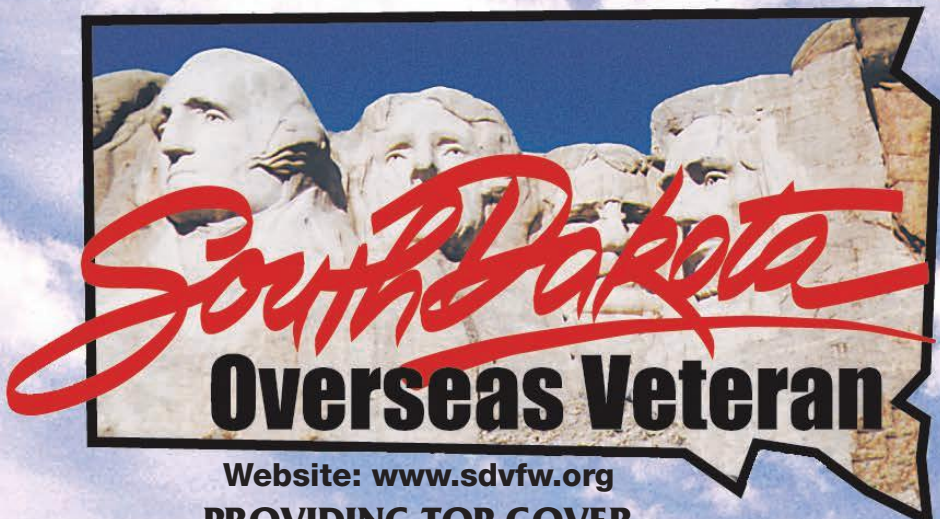




DANNY FRISBY-GRIFFIN
SD STATE CMDR
PROVIDING
TOP
COVER
2018-2019
PRES MARY KIRK VOLD

DANNY FRISBY-GRIFFIN
SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE COMMANDER
PROVIDING
TOP
COVER
2018
2019
RECRUITER



Website: www.sdvfw.org
PROVIDING TOP COVER

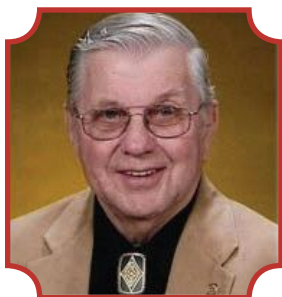
January/February/March 2019

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

Vol. 75 Issue 3

“Providing Top Cover” is what air superiority fighters do. Ensuring the battlefield has freedom of movement and our forces don’t have to worry about an air attack. In this case, providing top cover so our current veterans, as well as future generations, have the tools, resources and benefits they so richly deserve and often require.

In Memoriam of Stanley Seymour of Spearfish, South Dakota



Stanley “Stan” Seymour, 88, of Spearfish, SD, passed away on January 2, 2019, at Ft. Mead Veterans Hospital in Sturgis. He put up a good fight, but the toll of COPD and Alzheimer’s was more than his body could handle.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, January 11th, at 10:00 am, at the United Methodist Church in Spearfish. Burial with full military honors, will be held at 1:30 pm at the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis.

Stan was born on February 27, 1930, in St. Joseph, IL, to Emerson and Opal (Greathouse) Seymour. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted in the US Air Force. After serving in the Korean War, he was stationed at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City, SD.

While in South Dakota, he fell in love with the Black Hills, and with Connie Knutson of Spearfish. They were married on September 7, 1958, in Spearfish. Stan made a career with the Air Force, serving for 28 years attaining the rank of Sr. Master Sergeant. Most of his career was with the Strategic Air Command, and he and Connie traveled the world while serving in Goose Bay Labrador AFB, Canada; Offutt AFB, NE; Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Pease

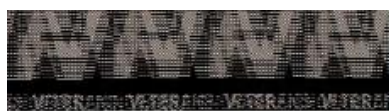
—IN MEMORIAM, continued on pg. 4

VFW Announces New Brand Identity Change

Branding to better represent America’s largest combat veterans organization

KANSAS CITY, MO. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. America’s largest and oldest major combat veterans organization, is pleased to announce it has deployed a new look.

The new VFW logo and visual language embraces the organization’s storied 119 years of service to America’s veterans, service members and their families, while underscoring its forward thinking approach to service and distinguished membership base. The VFW



believes the new logo will improve market position and provide visual clarity to its mission.

“We’re excited about the bold, new look.” Said B.J. Lawrence, national commander of the VFW. “There’s a lot of complex meaning built into our new logo, yet

it clearly communicates who we are and what we’re about – service to nation while in the military and continuing service to our nation as veterans.

The new logo is a drastic change from its predecessor, and is the first-ever official logo that was designed without the organization’s traditional Cross of Malta shield, which remains the official seal of the VFW. It includes an artistic representation of service stripes which

— VFW ANNOUNCES NEW BRAND IDENTITY CHANGE, continued on pg. 10



Six Purple Hearts, Five Decorated Veterans Honored with Pheasant Hunt in South Dakota

By Tim Potts



The decorated veterans stand in front of the Brown Hunting Ranch sign on Friday, Nov. 9, following the day hunt. From left: Doug Thompson, Lynn Rolf III, (VFW Director of Programs), Gary Evins, Agapito Vega, Daniel Essig, and Rex Wilson. Pioneer photo by Tim Potts.

