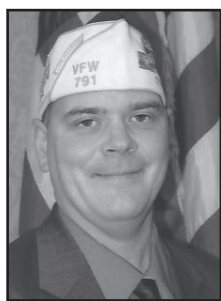
Hello Comrades:

Time is going by so fast, there is so much to do at the end of the year, to prepare for the end of the year reports. We also have community books and newsletters, and judging for state white hats. The Commanders year has gone by fast too and is also coming to an end so if you see him before and at convention make sure to tell him he did a great job this year. I and

D.D. Couch have been busy with the District Commanders with membership. We have been steadily gone upward to the 97% mark and we will make that 100% before the end of the year. I want to let you know we need to keep trying, but also how very proud I am of each and every one of you for trying to get this done. This can be a thank less job but a necessary one to survive.

I WANT TO ASK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE FOR ME FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER FOR 2018 – 2019. It would be my honor to serve you in this capacity for the up and coming year.

## State Judge Advocate's Report Cody Mangold



Comrades,

Spring is coming soon with green grass which means new opportunities. With the new opportunities, I am announcing my intent to run for Jr. Vice Commander this next year. Please continue to send in your reports as we are doing well now. I have had the opportunity to attend 2 mid-winter meetings this year; which I have greatly enjoyed meeting new

people and the hospitality. Some things I have learned over my short time in the VFW (10 years) is there are some

amazing people, and always something to learn. A couple other things I have learned are listen to others when they give you advice as they are just trying to mentor you, and in turn take that knowledge and try to share it with others. Mentorship is what it is all about and without mentorship, we would be failing our own organization. I do thank you for your support as the Judge Advocate and hope that you will continue to allow me to represent the State of South Dakota VFW.

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

## State Surgeon's Report Barbara McKean



Are you a life member of the VFW? By becoming a VFW Life member, you make a lifetime commitment to serving your fellow service members and veterans. That's something to take great pride in.

You'll also enjoy many great benefits of being a Life member! You will:

- Avoid annual dues and renewals.
- Maintain your membership in any Post

you choose, worldwide!

- Never pay an increase in dues – Guaranteed!
- Receive a 10% discount on exclusive VFW Store merchandise for the first year.

You can become a VFW Life member by making a one-time payment, or you can pay for your Life membership through our installment plan with an initial \$45 payment and the Life membership amount billed over an 11-month period. **Contact your local Quartermaster for assistance.**

All reports are available on the state website at <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms>.

In addition, the VFW Convention/councils forms are available under VFW Convention at same website. The 2018 SD Annual Convention and Registration Information link is now live. Dates are June 14-16 at Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls. If you have not attended a convention, I encourage you to attend this one. I attended my first one about 4 years ago, and have never looked back. Call me if you have any questions.

I am running for State Judge Advocate. I appreciate your continued support. I look forward working with you. Please reach out and let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you.

**Barbara McKean**  
State Surgeon  
504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366  
C: 605-630-0771; Email: [mckean4@live.com](mailto:mckean4@live.com)

## Inspector Ken Payne



Comrades,

It sure does not feel like it, but Spring is here and we are on the downhill slide of our VFW year. It has been quite a year with time flying by for me. I would like to thank Commander Rick for trusting me with the Inspector's position and hope that I have fulfilled it to his expectations.

Quarterly audit reports and post and district inspection reports have been coming in at a nice pace. I will not bore everyone with what post have and have not sent them in, as they know. I have been informing posts that there are quarterly audit forms available to download on the internet. There is even one on the South Dakota VFW website. They are just like the forms that you fill out by hand. The nice thing about these forms is that they do all the math for you

so it is an easy way to check your own figures. They are also very easy to read the numbers.

I have been very impressed with the newsletters that I have received this year. Several posts that have been doing newsletters for some time have started sending them to me, and a few posts that have just started putting out newsletters have been sending them in. I would like to compliment the Editors of all of these papers. If your post puts out a newsletter, please let the person who puts the time in to put it together know that all the work that they do is not going unnoticed. A thank you and good job comment go a long way. These people put a lot of effort into the newsletters.

It will not be long and the State Convention will be here, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

**Ken Payne**  
Inspector

Kevin C. Jones, continued from pg. 1 —

development, VFW Foundation.

Jones served in the U. S. Air Force for 12 years as an accounting technician, budget analyst and accounting manager. Among his assignments was a tour of duty at Osan Air Base, Korea. His numerous decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. He received his bachelor's degree in business from Troy State University while on active duty. He also received an associate of science degree in financial management from the Community College of the Air Force.

He is a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers and the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, Troy State University. He is a Life Member of VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Missouri.

## Public Affairs Report

Apologies – The VA Show & Shine is **August 15 – NOT August 16!** Local car enthusiasts meet at various locations in Sioux Falls on Wednesday nights during the summer months. They graciously add VA to their cruise schedule each year in appreciation of Veterans' service and sacrifices.

An important message from the Privacy Officer:

DEA Registration Scam - We want to call to your attention a DEA Registration Scam. DEA has reported some registrants have already become victims of the scam. Please be aware that a DEA employee or law enforcement will never contact you directly demanding money or threatening suspension of your license. You should never provide any personal information or money to someone purporting to be a DEA agent or law enforcement officer. If you receive such a call or email, please help DEA gather information about this scam by completing the on-line incident report located at <https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/esor/spring/main?execution=e1s1>.

If you have questions or concerns about the legitimacy of someone contacting you or for more information, you can contact DEA at: Locate DEA Field Office for your area - <https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/contactDea/spring/fullSearch> Registration Service Center - 1-800-882-9539 Email - [DEA.Registration.Help@usdoj.gov](mailto:DEA.Registration.Help@usdoj.gov)

VA released information earlier today about the launch of telehealth for rural veterans with PTSD. A new pilot telehealth program will give rural Veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) remote access to psychotherapy and related services. This is a partnership between the Office of Rural Health and VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative to support the Telemedicine Outreach for PTSD Program to deliver therapy and other care through phone and interactive video contact.

To date, more than 500 rural Veterans who are not receiving specialty PTSD care have enrolled in the study. Participants may choose between the two main forms of evidence-based, trauma-focused psychotherapy used in VA: cognitive processing therapy and prolonged exposure therapy.

Veterans in the program receive frequent phone calls from a care manager who helps them access services provided by off-site psychiatrist and psychologists. The psychotherapy is delivered using interactive video from a VA medical center to a CBOC or to the Veteran's home. The telephone care manager also monitors the Veterans' progress and helps them overcome barriers to care. CBOCs participating include: Charleston, SC; Iowa City, IA, Little Rock, AR; Denver, CO, San Diego, CA, and Seattle, WA. Results will be available in 2020 and will lay the groundwork for national implementation of the program.