GETTYSBURG – Five decorated Veterans, all purple heart recipients, names were drawn out of a hat for a once in a lifetime opportunity to come to South Dakota on an all-expense paid five day pheasant hunt. Agapito Vega from Houston, Texas, Daniel Essig, from Deer River, Minn., Gary Evins, San Antonio, Texas, Rex Wilson, Fallbrook, Calif., and Doug Thompson, from Karlstad, Minn., were selected to participate in the 2018 Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 8530 Winston Toomey Decorated Veterans pheasant hunt in Gettysburg, S.D.

“This is an awesome memory that I won’t forget, it is my first experience at pheasant hunting and it was a blast and I would like to do it again,” said Vega. “We really appreciate what you are doing for the Vets and this is so great.” Vega is now retired and serves in the VFW Honor Guard in Houston which provides military rights for Veterans funerals, up to ten per day. Vega is a member of Houston, Texas VFW Post 581. “It was a little cold as I am from south Texas, but I still enjoyed it and these Gettysburg guys are great,” Vega added.

Daniel Essig, served in the US Army from 1977 to 1981 at Fort Bragg, N.C. and Camp

— PHEASANT HUNT, continued on pg. 7

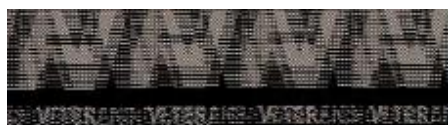
VFW Remembers President George H.W. Bush

41st President was last of eight to earn the title of VFW Member

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is mourning the passing of one of their own, former President George H.W. Bush, who died at his home in Houston. He was 94 years old.

“President Bush was highly admired within the veteran community and beyond,” said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. “He served as a Navy fighter pilot in the World War II Pacific Theater, as a U.S. congressman, U.S. ambassador as CIA director, then vice president to President Ronald Reagan for eight years before being elected president, where he would win a resounding war against Iraq and end the Cold War. Our 41st president was also the last of eight presidents to earn the title of VFW member,” he said. President Bush was a life member of the VFW Department of Texas.

Learn more about the VFW’s programs and services at www.sdvfw.org



VFW at a Glance

Origins: In 1899, the American Veterans of Foreign Service (Columbus, Ohio) and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines (Denver, Colo.) were organized to secure rights and benefits for veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. VFW was chartered by Congress in 1936.

Membership Eligibility: Those serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in a foreign war or overseas operation recognized by a campaign medal, in Korea after June 30, 1949, and recipients of hostile-fire or imminent danger pay. Veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and other smaller expeditionary campaigns, as well as occupation duty, qualify.

(1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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

Danny Frisby-Griffin



Greeting Comrades,

We hope everyone had a spectacular Holiday season and have had a chance to recharge their batteries as you get ready for the dark ages and our push to 100% membership. This is the season of giving and hope, so please keep our veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers especially those without companionship and nourishment. I do have one question, did your posts open the doors

to the community to ensure those that need a place to go for comfort, warmth and a friendly dinner get one? If not, this may be a new tradition to consider for next year.

You will notice that the Legislative Mixer is missing on the Legislative Conference and COA registration for the end of January. We're trying something new this year since we had a very poor turnout last year for our event. Instead of the mixer, we're registering four or five officers as lobbyists with the state and when we have legislation or issues that need to be pushed, we'll set up appointments and send them (and pay mileage) to communicate with talking points and evidence targeting the legislators with "influence." In discussion with the Quartermaster, this seemed like a better, more focused/strategic use of our funds.

Since we're in the middle of the busy family season, I just wanted to let everyone know that my coaching activities started with our first basketball practice on November 26. I'll be fairly busy until the end of February however I've worked out a schedule to ensure that I spend one day a week at the Department Headquarters, weather permitting. With that said, you can still reach me via email, phone, skype or text. If I don't respond right away, I'm probably in class teaching and will get back with you as soon as I can. Darwin and I are in constant contact so

reach out to him if it's an emergency.

All the District winners should have been notified by now and the Department evaluation and selection process is underway. You probably have noticed that we've changed up the program a bit with the Awards Breakfast Banquet and moving it the AmericInn. The breakfast banquet will start about 9 AM with the students and teachers heading to the capitol building after. This change sends our students to visit with the Governor knowing who the Department winners are and should free most everyone to travel during daylight hours.

In November the Department Office had an opportunity to have Juul Labs provide a briefing and discussion on their program to help veterans and family members transition from cigarettes to a significantly less harmful method of getting one's "nicotine fix" via e-cigarettes. The Juul Labs team was on their way home from visiting with the SD National Guard leadership where they also discussed the health and welfare of our current service members. The Department of SD may have an opportunity to partner with Juul Labs as they work with veterans in their transition to a less harmful process.

Lastly, we're finalizing the 2019 Summer Convention details and should have the information out late January. I'm excited on the changes and opportunities we have working with Dakota State University and can't wait to share them with you. While you wait, please focus some time and energy on membership. We're currently significantly behind in our membership totals compared to this time last year and really need to start the big push to reach 100%.

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

Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
State Commander

Sr. Vice Commander's Report

Sean Johnson



Dear Comrades:

I Hope that you had a Merry Christmas and you were able to enjoy family and friends. I would imagine we all had certain traditions we all do at Christmas and throughout the holidays so I hope they were successful as well. As the New Year's approaches we really need to be aggressive in our goal of recruiting 100% for as many posts as possible. We need to Call, Knock on Doors, Email, Text, send Letters personnel or from the post. We need to use every advantage we have including also newspaper and radio to report the recruitment drive.

I now want to change the topic a little to the elephant in the room that happens every day. We are still losing 22 soldiers a day still, and we have not been able to change the statistics. The key thing is that we have doubled our psychologists and psychiatrists and types of treatments.

We have Programs, Facilities, and more help to give and we are so ready to give it. VA Private Programs, Private Hospitals, War Horses for Veterans Equine Therapy, Healing Touch, Give an hour, Wounded Warrior Project, WRISSC, DVBIC, Operation Rebound for Sports Equipment and Training, AW2 Wounded Warrior Games, these are just a few. We need to get the soldiers who haven't registered with the VA to go and do it even if they are not in the VFW. We need to get them to the help. If we want to bring this number down we need to actively seek out those in trouble and get the help they need, and deserve it starts with us.

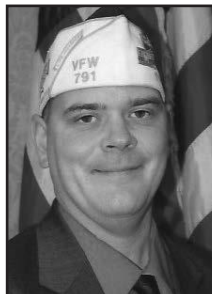
Now that it is winter please drive carefully, try to travel in the day light if possible. Let someone know when you are leaving and suppose to return. Please carry sleeping bags or blankets, candles, Cell Phone Charger MRE or 2 and a roadway safety kit including jumper cables. Really plain and simply put:

Let's Be Careful Out There

See you all at the end of January!!!

Jr. Vice Commander's Report

Cody Mangold



Greetings,

I hope you all had wonderful holidays. For membership as of 12/20/2018 we were at 86.54. A new year brings us new opportunities. Please talk to the continuous members and see if they would like to become life members to avoid the hassle of paying each year. I know we always talk about going out and getting new veterans, but what are some ways? Well Rapid City is trying some different ways. They went to a gun show, they are going to the Stock show. These are some ways that people are getting out to be seen. Are there local shows of some sort

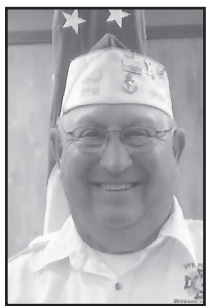
being held soon in your community that you could possibly try to get a booth (remind them you're a non-profit)? Just some ideas you can try to recruit some people. Also, those life members have you thought of leaving a legacy at your post? A way to do this is to buy a legacy life membership. The different levels and prices are bronze (400), silver (800), and gold (1200). Your post will receive some money after you pass. I have a bronze level and look forward to getting my silver soon. Please remember you can call me. I may not answer, but just leave me a message.

Yours in Comradeship,
Cody Mangold Jr. Vice Commander

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

Look for VFW/AUX pride 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 March First, Two thousand and Nineteen. As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to dickp.signs@gmail.com or vfwsd@aol.com

Quartermaster/Adjutant Report Darwin G. Tolzin



SDState named a Purple Heart Campus

South Dakota State University became the nation's ninth Purple Heart Campus, recognized in a dedication ceremony at Grove Hall today. Kenneth Teunissen, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Hearts Chapter No. 5355, read a resolution declaring SDState as the state's first Purple Heart Campus.

SDState students, staff and retired faculty who have received Purple Hearts were recognized as were several community members who have also received the honor.

Connie Johnson, who is the coordinator for veterans services in Veterans Affairs, received a Purple Heart after serving as a specialist with the 101st Military Police Company in Iraq from February 2003 to January 2004.

"When you walk into our office, you might look at me and think because she works at Veterans Affairs, she must be a veteran but not really understand that not only am I a veteran, I'm also a combat veteran and I saw war, I

saw death and all of these awful things. During that time, I was also wounded while serving. Those are things you typically you don't associate with women," she said.



South Dakota State University students, staff and retired faculty and several community members were among those at Friday's event, which designated SDState as a Purple Heart Campus. From left, are Charles Woodard, Wyatt Brown, Craig Tschetter, Mike Groen, Gary Murra, Kenneth Teunissen, Connie Johnson and Casey Verhey.

State Judge Advocate's Report Barbara McKean



Engaging with veterans through volunteer service can be one of the best ways to thank them for their service, provide much-needed support and recognize the important role they play in our communities. Veteran reintegration is not a challenge but an opportunity to partner with and support them as they transition. Here are some ideas for giving back and celebrating their service on Veterans Day and all year round:

1. Connect with veterans in your community

Disabled American Veterans' Local Veterans Assistance Program provides an excellent opportunity to give back to veterans locally by helping them with everyday tasks like grocery shopping, yard work, or running errands. It's a great way to build relationships with veterans in your community and help them remain independent.

2. Serve alongside veterans

Many veterans get involved in community service as a way of finding purpose and connecting with their neighbors upon their return to civilian life. Through organizations like The Mission Continues, you can support service projects led by veterans and partner with them to create change in your community.

3. Volunteer at a hospital

Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, nursing homes and clinics can always use volunteers to support patients and staff by performing various duties. To get involved, locate your local VA, sign up to volunteer at or donate to a facility, or volunteer to drive a van to and from hospitals.