**Shirley Redmond**  
Public Affairs Officer



**WE SUPPORT  
OUR VETS**

## National Council Member D.D. Couch



Dear Comrades,

My report will be on the VFW National Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. March 3-8, 2018. With Headquarters being the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, Virginia. South Dakota VFW and Auxiliary members present at this year's Conference were VFW State Commander and his wife Rick and Cindy Williamson [Canton], State Auxiliary President Carrie Alm [Custer], National Legislative Chairman Russell Dramsted[Huron], National Council of Administration for South Dakota Darold D. Couch[Custer] VAVS Hot Spring, Justin Blodgett [Custer] Custer Auxiliary President Zoe Yellen and Regis Blodgett District 10 Auxiliary Sr. Vice President[Custer].

March 3, The National Council had Appeals Committee meet on Sunday March 3, with 1 item to go over. There were both sides present to go over the evidence at hand. The final result of the Article IX Disciplinary action of the individual was brought to the National Council for the vote. The recommendation from the Appeals Committee was to uphold the Article IX Disciplinary action against the defendant. The vote of the National Council was unanimous to uphold the recommendation from Appeals Committee.

March 4 activities were, 9 AM- VFW Foundation Meeting, 10 AM- Committee on Appeals, 3PM Eastern States Membership meeting, 6PM- briefing for new Legislative Committee Members, 8 PM-Commander in Chiefs Open House for Department Commanders

March 5 activities were, 8 AM-The Student Veterans of America had 10 members across the USA in attendance. There was a 3 hour orientation on what the VFW and Student Veterans of American can do to work together for the future of Veteran Service and the VFW. 8:30AM National Veteran Service Advisory Committee, 10AM Budget and Finance Meeting. The Budget looks to be in good shape and maybe have extra funds at the end of the year. 12:30 PM-Legislative Meeting with all attendees. The National Staff went over all the Priority Goal of the VFW to present to our Congressional members, in our meeting with them on March 6. 2:30PM-National Council of Administration, Meeting called to Order by Commander in Chief, Keith Harmon, Opening Prayer by National Chaplain, Jim Gray, Salute to Colors by Sargent of Arms and Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call by Adjutant General Brian Duffy. Introduction of Guests, Past Commander in Chiefs and MOC Commander Dan Kramer. Reports Committee on Budget and Finance by Past Quartermaster General Larry Maher. Report by Quartermaster General Debra Anderson, with an appointment approved by National Council of Brian Opalewski as Director of VFW Properties. Report by Past Commander in Chief George Cramer on VFW Employees Retirement Plan. Committee on Awards and Citations Chaired by Past Commander in Chief Gary Kurpius read awards that were approved by ballot vote of each Council Member were as follows, Congressional Award- Rodney P. Frelinghuysen [R-NJ], Aeronautic and Aerospace Award- Col. Douglas H. Wheelock [RET], VFW Americanism Award-David Goggins, VFW Armed Forces Award-CSM William F. Thetford, VFW Citizenship Award-Andrew Lumish, VFW Dwight D. Eisenhower Award-General Joseph Dunford Jr., Hall of Fame Award-Craig Morgan, News Media Award-Lea Gabrielle. These are this year National VFW Award recipients. Report by Adjutant General Brian Duffy, the direct mail Program has done well this year, Travel policy for any member of the council on 5 hour flights or longer can receive a seating upgrade, council voted motion carried, disposition of property of the Department of District of Columbia disbanded. All 9 posts have consolidated to one post and will assume the property under the Department of Maryland. Vote was for approval by council. National Veterans Service Advisory Committee Chairman Bill Thein Past Commander in Chief

no motions on report. Report on Commander in Chief Harmon, Sr. Vice Commander B.J. Lawrence and Jr. Vice Command William [Doc] Schmitz, Adjutant General Brian Duffy and appointed cross functional members of the VFW met in Dallas, Texas to go over thoughts of how to change for the future, they are called the Tiger Team. Adjutant General Brian Duffy gave the report. The main thing was membership steady decline and ways to work with getting it to a stable annual basis. Also marketing, rituals, governance, and structure of the VFW. The Council ran low on time and did closing ceremonies. 6PM VOD and Patriot Pen Parade of winners always a high light of the year. The Department of South Dakota Commander and Auxiliary President were in attendance to walk our VOD winner down the walkway!! Department of South Dakota VOD winner was from Sisseton South Dakota she received a \$2000.00 Scholarship. She said she was having the time of her life on all the tour they receive while in D.C. and also meeting the other winners from the other Departments.

March 6 activities were, all day on Capitol Hill. First we meet with Representative Kristi Noem in the Rayburn Building Suite 2457 at 10:15 AM, next was Senator John Thune in the Dirksen Senate Building Suite 511 and then senator Mike Rounds in the Hart Senate Building Suite 502. We were able to have at least 30 minutes with all the Congressional Members. We went over the Priority Goals of National VFW. The number 1 issue is still sequestration and they all agreed and have in the past years that it has caused our National Defense to not be up to American Standards. There was a great start to tear down the sequestration on our troops and Americas welfare. We hope this will just be the start to get rid of sequestration for good! Other issues were opioid use by VA instead of cures needs corrected, presumptive condition freed up, burn pit registry approved, retirement pay and military disability should two separate issues, Blue Water Navy presumptive agent orange, work to get DOD and VA systems to work together, and other veteran issue. We also talked about the approval by South Dakota House and Senate for a State Veterans cemetery!

March 7 activities were, 9AM, The South Dakota Congressional Coffee hosted by Thune, Rounds and Noem was held in Senate Committee Hearing Room, with all three present to talk more issues. This is a meet a greet those from South Dakota that are in D.C. to meet with our Congressional people on their issues. There were around 50 other people from South Dakota at the Coffee. It is a very friendly environment for all.

At 10 AM was the Commander and Chiefs Testimony in front of the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee. The issues that Commander Harmon were all the Priority Goals that VFW has set for the Joint Veterans Affairs to look into and resolve for veterans and their families. Our very own Senator Mike Round sets on this Committee and has made great progress with his thought patterns for veterans.

We also toured the VFW Washington Office that is right across the street from the Hart Senate Building. It's a 5 story building that houses all the Washington offices and the rest that is not used by VFW is leased.

I feel this is the most powerful thing that the National VFW holds each year to get the National VFW views on Veterans issues and present them to our law makers. I know when I went the first time a few years back it changed me as a person and as a veteran for the better. I did not understand the full concept what the VFW does for veterans till I personally seen it in action in Washington D.C. and to be a part of the process!!

Thank-you for support!!!