4. Organize your own service project

Get creative and organize your own DIY service project to benefit veterans in your community. Some ideas include building a community garden, hosting a resume preparation workshop for returning vets or organizing

a welcome home project, or collecting and archiving a veteran's story through the Veterans Oral History Project. <http://www.pointsoflight.org/blog/4-ways-give-back-veterans>

We understand first-hand the essence of rallying community support and the positive, life-changing impact we have on the world around us. That's why VFW members volunteer nearly 9 million hours to community service projects annually, with volunteerism benefiting morale, education, the environment, health sciences and civic projects.

Community Service Reports received for the 1st Quarter: (as of 2 Jan)

Dist 1: Sioux Falls, Yankton, Elk Point, Vermillion, Brandon
Dist 4: Brookings, Madison, Milbank, Webster
Dist 6: Aberdeen, Pierre, Gettysburg
Dist 7: Marty, Mitchell, Scotland, Lake Andes, Parkston, Tyndall, Armour, Wagner, Burke
Dist 10: Rapid City, Custer, Deadwood

Community Service Reports received for the 2nd Quarter: (as of 2 Jan)

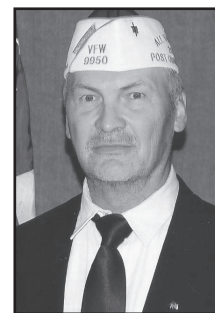
Dist 1: Sioux Falls, Yankton, Elk Point, Vermillion, Brandon, Alcester
Dist 4: Brookings, Madison, Milbank, Webster
Dist 6: Aberdeen, Pierre, Gettysburg
Dist 7: Marty, Mitchell, Scotland, Lake Andes, Parkston, Tyndall, Armour, Wagner, Burke
Dist 10: Custer, Deadwood

Reminder, these reports are due Quarterly! The deadline to have these reports to me is NLT 10 days after the quarter ends.

1. May 1 - Jul 31
2. Aug 1 - Oct 31
3. Nov 1 - Jan 31
4. Feb 1 - Apr 30

Barbara McKean
State Judge Advocate

State Chaplain's Report Mike Boxa



Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters, Holiday season is over. Half the VFW year is now complete. The calendar has us changing the date of the year to 2019. I like to reflect on the year passing and the year to come. I review what the Lord has done and the Lord will do. God's Word states, don't look behind the plow and clearly is written in **Isaiah**

43:18, Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. (those earthly sins you use to do.) I just remember, and am thank full for all the Lord's answered prayers and all the times of safety and blessing over the past year. Even through adversity and trials, oh Thank You LORD! Look at me! I am still breathing!

The new year is here. **Isaiah 43-19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.** Did you catch that **NEW THING!** Look back at that State Convention starting the new VFW year. Colin (State Surgeon) and myself, we got the NEW THING.

As the 2019 year has started, many people will make resolutions and do it meaninglessly. I ask you to set a goal for yourself and for the Organization and stick to it, really meaning business. The Word of God states the **right way.** The right way and straight way are stated dozens of times in several context forms. One of my favorites is found in **1 Samuel 12:23, Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:** (which is followed up by verse 24) **24 Only fear the LORD, AND SERVE HIM IN TRUTH WITH ALL YOUR HEART: FOR CONSIDER HOW GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE FOR YOU.**

As the last half of the VFW starts, let's go the **RIGHT WAY** as the Word of God declares. With our leadership of our elected officers and past guidance of our surviving leaders, I have no doubt. Concentrate on duties fulfilled and to be completed. As the beginning of New Year starts, be on the lookout for the **NEW THING.** Don't get trapped into **NEW AGE** things, (the next new pleasure drug from the street or other behavioral actions.) The New Thing is God's Blessings for you in the new year.

Prayers Always & Warm Regards,
Mike Boxa

Purple Heart Recipient At SDSU Talks About Military Experience

BROOKINGS, S.D. - This month South Dakota State University became the ninth Purple Heart Campus in the nation. It means the university is authorized to use the GI Bill and also boasts several Purple Heart recipients at the school.

A soldier deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Connie Johnson has been in combat and has the wounds to show for it.

"There was a bright light and then a loud bang and then I couldn't feel my face," Johnson said.

Shrapnel from an improvised explosive device hit the Elkton-native in the neck. She says she's lucky she wasn't facing the blast otherwise she might not be here today.

"It severed several nerves and so I can't feel half my face. The ear region, the side of the cheek and then down my neck," Johnson said.

In addition to this scar, the attack also earned her a Purple — **PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT, continued on pg. 10**

**WE SUPPORT
OUR VETS**



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.

Membership Report

I want to congratulate Parkston on reaching 100%! Yankton and Brandon for busting the quota, I love seeing the momentum going! We now have a total of 5 posts at 100% or above. We have 20 posts that have 5 or less members to get to 100%. You all are doing a great job and ask that you continue all of your hard work. There is a new challenge out for all Districts; which is any district that reaches 92% by Legislative conference (January 27, 2019) will receive \$75 for the district. District 10 has already done it, and we have a couple knocking on that door that could get it too I believe. I am still excepting membership plans; which I have all of district 10's in so I challenge all to do the same.

District 1-363	District 4- 203	District 6- 198	District 7- 105	District 10- 147
85.04%	87.24%	86.01%	89.93%	93.53%
Sioux Falls- 271 79.89%	Watertown- 84 82.68%	Aberdeen- 106 75.90%	Marty- 3 80.00%	Rapid City- 112 88.87%
Yankton- +1 100.25%	Brookings- 39 86.41%	Huron- 9 94.32%	Mitchell- 36 83.48%	Sturgis- 2 98.96%
Elk Point- 5 91.22%	Madison- 25 86.11%	Pierre- 23 91.81%	Scotland- 9 88.75%	Lemmon- 2 92.59%
Parker- 8 84%	Sisseton-11 93.49%	Mobridge- 3 87.50%	Lake Andes-2 95.12%	Belle Fourche- 11 89.00%
Beresford- 10 87.95%	Flandreau- 4 90.47%	Redfield- 16 86.08%	Parkston- 0 100%	Custer- 1 99.76%
Vermillion- 21 74.69%	Milbank- 5 96.83%	Faulkton- 12 80.95%	Winner- 10 92.59%	Faith- 2 92.00%
Canton-23 84.86%	Britton- 10 88.37%	Miller- 4 94.93%	Chamberlain- +1 103.03	Newell- 2 96.49%
Freeman-10 76.19%	Webster- 21 84.84%	Eureka- 1 98.64%	Plankinton- 13 84.33%	Spearfish- 13 90.78
Brandon- +2 101.62%	Summit- 4 69.23%	Wessington Springs- 9 82.69%	Tyndall-6 91.04%	Deadwood- 1 99.60%
Crooks-7 67.85%	Goodwin- 2 92.30%	Turton- 9 68.96%	Armour- 4 91.48%	Quinn- 1 97.67%
Alcester- 8 87.09%	Dell Rapids- +1 107.69%	Gettysburg- 4 93.84%	Wagner- 21 84.55%	
			Burke- 2 98.18%	

Department of South Dakota District Membership Stat's as of January 4, 2019

Dist	Life	New	Reinst.	Cont.	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent	Div	N/R LM	N/R %
1	1752	9	8	291	2057	2420	85%	3	6	.83%
4	1146	12	1	229	1388	1591	87.24	4	4	1.07%
6	1004	5	0	208	1217	1416	85.94%	5	1	.42%
7	793	4	1	137	935	1043	89.64%	5	4	.86%
10	1864	25	3	232	2124	2273	93.44%	3	8	1.58%
99	294	12	0	24	240	359	66.85%	6	5	4.74%
State Totals	6763	67	10	1121	7961	9102	87.46%		28	1.15%



District 1, Bill Reuppel; District 4, Gary Kuecker; District 6, Pam Heiser; District 7, Tom Hafner; District 10, LeRoy Cekalia.

WFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**WE
SUPPORT
OUR
VETERANS**

Volunteers Work Best

As we end 2018, we give a huge thank you to our volunteers. This year we had 399 active volunteers donating a total of 46,871 hours of service. This 2018 donations totaled \$110,000 of monetary support and in-kind donations.

Volunteer drivers logged 383,889 miles of service to our veterans with a cost avoidance of \$159,314. This also saved staff 3,517 hours of labor and saved the Sioux Falls Medical Center \$39,777.

The total voluntary impact to the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center and five outpatients clinic in Fiscal Year 2018 a total of 1.469 Million Dollars.

WE need a small piece of your time to better the lives of our fellow veterans. Let's strive to increase this by 10% in 2019. Our veterans deserve our efforts. We can do this.

Malcolm Haugen
VAV's Rep Sioux Falls

Thomas A. Pouliot, Commander-in-Chief 1998-1999, Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Representative to the South Dakota Legislative Conference in Ft. Pierre



Commander-in-Chief B. J. Lawrence has designated Past Commander-in-Chief Thomas A. Pouliot to represent the national organization at your 94th Department Legislative Conference, VOD-Patriot's Pen-Teachers Awards Banquet and Council of Administration Meeting, January 26-29, 2019, in Pierre, South Dakota.

Thomas A. Pouliot was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief on September 4, 1998, at the organization's 99th National Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Pouliot served in the United States Navy from January 1962 through May 1966. During that time, he was assigned to an aviation wing and saw duty on three aircraft carriers, the USS Independence, the USS Midway and the USS Coral Sea. He

was aboard the Coral Sea when it conducted operations against North Vietnam from the Gulf of Tonkin. He was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and several Navy Unit Commendations.

Following military service, Pouliot joined the VFW in 1977 at Post 1116, Helena, Montana, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. Since then, he has held several elected and appointed positions in the organization, including National Judge Advocate General. He was an All-American Department Commander in 1990-1991.

Pouliot received his law degree from the University of Montana School of Law. He has a private law practice and has served as a city judge in East Helena, Montana.

He belongs to the Montana Lawyers Association, the Montana Magistrates Association, the American Legion, and is a Life Member of the VFW Cooties.

He and his wife Shirley reside in Helena.

— IN MEMORIAM, continued from pg. 1

AFB New Hampshire, Zweibrücken AFB, Germany; and, McClellan AFB, California.

Upon retirement, he came back to South Dakota and managed the Northern Hills Cinema in Spearfish for 12 years. He became very involved in the VFW and served as the South Dakota State Commander in 2003, with several national appointments one being on the Homeless Veterans Committee.