**Darold D. Couch**  
National Council of Administration 2015-19

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



**Working Together, South Dakota Gains a State Veterans Cemetery**

The 2018 Legislative Session is one that will go down in history. Veterans Service Organizations, legislators, Sioux Falls community leaders, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA), and the administration came together to secure passage of legislation to authorize SDDVA to provide and maintain a state veteran's cemetery in Sioux Falls. A dignified final-resting place to honor veterans and eligible dependents which will express the State's gratitude for their service to this country.

Senate Bill 91, when introduced, had 104 sponsors and when approved in its final format in the House and the Senate Chambers passed on votes of 64-0 and 34-0 respectively.

SDDVA will be working with the National Cemetery Administration to seek a grant to fund the design and construction of the cemetery. The Legislation authorizes SDDVA to submit the grant prior to July 1, 2018.

State veteran's cemeteries established under the VA grant program must conform to various standards and guidelines. SDDVA will be working close with State Engineers and the VA to ensure our design conforms with these standards.

There were some great trailblazers who took the lead on this project and saw it through till legislation was passed. The South Dakota Veterans Council focused their legislative efforts on one issue --- a state veteran's cemetery. They worked as a team and stood shoulder to shoulder to secure the support and the votes needed.

In addition, Senator Jim Stalzer and Representative Larry Zikmund secured the support in the House, the Senate, in caucus and from the administration to ensure passage.

Another great partner in this project was the city of Sioux Falls. The city, who has agreed to donate the land for the development of the state cemetery, attended committee hearings and testified in support of SB 91.

Perhaps President Lincoln gave us all the boost we needed, "To care for him who

shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan,"

So, to all that supported this endeavor, a big heartfelt "thank you."

**Larry Zimmerman**  
Secretary



## Disabled Veterans Hunting & Fishing License

Do you hunt or fish? Do you have a VA disability rating of 40% or more? If you do you can receive a Disabled Veterans Hunting and Fishing license for \$10.00 and it's good for four years. Yes a combo Small game and Fishing license for \$10.00 good for four years. You will need a copy of your VA summary of benefits letter that is sent out every fall, or you can receive a copy at the VA Regional office (small office across the parking lot from the VA hospital). Go to <https://gfp.sd.gov/vet-pow-hunting/>. Click on the highlighted **(Disabled Veteran and Prisoner of War Reduced Fee Hunting and Fishing Application.)** I Received mine in six days.

Troy Zimmerman  
Brandon Post 4726

## Cootie Corner



Greetings You Lousy Cooties,

Well it has been a busy year already. I was given great news the other day that overall in the state between all 3 pup-tents: Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Yankton, we are at 200% on our hospital hours. Just because we are above 100% does not mean we should slow down, but keep going and add up more hours. Remember that Rapid City meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 1200, but please come down before the scratch and enjoy one of their great burgers! I know I enjoyed a burger or two when I was doing the inspection in Rapid City. Sioux Falls meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1930 following their chislic meal from 1730-1900. Please head down and enjoy some chislic. Yankton meets the last Wednesday of the month at 1930 following their chislic meal from 1730-1900.

Rapid City attended the 4 Chaplin's and had their Christmas Party.

Sioux Falls and Yankton both visited the Sioux Falls VA on February 11, 2018 which was a great time had by all. The cooties and auxiliary visited almost 100 veterans.

The Grand Scratch will be in Sioux Falls, April 13-15, and more information will be coming out soon.

Keep 'em Smiling in beds of White.

Commander Grand  
Cody Mangold

## VFW National Home for Children Chairman



### National Home Teens Focused On Service, Not Self

The National Home for Children has a Teen Advisory Board and is often abbreviated TAB. It is a group of teens ranging from 6th grade to 12 grade, who are interested in becoming more involved in their community through their local library.

The goal of this group is to give young people a voice for change, help them feel connected to the library and become lifelong library users, build leadership skills, job skills, teach responsibility and give opportunities for community service.

During the past three years the Teen Advisory Board has continued to grow in popularity with the close knit campus population. The Board meets about every two months in the relaxed environment of the campus library to eat pizza and discuss the next few months of library activities, using informal parliamentary procedure. During these meetings the teens help to brainstorm, schedule, plan, and prepare for reading events on campus. They also take this time to make repairs to damaged books and shelve them.

The reading events that they plan are centered on a theme for the month. For example, in November, the theme was focused on being thankful. The book was "The Giving Tree", and all of the activities surrounding the book reading was about serving others.

One of the most popular events of campus is called "Chocolate Olympics". It's a fun event full of chocolate themed activities such as pie eating contests, and relay races designed to pull kids from the community into the library and peak their interests in getting involved.

In addition to serving their community, the National Home Teens also feel the importance of helping our nation's military. The National Home is a patriotic community as the residents are here because of the service of a family member. This year the Teens are showing their support to the military by gathering and preparing items to be sent overseas to deployed troops through Operation Shoebox. They have also collected donations through a can drive and supplied items for the local Blue Star Mothers Chapter.

That's really what the Teen Advisory Board is all about, the service of others. These young teens take time out of their lives to come together and plan fun informational events for younger children and bringing their passion for the library and their love of country to their meetings.

Share your love with a Veteran's family in crises. Anything you donate will be greatly appreciated. You might also consider a monthly donation using automatic payment option. Remember, your gift is tax deductible. Please give generously.

w

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

## VFW Testimony on SB 81 and 118

By State Commander Rick Williamson

Co-Chairmen Senator Tidemann, Rep. Anderson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I am Rick Williamson, Dept. of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander 2017-2018. On behalf of our nearly 9,700 members across the state and our Auxiliary, who's membership also totals nearly 9,500, it is my honor and duty to inform you that we stand UNITED with our fellow VSO's across this great state to address the need for this East River Veterans Cemetery. Yes, I said need, not want, or desire. As a member of the S.D. Veterans Council I have diligently been working with Terry Paulson, Ken Teunissen and the rest of the task force appointed by Lt. Governor Michaelson to address the issue of this cemetery.

We, the veterans of S.D. Veterans Council, have been tasked with many hurdles along the way, such as procuring land suitable for construction, and to get it donated to the State, which has been accomplished.

We also were asked to show our commitment to this cause by starting an endowment fund, to collect donations from private citizens, and Veterans to provide future funding for the operational expenses so as the state would not have to appropriate funding. As it was stated to us, "we need to put some skin on the game," I ask you how much skin would you like, as combat veterans, we, the VFW feel we have already put more than our fair share of skin in this GAME. Senate Bill 118 will create this endowment fund if passed and we have many donors already waiting to help our cause, with that I believe you could say we have leaped across that hurdle.

We were then asked to enter into dialog with the NCA (National Cemetery Administration) to collect data and information relating to the construction and operation expenses projected by them for this project. I won't go over the numbers, as Comrade Paulson has already done so, however, I would like to stress the fact that by getting these numbers, we have proven the need for such appropriate cemetery for the veterans of this state. I believe that anyone would agree 42,000 unserved veterans in this state is 42,000 too many. We also completed this task, and when we felt the operational budget was far too high for the state of South Dakota, we went to work to find ways to cut this cost. Our final PowerPoint reflects that we feel this cemetery will operate with a surplus, we have a unique situation in as we can offset the cost of janitorial services and outside maintenance by utilizing our Dept. of Corrections, who is approximately 3 miles away. That I would call fiscally responsible. This task was not directed to us for action, however we took it upon ourselves to look for solutions and we feel our plan is doable.

When we received the call from our country to serve and defend our way of life in our great nation, and the state of South Dakota, we answered that call with no hesitation. We were not offered the option of waiting until our families were financially stable, or for it to be fiscally responsible for us at that time in our lives. We answered the call and did so with no regrets, and most of us would do it again. This discussion if a much-needed cemetery is not a new topic, it has gone on for over 20 years with the result every time being that MONEY is the issue. I have always said that if the problem before you can be solved with money, you don't have a problem, you just need to find the money, then you have a solution. We believe that now is the time to find the solution to this problem that has gone on far too long. Instead of pushing the problem further down the road, let's work together, find the solution and do this for the families of our defenders of freedom, our South Dakota Veterans.

While I respect and admire the current administration for the way they have conducted the business of our state over the past seven years, now is the time to get this done. We may never have this opportunity to serve our veterans again. We fully understand the concept of fiscal responsibility; however, we also know what is MORALLY CORRECT, I personally prefer that I am morally sound. I will then work diligently to figure out how to be fiscally responsible. Again, thank you for the opportunity to address you today, it has been my honor to serve our country and our great state. I will stand by for any questions you may have of me. Thank you.

## What is Whole Health?

- Whole Health recognizes you as a whole person and helps support your unique answer to the question, "What would you do if your health were the best it could be?"
- Whole Health goes beyond your illnesses, injuries, or disabilities.
- It focuses on your values and aspiration, your health and well-being and includes self-care and complementary therapies (such as acupuncture, massage, and yoga), along with your conventional medical care.
- In Whole Health care, you are a more active partner with your health team.

**Date and Time:** The first Friday of each month from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The third Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, 2501 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD First Floor, Building 52, Integrative Health Building, Room 107. Please ask for directions at front entrance desk.

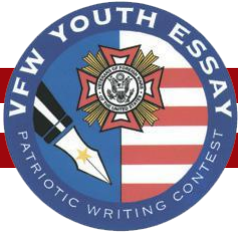
**For questions and more information, contact:**

Connie Denevan, Whole Health Coordinator, at 605-336-3230, extension 9-7736

ChooseVA



# Highlights around South Dakota VFW



## State Competition District Winners

**FIRST PLACE WINNERS**

L-R, Patriotic Pen's Winning Essay, Theme: America's Gift to my Generation, by Kathryn Doom; Voice of Democracy, Theme: American History, Our Hope for the Future, Winning Essay by Olivia Heinecke.



VOD/PP/Teachers of the Year tour visit to the Capital Building and Supreme Court, after Chief Justice Steven Zinter explained all about court policies, etc. A question and answer session was very interested by the students and teachers, followed by a group picture. L-R, National Commander-in-Chief, Keith Harman and State Auxiliary President, Carrie Ann; Center, Chief Justice Steven Zinter; Right, State Commander, Rick Williamson; National Auxiliary Representative, Vickie Rosse.

### VOD/PP Scholarship Monetary Awards

Dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of America, the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions help foster patriotism among today's youth. The program also fosters friendly competition as well as rewards succeed in the form of some \$3 million in scholarship monies being distributed.



Excited VOD State winner, Olivia Heinecke with National Auxiliary President Dee Guillory and National Commander-in-Chief, Keith Harman.



Voice of Democracy – Olivia Heinecke from Sisseton, representing the Dept. of South Dakota and was awarded the \$2,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee and Ervin and Lorraine Rotherenbuhler Scholarship. She was 28th position out of 53. Just over 50,000 students participated in this year's competition.



VOD/PP/Teachers of the year group during Capital Tour. Left side, State Commander, Rick Williamson; National Commander-in-Chief, Keith Harman; Right Side, National Auxiliary Representative, Vickie Rosse; Lieutenant Governor, Matthew Michels.

Patriot's Pen- Kathryn Doom, from Wagner, representing the Dept. of South Dakota, and received the \$1,000 Department of Michigan and Warren A. Tressler Memorial Awards. 18th position out of 53. Congratulations! A total of 109,465 students participated in this year's competition.



# Highlights Around South Dakota VFW



National VFW Commander-in-Chief, Keith Harman of Delphos, Ohio, Vietnam Veteran, spoke 90% of his speech directed to the youth and Teachers of the Year, award recipients on how proud they should be to have been selected to represent their communities, local posts, district, state level and now, one going on to National to represent the Department of South Dakota and its Auxiliary.



State Commander, Rick Williamson welcome's the VOD/PP/Teacher of the year recipient's and families to the legislative Conference Award program after being treated to pizza at Pizza Ranch in Ft. Pierre.



L-R, Senator, Mike Rounds; State Auxiliary President, Carrie Alm; John Thune; State Commander, Rick Williamson; and Kristi Noem. Visitation to the South Dakota Congressional Delegates during the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.



South Dakota delegates to Washington, D.C. during the National Legislative Conference/VOD awards ceremony. L-R, State Commander, Rick Williamson; Cindy Williamson; National Legislative Committee Chairman, Russel Dramstead; Auxiliary Flag Bearer, Regis Blodgett; State Auxiliary President, Carrie Alm; VOD SD Winner, Olivia Heinecke; Auxiliary Guard, Zoe Berman-Yelin; Dept. Facebook, Justin Blodgett; National Council Member, D.D. Couch.



Rock decoration Event, hosted by Jan Andes, Past Auxiliary President during a Legislative Conference break of activities. Enjoyed by the VOD/PP/ Teachers of the year that participated. Some remarkable paintings.



L-R, State Auxiliary President, Carrie Alm; State First place VOD Winner Recipient, Olivia Heinecke; State VFW Commander, Rick Williamson.



Bronze statue of the American Buffalo presented to the National Commander, Keith Harman by the Department of South Dakota during his visit as National Representative to the winter legislative conference in Ft. Pierre.



Congratulations to Tim Potts for his 2nd Purple Heart Recipients Pheasant Hunt Article that was included in the April 2018 VFW National Magazine. We have been notified that Gary M. Reick, Sr., first Veteran on the left, from San Antonio, TX, passed away one month after his experience of hunting the South Dakota Bird during his visit, with the eligible disabled veterans group from across the nation in Gettysburg, SD, sponsored by VFW, Department of SD and VFW Post 8530.