He continued to share his passion for our service men and women by providing patriotic teachings at local elementary schools and organizations. Stan was honored for his Spearfish community service by receiving the Elder's Wisdom Children's Song

Stan had many interests and hobbies in his life. He was a professional roller skater, an accomplished bowler, he loved his Studebaker car, and most importantly, he loved his family. While he was soft-spoken, and loved to kid around, he was very invested in the lives of his daughters and grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Connie, of Spearfish; his daughters, Debbie Seymour of Spearfish, Linda (Don) Zafft of Belle Fourche, and Denise (Ron) Wilson of Chicago, IL; Grandchildren, Michele Levy, William (fiancé, Annie) Zafft, Linsey (Paul) Prunty, Alex Wilson, Jack (Emily) Wilson, and Renick (fiancé, Rene) Wilson; a sister-in-law, Carol Schaub of Lawrence, KS; and many nieces and nephews.

Stan was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Kenneth, Dorothy, Thomas, Theodore.

Memorials in a donation, may be given to the Spearfish Veterans Monument organization at spearfishveteransmonument.org. Stan was instrumental in the planning of this monument.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels and Crematory Service of Spearfish. Online condolences may be written at www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com

Prayers and family,
Sandy

Public Affairs Report



As we wrap up the season's holidays, thank you to the VFW members who volunteer for the Sioux Falls VA.

Robert McDivitt, the new Director of VA's Upper Midwest Network, visited Sioux Falls and attended the Veterans Town Hall in October. Mr. McDivitt is an Army Veteran who has experience in VISN 23 as the Deputy Director from 2001-2006 and as Director of the Fargo VA Health Care System from 2006-2009. He most recently was the Network Director of VA VISN 10 with oversight of 10

medical centers, an ambulatory care clinic, and 63 Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Michigan, Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Indiana.

We'll host the next Veterans Town Hall again at the DAV on January 31st at 6:00 p.m. when senior leadership will brief everyone about what's going on at VA and open the floor to questions about health care and benefits. For your convenience, other VA staff will also be there from 5:00-6:00 p.m. to visit with you about individual health and benefits question.

As you all know, Darwin Goodspeed left Sioux Falls to become the Director of the Portland, Oregon VA Health Care System. Sara Ackert is currently the Acting Director. Mr. Goodspeed's five years here helped modernize the facility, care, and service -- including multiple renovation and construction projects and improving processes to improve Veterans' care. He shared his appreciation to VA employees, volunteers, Veterans Service Organization, community businesses, VBA, and others for their support. The recruitment process is underway for a new director.

Have you heard the Sioux Falls VA Prosthetics Team was recently selected as the VA Prosthetics Dept. of the Year? This is an epic accomplishment for a small facility! It recognizes leadership in prosthetics-related performance metrics and high standards of care and service. Some examples include process improvement in both small and large purchases and the ability to achieve continued success, self-scheduling for amputee and wheelchair clinics, administration of specialty benefits programs including Housing Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) and clothing allowances. In addition, the process to order eyeglasses was redesigned; walk-in clinics were created for same day access for orthotics and prosthetic devices; and the process to furnish eyeglasses was redesigned.

As part of VA's National Salute to Veteran patients, we now invite enrolled Veterans to enter pieces of visual art they have created within the last year as part of the Veterans Creative Arts competition. This art can be photographs, woodworking, jewelry, kits, paintings, and more. Please contact Shirley Redmond at Ext. 6889 or Denise Schwardt at Ext. 9-6418 to request an entry form or learn more about the competition. You may enter 1-2 pieces of art, and entries must be received by January 31, 2019. An exhibit of the art and a reception for the artists will take place on February 6 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the medical center. Some Veterans' art may go on to the National Creative Arts competition

Opening two new Community Based Outpatient Clinics in two months was exciting for VA and the communities of Spirit Lake and North Sioux City/Dakota Dunes! Both larger facilities and their staff look forward to having additional Veterans choose VA for their health care. Expanded services will depend on growing these clinics.

Last but not least -- If you haven't yet received a flu shot, there's still time. Enrolled Veterans may receive flu shots during regularly scheduled appointments or stop by one of the local Walgreens stores. There's no charge.

Shirley Redmond
Public Affairs Officer

Utah Senator Stops Blue Water Navy Bill

VFW says 'We don't need more sick veterans to prove sufficient evidence'

Submitted by Darold D. Couch

WASHINGTON (December 19, 2018) — The objection by Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) to passing H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018*, by unanimous consent today on the Senate floor has effectively doomed any chance of the bill being passed in the 115th Congress. Lee now joins Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), who objected last week due to the bill's overall cost. Lee's objection was because he wants to wait and see more sufficient evidence.

"We don't need more sick veterans to prove sufficient evidence," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "Agent Orange made Vietnam veterans sick, and science agrees that there isn't any reason to treat so-called Blue Water Navy veterans any different than their peers who served ashore or on the inland waterways of Vietnam," he said. "What both senators have done is fail thousands of veterans — many of whom reside in their home states. Their obstruction to this bill's passage forsakes our nation's promise to take care of those who were injured or made ill due to their military service. Their objections put cost above faithful and honorable service."

The VFW-supported H.R. 299 would have restored VA benefits to some 90,000 Blue Water Navy veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after regulatory changes. The bill would have also helped other veterans and their families who suffer from

conditions related to toxic exposures. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ could have had an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested. The current start date of April 1, 1968, would have been backed up seven months to Sept. 1, 1967. In addition, benefits would have been expanded to include children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand. Coverage for this condition already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. The legislation would have also required the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia, which is important for future legislative efforts to create a list of presumptive conditions for veterans seeking VA health care and benefits related to toxic substance exposure, such as burn pits.