## 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*



Happy Spring to all of you! I am in a whirlwind of traveling the state several times over to visit as many auxiliaries as I can before my term is up. I am having a fun time and enjoy getting to see all of you and your home posts. I am learning so much about how all of you do fundraising and support to our veterans in different ways.

Although our year is coming to an end quickly, it's not over yet! We still have time for the state of SD to hold their own weight and get our membership to 100% with paid, rejoin and new members. Make sure you are continuing to connect with those lapsed members and reach out to any new members to continue to build our membership. As always, I am happy to help make calls or with suggestions, just reach out to me. Our organization needs to continue to grow so that we are here for many years to come to help our veterans now and in the future.

A big thank you to the dedication of the SD Veterans Council and the Veterans State Cemetery Task Force, which included our very own State Commander Rick

Williamson, in making a Veterans Cemetery on the eastern part of the state a reality to benefit our veterans and their families.

Our National President Dee Guillory will be visiting South Dakota at the end of April. She will be arriving in Rapid City on April 29<sup>th</sup> and we will be headquartered out of President Carrie's hometown of Custer. There will be tours in the Southern Hills, hoping both State Vets home and VA Hospital in Hot Springs, Crazy Horse, Deadwood and a few posts for meals. She will depart the morning of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We would love to have as many of you come along and tour with us if you would like to. Please contact myself or review the Auxiliary April General Orders for information on the visit. If you cannot make it for the whole thing, but you can get away on the 29<sup>th</sup>, please plan to attend at the airport to welcome her. We need as many members to be there so the welcome with the Aisle of Flags is as big as it can be. If you can attend, please plan to be at the airport NO LATER THAN 11:20am on that day and if you have access, bring your banner bearer flags.

Commander Rick and I were blessed to make the trip to Washington, DC for National Legislative Conference. We were able to watch the National Commander in Chief

testify before the joint committee, meet with both senators and with Representative Noem, and most importantly escort our Voice of Democracy Winner, Olivia Heinecke, for the awards ceremony. It sounds like she and most of the contestants really enjoyed their outing to the spy museum. This conference really brings home how important our membership in this veterans' service organization truly is.

Convention is a couple months away, but it will be here before we know it. I hope to see as many of our members there as we can this year. Please watch for deadlines and make sure you get all the information needed in to where it should be.

This has been a truly enjoyable year and with my auxiliary visits, it's keeping me very busy and involved with everyone before my year is officially done. I hope that you all enjoy visiting and sharing ideas as much as I do.

Thank you to everyone for all you do for our organization and our veterans!

Loyally,  
**Carrie Alm**  
**Department of South Dakota**  
**Auxiliary President 2017-2018**

### Auxiliary Sr. Vice President

*Mary Kirkvold*



#### Mental Wellness Campaign spotlights importance of complex issue

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary are putting the focus on mental wellness for veterans and their families in months ahead. Recent VA reports suggest as many as 20 veterans commit suicide a day.

The Mental Wellness Campaign is trained on spotting the five signs of suffering forgoing new partnerships to better serve veterans and their loved ones suffering from

invisible injuries as well as provide specific training to VFW personnel who provide direct services to veterans. For example, VFW Service officers have been recently trained on spotting the five signs of suffering so they can direct veterans to resources and programs to help them.

The VFW leadership believes the organization is uniquely poised to address the specific mental issues veterans face. VFW members are known for providing peer-to-peer support for one another, and the VFW community is a safe space for veterans.

In addition, advocating for federal legislation to improve access to mental health care and transitional benefits is a top priority.

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

**Mary Kirkvold**  
**Sr. Vice Commander**

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

*Sandi Moss*



Spring is right around the corner!! Yeah!! But, that means that our Membership Year is almost over. I am so proud of our State Auxiliary. We met our first two Quarterly Goals and earned \$400.00 for our State Treasury. Great job, **'No One Does More for Veterans'**, and without Members we cannot do our best!! If every Auxiliary Member gets

out and recruits two new Members we can make 100% Membership for President Carrie. Ladies and Gentlemen our reason for being is to do more for Veterans, the only way we can continue to meet our goals is to RECRUIT and RETAIN. We are with-in 10 of making our Third Quarterly Goal. We can do it, working together.

You can still earn a 'Catch 5' from National by recruiting five new Members, there is still time to send them into National. You can also get your name into the drawing for

the basket of 'Goodies', which we will be drawing for at State Convention. All you need to do is send me your name and the name (s) of your new Members, your name will go into the drawing every time you sign someone up.

I cannot stress enough that it is very important to mentor your new Members and current Members. Some of our continuous members have slipped through the cracks, we need to continue working on our Auxiliary Membership List and collect back dues from our Continuous Members. Please feel free to call me if you need help, President Carrie is also willing to help. It is never too late to contact our Members. We have stressed the need to pay dues on time but, unfortunately we are human and time has a habit of getting away from us. A Life Membership makes life so-o-o much easier. You can talk to your Treasurer and make payments towards your Life Membership.

MALTA is up and running. MALTA is a time saver. As we recruit new members, the information can 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. MALTA has also caused some consternation with our Membership Lists. Your Treasurer reports any deceased Members immediately **AND** when that is done properly, the deceased name is immediately removed from our Membership Lists. When this is done your Membership number will reflect the loss and your statistics will go down until you recruit a new Member to fill the vacancy. When we lose one, we need to recruit another Member ASAP.

I hope to see all of you at State Convention in Sioux Falls in June. It has been a challenge and a pleasure to be Junior Vice President and Leadership/Membership Chairman for the State this year. I will be running for Senior Vice President in June. We will continue to work hard on Membership until 30 June. Thank you for all your hard work. God bless you and God bless America!!

Loyally,  
**Sandi Moss, Junior Vice President**  
**Leadership/Membership Chairman 2017-2018**





**Auxiliary National Representative Vickie Rosse, speaking for National Auxiliary President, Dee Guilory, to the Post delegates and friends.**

## Jean Hamil National Auxiliary Representative to the State Conventiion in Sioux Falls



Jean Hamil of Orlando, Fla., was elected National Conductress of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 104th National Convention in New Orleans, La., on July 26, 2017.

She is now in the second of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2021-2022.

A Life member of East Seminole County VFW Auxiliary 10139, she joined on the eligibility of her father, George W. Nunnery, a Korean War veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1973.

She has served the Auxiliary in several capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department (state) President. On the National level she has served as National District Council Member,

National Director of the Membership program and is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children and a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary (MOCA).

Jean is employed as a Manager, Food Safety & Environmental Compliance for A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

In her spare time she enjoys quilting, spending time with friends and traveling. She belongs to the Florida Cabin Fever Quilters Guild and also a small group of "Quilting Angels" who make quilts for veterans at the Orlando VA Healthcare Center, for children temporarily located at Safe House, and seniors in Seminole County.

## Suicide Prevention Awareness Program "22 Everyday"

Suicide is a big problem and a silent killer that does not get addressed and talked about as it should be. It is estimated that in the U.S.A, approximately 20 veterans commit suicide per day. We, on the "22 Everyday" Committee want to help make a difference and change those numbers to zero per day. The following are excerpts from the Department of Veterans Affairs 2014 Suicide Data Sheet. In the State of New York alone, 225 veterans committed suicide. The following is a breakdown by age groups: among the 18-34 year old's there were 33 suicides; among the 35-54 year old's there were 70 suicides; among the 55-74 year old's there were 86 suicides; and the 75+ age group there were 36 suicides. Clearly this problem can arise in any stage of life leaving entire families in disarray and questioning whether there were signs and why no one saw them.

There are signs and symptoms that could possibly raise a red flag that someone may be in crisis. Some of the signs to look for are: appearing sad/depressed most of the time; sleeplessness; anxiousness; agitation; neglecting personal welfare; deteriorating physical appearance; withdrawing from family and friends; frequent mood changes; losing interest in all activities; talking as though life is not worth living; engaging in reckless behaviors; seeking excessive access to pills; a sudden, out-of-character interest in firearms; and talking as if there is no solution to their problems.

There are many reasons as to why a veteran might choose suicide as a way to cope with their problems that are not always obvious to the people who surround them. Suicide does not just affect the veteran, but their family and friends tremendously too. Reach out yourself, if you cannot get the person in crisis to see someone in private or at the Veterans Hospital. You, as a friend, or a family member, can make the call. There are suicide prevention hotlines such as 1-800-273-talk, which was initiated in the State of New York with the passage of the Joshua Omvig Suicide Prevention Act of 2007. Together, we can make a difference in one life, and by doing that we will affect everyone around them. If you, or someone you know is in an emotional crisis, please know this and tell them, that there are people out there to talk to who care and help is available. Encourage them to cal the Suicide Prevention Hotline or make the call yourself to find out how you can get help for yourself or to help someone else at 1-800-273-talk.

Loretta Dibrino  
Committee Member – "22 Everyday"

## Voice of Democracy; Patriotic Pen & Teacher of the Year Statistics 2017-2018

### Voice of Democracy

Participated - 26 posts, 23 Auxiliaries. 604 students, 49 advanced to state competition  
Scholarship and extra expense = \$11,777

### Patriotic Pen

Participated - 28 posts, 23 Auxiliaries. 1,395 students, 81 advanced to state competition  
Scholarship and extra expense = \$9,800

### Teacher of the Year

Participated – 8 posts, 8 Auxiliaries, 5 Districts, 11 schools. 12 nominated teachers  
Awards and extra expenses = \$1,484

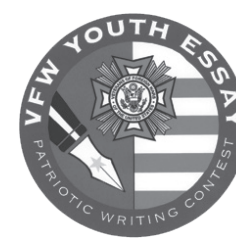
Total Department Post, District & State Scholarship extra expenses = \$36,561

### First Place Scholarship winners forward to State Competition

**Voice of Democracy** – District 1, Madeline Loewe, Lennox, sponsored by Canton, Lincoln County, VFW Post 3164 and its Auxiliary; District 4, Olivia Heinecke, Sisseton, sponsored by Fort Sisseton, VFW Post 3342 and its Auxiliary; District 6, Grace Douglas, sponsored by Aberdeen, C.C. Groal VFW Post 17 and its Auxiliary; District 7, Carolyn Blaha, Dante, sponsored by Wagner, Rollie Bucholz VFW Post 7319 and its Auxiliary; District 10, Bridger Gordon, Whitewood, sponsored by Sturgis, Papa Sapa VFW Post 2730 and its Auxiliary.

**Patriotic Pen** – District 1, Luke Gapp, Vermillion, sponsored by Clay County VFW Post 3061; District 4, Abigail Norse, Madison, Lake County VFW Post 2638; District 6, Lacy Westpal, Leola, sponsored by Aberdeen, C.C. Croal VFW Post 17 and its Auxiliary; District 7, Kathryn Doom, Wagner, sponsored by Rollie Bucholz VFW Post 7319; District 10, Natea Gordon, Whitewood, sponsored by Sturgis, Papa Sapa VFW Post 2730 and its Auxiliary.

**Teacher of the Year** – District 6, K-5th grade, Heather Rowen, Aberdeen, sponsored by C.C. Croal VFW Post 17; District 6, 6-8th grade, Megan Wollman, Aberdeen, sponsored by C.C. Croal VFW Post 17; District 7, 9-12th grade, Tera Koupal, Wagner, sponsored by Rollie Bucholz VFW Post 7319.



## 2018-19 Themes

Voice of Democracy, 2018-19 Theme: "Why My Vote Matters"  
Patriotic Pen, 2018-19 Theme: "Why I Honor the American Flag"

## To The Editor

The Deadwood Auxiliary, Post 5969, would like to make a \$200.00 donation to the South Dakota Overseas Veterans Publication, to show our appreciation toward the Valued paper for all the members of the Department of South Dakota VFW and its Auxiliary.



## Henry VFW Tribute Edition Rifles

A reminder that Henry Repeating Arms continues to offer the Henry VFW Tribute Edition Rifles directly from their factory at very special pricing to VFW Posts and members.

These rifles are a great way for your Post to boost fundraising efforts, increase profits, recognize member volunteer efforts or milestones, and for members to build personal collection.

There are two models, both Made in the USA; the VFW Post Tribute Edition and VFW Tribute Edition. Both models are collector's items and unique to the Posts and/or members ordering these one-of-a-kind rifles.

To order your Henry VFW Tribute Edition rifle, contact Sandra with Henry Rifles at 866-200-2354 or Sandra@henryusa.com or visit henryusa.com and type VFW in the search box.

## Ready to Join the VFW and its Auxiliary

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)

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota State Commander Campaign Danny Frisby-Griffin Candidate for State Commander Department of South Dakota



Comrades,

I would appreciate your thoughtful consideration and vote to become your 2018-2019 State Commander. As most of you know, I've been very active since transferring my membership to Madison, SD in 2014. For those of you who I haven't had the pleasure to meet, here is a brief summary: I'm a Dakotan, an upper Midwest native, graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science. I have a MA degree from Webster University in Management and Human Resources and "all but dissertation" complete on my Political Science Doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I retired after 26 years active duty from the USAF as a Colonel working for NORAD-NORTHCOM at USSTRATCOM in Omaha. I've held command positions from squadron down and multiple division chief positions. I qualified to be a member of the VFW with my combat sorties during Desert Shield. I've also worked as a government contractor and was a Program Manager for Lockheed Martin where I managed a \$230M contract and was responsible for over 125 personnel.