"Senator Lee's insistence to wait for more sufficient evidence jeopardizes the chance of H.R. 299 — or any future bill like it — from ever passing while these veterans are still alive," said Lawrence. "Senator Lee, just like Senator Enzi did last week, failed to use this opportunity to put tens of thousands of forgotten veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and many of their children who sadly inherited a toxic legacy, first in their priorities," he said. "The VFW nor its members will forget this."

The VFW is again calling on all members and advocates to demand that the Senate pass H.R. 299 before the end of the year. [Make your voices heard here.](#)

VA Bears Responsibility to Make Student Veterans Whole, Says VFW

Submitted by Darold D. Couch

WASHINGTON (November 29, 2018) — The Department of Veterans Affairs released a statement yesterday regarding the implementation of Forever GI Bill changes that were supposed to have been enacted this past August. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has now directed the Veterans Benefits Administration to cease attempting to implement the changes and instead reset the entire effort in order to get the job done correctly. The reset begins this Saturday, with the full implementation date now shifting to December 2019. Student veterans are expected to see positive effects of the changes in the spring 2020 semester.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was disappointed to learn about the 12-month delay in implementing this amazing benefit, but we recognize why hitting the reset button was necessary in order for the VA to get this right," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence.

The Forever GI Bill changed student housing allowances to reflect the ZIP codes where students attend the majority of their classes. This change was required to go into effect on Aug. 1, 2018, but the VA admits that its antiquated computer system was unable to simultaneously handle individual ZIP code changes and the influx of students registering for the fall semester.

"Shifting the implementation deadline a year isn't a free pass for the VA to arbitrarily pay student veterans less than they are due simply because it was unable to correct internal problems in time," said Lawrence. "I appreciated hearing the VBA under secretary in testimony this morning address the need to make student veterans whole, and I pledge that the VFW will continue to push for the proper implementation of the Forever GI Bill so that all student veterans receive the prompt and full benefits they earned and deserve," he said.

VFW Calls New York Times Article Off-Base

Submitted by Darold D. Couch

WASHINGTON (January 5, 2019) — The national commander of America's largest and oldest major war veterans' organization is calling an article published yesterday in the New York Times off-base and biased against pre-9/11 veterans' service organizations.

"The article, entitled 'Veterans Groups Compete With Each Other, and Struggle With the V.A.,' was biased, misinformed, and totally off-base as it tried to pit veterans' organizations against one another, and for implying that we are losing our voice within not only the Department of Veterans Affairs but within this administration," said B.J. Lawrence, national commander of the 1.6 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary.

"I read the article expecting balance, but unfortunately it was very much against any pre-9/11 organization and very much pro any organization that was created afterwards," said Lawrence. "Every military quality of life program or VA benefit we have today is because of the strong advocacy of legacy organizations who've been there, done that, and who swore to make it better for following generations. The legacy organizations, the so-called Big Six, created and continue to create change because our size enables us to have the wherewithal to hire and groom subject matter experts, as well as retain them," he said. "Our size also means we have the bandwidth to lobby on a multitude of issues on behalf of all veterans, service members and their families. It's a track record of accomplishments after accomplishments that every member of Congress, every VA secretary, and every president knows."

"There is much to be said about how relevant an organization — the VFW for example — must be in order to thrive for 119 years through multiple generations of veterans who all returned home from their wars and conflicts saying 'no one understands me,'" said Lawrence. "A large number of VFW leadership positions are filled by post-9/11 veterans who understand what came before and who today are dedicated to ensuring this and ensuing generations of veterans are properly cared for by a VA that we helped to create almost 90 years ago," he said. "No one in the VA, the administration or the media should ever drive wedges into what we do collectively on behalf of those too few who have served our country in uniform. I expected much better from the New York Times."

Highlights Around South Dakota VFW

2018 Capitol Christmas Tree – “An Enchanted Christmas”

Groups were asked to decorate with the enchanted theme in mind. Simple. Veterans.

*“Our hearts are captured in fascination
With enthralment, enchantment and captivation
We honor our veterans with adulation
For building our freedom with a strong foundation
“I Pledge Allegiance” – is our proclamation
So, Hats Off to the Veterans of our great nation!”*

Using Dept. President Mary Kirkvold’s theme “Hats Off to Veterans” and Natl President Sandi Kriebel’s hard hat for building a strong foundation, we’ve constructed an alluring Christmas Tree to captivate the thousands who stroll through the capitol this holiday season.

2024 Total hard hats with names of veterans were sent in by auxiliary members across South Dakota. The hats are not in any special order on the tree; however, their colors are by district - Dist. 1-yellow; Dist. 4-green; Dist. 6-aqua; Dist. 7-blue; Dist. 10-red.

Atop the tree is one of Natl President Kriebel’s hard hats and leaning against a WWII foot locker beneath the tree are two notebooks with a list of all names found on the ornaments. The names are listed in alphabetical order below the name of the auxiliary that sent them in.

The scents, sounds, and sights are truly magical. There’s holiday music playing, nearly 90 live decorated trees with captivating decorations in our magnificent capitol building, and there’s live entertainment throughout the season.