My family moved to Madison SD (post #2638) when my daughter went to college at DSU and took her parents. I'm currently CEO of a startup company, Saunter Raven, LLC, providing aerial intelligence to our customers via drone technology as well as Oldham-Ramona/Rutland (ORR) Assistant Boys Basketball Coach and substitute teacher for Madison and ORR School Districts.

I hold the Air Force Core Values; Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All You Do as personal core values. For example, Service Before Self, I'm a member of the Finance Committee for the national organization Children and Adults with ADHD (CHADD), Madison City Commission Appointee to the Community Center Governing Board, American Diabetes Association Diabetes Buster Program Volunteer for SD, President of Madison Lakes Cycling and United States Cycling Association Race Director/Official.

Again I appreciate your vote and look forward to working with each and every one of you "Providing Top Cover to those who served."

State SR Vice Commander, Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin  
danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

*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.*

## The Benefits of End of Life Care...

By: Jennifer Doblal, RN Hospice Liaison  
Shelly Simantel Horr, LSW Hospice Liaison

At Compassionate Care Hospice we believe that patients are entitled to live as fully and as comfortably as possible for whatever time they have left. We do this by affirming life and honoring our patients end of life wishes at every possible opportunity. The first priority for hospice is to manage end of life symptoms related to the hospice diagnosis and for overall comfort. Symptoms can be physical, emotional and/or spiritual for the patient and/or family. To meet the unique needs of the patient and family unit, Compassionate Care Hospice creates an individualized, comprehensive plan of care that is continually reviewed and revised based on the ever-changing needs of the patient. Hospice care can be provided wherever the patient calls 'home'. This could be a private residence, independent living facility, assisted living facility or a skilled nursing home.



Hospice care is an earned benefit for those receiving Medicare and/or Medicaid with minimal or no cost to the patient or family. Many private insurance companies will cover all or part of hospice services, depending on the specific plan coverage. Hospice is also a VA benefit for veterans who are enrolled in the VA Health Care System. In order for someone to be assessed for hospice there needs to be a physician order for the hospice of your choice to assess/admit and should include the terminal diagnosis. The patient, family member or Power of Attorney will then need to sign consent paperwork. Once these steps have been completed we can begin the assessment/admission process.

When hospice originally began here in the United States it was mainly being utilized by cancer patients. Hospice is not just for cancer anymore. There are now hundreds of hospice-eligible diagnosis including Dementia, AIDS, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Multiple Sclerosis, any end-stage organ failure such as Congestive Heart Failure, COPD, Kidney or Liver failure.

Not all hospice providers are the same and it is very important for patients and families to know they have a choice in hospice providers. In the Sioux Falls area there are four different hospices to choose from. We encourage anyone who is considering hospice to interview all of the agencies about the services they offer to find the one that is right for you.

By electing hospice care sooner, rather than later, the patient and family can benefit from all the hospice disciplines of their choosing. Care is delivered by a TEAM of professionals based on the needs and/or wants of the patient and/or family. Patients and families may receive care from any of the following disciplines: Physician, Certified Nurse Practitioner, RN Case Manager, Respiratory Therapist, Social Worker, Hospice Aide, Chaplain, Volunteers and/or Bereavement. Hospice can provide medications and medical equipment to help alleviate symptoms that are related to the primary hospice diagnosis. We can also consult with Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy if it is needed for palliation of care. Many skincare and incontinence products may also be covered by hospice. Some additional benefits available to home patients include short-term respite care, short-term acute in-patient care or 24 hour at-home care during a crisis.

Compassionate Care Hospice has two specialty programs that are unique to our program and not offered by any other hospice in the area. These programs were developed by Compassionate Care Hospice to serve those afflicted with heart or lung disease and who were making frequent visits to the Emergency Room due to severe, out of control symptoms. They are Cardiac Connections and Pulmonary Connections.



*"...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!

#### Alcester, VFW Post 6149

Merrick, Richard L., Korea, USA, Life

#### Gettysburg, VFW Post 8530

Johnson, Robert, Korea, USA; Holzwarth, James, Vietnam, Navy

#### Madison, VFW Post 2630

Cassvelt, Tom C., Vietnam, USA; Gile, Clifford Dd., Korea, Life

#### Mitchell, VFW Post 2750

Sandness, Jacob (Jack), Korea, USA; Wulf, Vernon M., WWII, USA; Heck, Elmer, Life; Stone, Wayne E., WWII, USA

#### Eureka, VFW Post 512

Quenzer, Albert, WWII, USA, Life; Lutz, Robert, Vietnam, USA, Life

#### Yankton, VFW Post 791

Christopher, James, Korea, USA, Life; Marcotte, William, Vietnam, USMC, Life; CIMPL, John, WWII, USN, Life; Parry, David, Korea, USMC, Life; THORSON, Danny, Desert Storm, USMC, Life; Turgeon, Theodore, WWII, USA, Life; Hoensing, Henry, WWII, USA, Life

#### Custer, VFW Post 3442

Rysell, Rick, Vietnam

#### Rapid City, VFW Post 1273

Mitchell, C.A., WWII/Korea, USAF, Life, Past Post Cmdr., Van Calligan, Richard E., WWII, USA, Life; Wieggers, Donald W., Life; Schoenrock, Emil R., Life; Schubauer, Joseph M., Life; Teachout, Gerald E., Life; Orth, Ervin, Life; Peterson, Lloyd H., Life; Reber, Edward A., Life; McGrath, Richard V., Life; Meisner, Kenneth G., Life; Lease, Gordon B., Life; Mader, Charles W., Life; Marohn, Frank H., Life; Jundt, Emil, Life; Kahler, William C., Life; Fish, George E., USMC, Life; Hammett, James E., USA, Life; Henriksen, Lyle H., Life; Denke, Erhart E., USA, Life; Zuber, Thomas E., Life; Jacobs, Leonard R., Life; Rioux, Raymond J., Life; Burke, Raymond O., Life; Evans, Merlin A., Life; Raynes, Alfred F., Life; Johnson, Maynard I., Korea, Life; Configiocco, Leslie J., Life

#### Vermillion, VFW Post 306

Schafer, Henry, (Jerry) Korea, USN, Life

#### Watertown, VFW Post 750

Webeto, Arnold B., WWII, USN, Life; Fie, David L., USN, Asia/Pacific Area, Life; Barkley,

Marvin L., WWII, USA, Life; Kosier, Charles E., WWII, USN, Life; Rylance, Raymond D., Vietnam, USMC, Life; Aase, Harlan T., WWII, USA, Life; Kirwan, Michael N., Desert Storm/ Shield, USAF; Johnson, Mervin C., Berlin Occupation, USA; Boyd, Curtis D., Korea, USA, Life; Fiebelkoprn, William R., Asia-Pacific Area, USN Life

#### Sioux Falls VFW Post 628

Haase, Leonard, Korea, USA, Life; Pekas, Vernon, Korea, USMC, Life; Elle, Sig, Korea, USA, Life; Goodroad, Alvin, Vietnam, USA, Life; Kerke, Delmar, Germany, USA, Life; Donovan, Dennis, Vietnam, USN, Life; Mriden, Richard, Germany, USA, Life; Sellner, Paul, Cuba, USN, Life; Groegar, Robert, WWII, USN, Life; Friedrichs, Wayne, Vietnam, USA, Life; Gilbert, Donald, WWII, USN, Life; Coome, Donald, WWII, USA, Life

Pierre VFW Post 2038-Duffy, Bernard E., Korea, USN, Life; Kimberly, George, Life; Gomez, Stephen A., Korea, USA, USAF, USN, Life; Weischedel, Jake F., Korea, USA, Life; Buel, William, WWII, Korea, USAF, Life; Bessert, Beryle L., Korea, USA, Life; Mortimer, Arlo W., WWII, USA, Life



### Calendar of Events: Recruit New Members

June 14-17, 2018	VFW/AUX State Convention, Sioux Falls
July 21-25, 2018	VFW, National Convention, Kansas City, MO
July 20-24, 2019	VFW, National Convention, Orlando, FL
July 18-23, 2020	VFW, National Convention, Reno, Nevada

## Recruiting Veteran Volunteers to participate in a VA research study on...



**How do I sign up?** If you are interested in participating or would like additional information, contact Nancy Thum-Thomas, at 605-231-0798 or [nancy.thum-thomas@va.gov](mailto:nancy.thum-thomas@va.gov)

## 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.

### 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

## Many Thanks...

I just wanted to send a note of thanks for such a wonderful time in Pierre at the VFW Banquet. It was such a fantastic experience and I felt so thankful and appreciated as an educator! Our Capital tour, the awards and speakers at the banquet were super! Thank you for all of the time organizing and hosting such an incredible event. God Bless.

**Heather Rowen**  
Elementary VFW Teacher of the Year

Thank you for the fun and interesting two days at the Capital. I had so much fun meeting everyone and being honored as this year's winner. I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent SD at the National VOD competition in D.C. This will be an awarding experience, and I thank you for making it all possible. Many thanks.

**Olivia Heinecke**  
Voice of Democracy Winner

I would like to than the VFW and its Auxiliary for everything. Thank you for everything that you did for the Patriot Pen and VOD kids. The meals that were provided was amazing! Also, the tour of the Capital that we got was so cool! And finally, the hotel room that was provided for me and my family. Thanks Again.

**Lacy Westphal**  
Patriots Pen District 6 Winner

Dear South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, Thank you so much for all you did for us at the luncheon in Pierre! I felt like royalty and had a great time! It's a huge honor to be selected as the Middle School Teacher of the Year, and this note will hardly cover the gratitude I feel for everything. Thank you for your involvement in our school and your service. I can teach because you have served again. Thank you for everything.

**Megan Wollman**

I would like to take a moment to say thank you for everything done for myself and my family during the VFW Teacher of the Year ceremony. It was such an honor to be part of that great ceremony and to be recognized by the VFW for the work that is done in Wagner. The VFW did an amazing job making us feel comfortable and special during the entire day. Thank you all so much for going out of your way to create a special ceremony for the award winners.

The banquet was a very enjoyable time for myself along with my family. What an outstanding meal, presentation and enjoyable day it all was. The silent auction was a neat idea as well, I hope that went well for you guys! Thanks again.

**Mrs. Tera Koupal**  
Wagner Community School VFW Secondary Teacher of the Year.

### VFW Facts

Founded in 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the nation's oldest major combat veterans' organization.

For over 110 years, the VFW has successfully fulfilled its mission as stated in our Congressional Charter, "to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States, and fidelity to its constitution and laws; and to foster true patriotism."

The VFW and the VFW Auxiliary have more than 6000 POsts and over 1.2 million members spanning all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Europe and the Pacific.

The Cross of the Malta is the VFW's official insignia. Each design element symbolizes something special.

The cross, radiating rays, and the Great Sea of the US together symbolize the character, vows, and purposes distinguishing the VFW as an order of warriors who have traveled far from home to defend sacred principles. Its eight points represent the beatitudes prescribed in the Sermon on the Mount: Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, the pure, the merciful, the peacemakers; blessed are they who mourn, seek righteousness, and are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

The VFW added the sun's rays between the eight points and the cross. These emphasize the vigor and warmth with which the present day brotherhood is pledged to defend the nation and to extend its mercy. Superimposed over the cross is bald eagle-the symbol of a proud nation of people.

While the Maltese Cross has religious origins and was used by the crusading Knights of St. John as a battle standard centuries ago, it's equally relevant today as a symbol of all those battling for noble ideas.



### 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.SDVFVW.org](http://WWW.SDVFVW.org) Please advise and assist all members of this change.

## Huron State Fair 2017



Auxiliary State President, Carrie Alm; Sherwin Linton, Entertainer at the SD State Fair; Robert Folkerts from Mitchell VFW Post 2750, with his restored 1959 Pontiac.

## State Veterans Cemetery

The VFW would like to thank the City of Sioux Falls for donating the land to the state that is required to build the cemetery. The land is located about two miles north of I-90 and I-229. This is a very generous donation by the City of Sioux Falls and we are grateful for their support. We would also like to thank Senator Jim Stalzer and Representative Larry Zikmund who have led the charge trying to make the State Veterans Cemetery a reality.

Thank you for the many members who were in attendance during all the hearings and for the work all of you do.

## We're Here for You

Whether you are in need of immediate assistance or just looking for more information – VA is here for you. Our trained professionals, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Toll Free**  
**1-877-424-3838**

Live 24/7 Chat on VA's homeless Veterans website, [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless)

Dept. Post Advertisers - Please mention you read their ad

## POST SCHEDULES

**John M. Bliss**  
**Post #628**

Open to the Public  
Mon-Sat: 0900 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

## DEADLINE

For the next issue (July 2018) of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran, the deadline is June 1, 2018.

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:  
[dickp.signs@gmail.com](mailto:dickp.signs@gmail.com)

## 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**: Jonathan Thornburn, Paul and Leanne Payne, Ken and Michelle Payne, Jerry Gillmore, Wayne and Sharon Mitchell, Robert Folkerts, Mitchell VFW Post 2750, Lorene and Pat Ruzicka.

**Silver category**: Rick and Cindy Williamson. **Bronze category**: Dick Pickering.