Tree decorators included Jennifer Little, Carrie Alm, Karen Sharp, Donita Mullinix, Barb Rose, Lois Knudson, Pam Vissia, Deb Fahey, and Colleen Foland. Not pictured Mary Jenner, Bell & Butch Jacobsen, Tarzan Mullinix.)



Tom Hafner, Membership chairman, District 7, advising the state program of providing a blue baseball cap for all that recruits a new member and/or new life member etc.



Burke VFW Post 9950 Commander Roland Holub presenting a check for \$30.00 (Gold Category) for being a Valued Supporter to the South Dakota Overseas Veterans Publication to Editor Dick Pickering.



State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin advising the Auxiliary on how much they are appreciated in the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. L-R D.D. Couch, Mary Kirkvold – State Auxiliary President, David Prohaska, Danny Frisby-Griffin. Front Row, Cindy Williamson and Patty Mitchell.



Commander Danny and Auxiliary President Mary’s Homecoming activity, a great fun time with the Andrews Sisters entertainment for the evening. Nancy Worth was Maxine, Deb Fahey as Patty and Lois Knudson being Laverne, Other’s including were Mary Hammond as Rosie the Riveter. The dancers were Suzanne Booth and her husband, D.D. Couch and Cindy Williamson. At the head table, State Auxiliary President, Mary Kirkvold, National Representative, Sr. Vice President Sandi Moss and Chaplain, Wanda Mix.

Do you know who this is?
Answer on page 10



Suzanne Booth, State Soloist musician providing an entrance music for State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and National Representative David Prohaska, D.D. Couch, National Council Member for South Dakota during the Auxiliary Visitation.



Andrews Sisters, L-R Maxine, Patty and Laverne.

Highlights Around South Dakota VFW

Missing Man Table



Missing Man Table at Veterans Day Luncheon. VFW Post 1273. Navy, 1st Class, Kenneth Moss, Chief of Staff.



Ken and Sandi Moss, Rapid City, presenting wreaths at the Argon Cross during Tomb Trek at Arlington National Cemetery.



Department of South Dakota VFW has relocated: As of the 26th of October 2018, Operation has been in a new office conducting VFW business. Thanks to the moving people "Two Men and a Truck." They started pickup and had it delivered and set up within 3 hours, very efficient, and appreciated by all.

This space is more effective, without interruption, therefore much improved atmosphere for VFW people to do their business. It is essential that everyone pay a visit, to witness this profession space as the office of the VFW Department of South Dakota. We are very proud of commander, Danny, Quartermaster/Adjutant, Darwin and office manager Crystal for the way this has turned out. The new address is West of I-29 on 12th street, 5009 W. 12th Street, Suite 6A, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106.



State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin accepting the National Certificate for being duly elected as Commander Department of South Dakota from National Representative David Prohaska, Director of Administrative Operations.



Russel McKee, VFW Post 3324 accepting \$50.00 for being a membership recruiter and a first timer (drawing of six first timers) at the VFW Conference from State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin.



It is a great privilege for me to join with your family, friends and associates in the Department of South Dakota in extending congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your homecoming.

Your distinguished service to our beloved organization is an inspiration to all of us in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The records show that you have served our organization with esteem at each level of command to which you have acceded as you progressed through the ranks of the VFW at the Post, District and Department levels to the highest office that the Department of South Dakota can bestow...that of State Commander, for which we salute you.

You served our country with honor and distinction in the United States Air Force, you have continued to champion the cause of our flag and country as a citizen of our great republic and through your service in the Veterans of Foreign Wars you have contributed to the well being of your fellow veterans.

My sincere thanks to you for your many personal contributions during your years of service contributing to the successful accomplishments of the programs and purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin receiving a certificate from National Representative David Prohaska.



Darwin Vetter, VFW Post 17, Aberdeen, receiving the Certificate of Appreciation from State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin on right and Sean Johnson on left.



Crystal at 12:55 pm preparing to set up shop and arranging for operation of the VFW business in the new location.



Darwin at 13:10 pm making headway for his new spot to call home for his VFW operation. This area is big enough that makes it very comfortable. Room for special meetings and a store room, plus a restroom.

— PHEASANT HUNT, continued from pg. 1



The decorated Veterans stand with the pheasants they shot on Monday at Nauman's Pheasants just outside of Gettysburg, S.D. From left: Rex Wilson, Gary Evins, Doug Thompson, Daniel Essig, and Agapito Vega. Pioneer photo by Tim Potts

— PHEASANT HUNT, continued on pg. 10

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Dept. of South Dakota

Auxiliary Home: We are the nation's oldest veterans' service organization auxiliary. For more than 100 years, we have been serving veterans, the military and their families in countless ways.



*Millions of hours, millions of dollars and millions of tributes
This is Who We Are*



VFW Auxiliary members are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat. Through our National Programs, we assist the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. With more than 4,000 Auxiliaries, there is likely one in your area working to improve the lives of America's uncommon heroes.

Auxiliary State President's Report

Mary Kirkvold



I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas, and will have a Happy New Year, in "2019"

We are always fighting for Veterans. Around the world, the VFW is reaching out to American's heroes--during long dangerous deployments, during the often difficult transition back to civilian life and always in

the years to 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 veterans and their families, thanks to the generosity of members of the VFW, and the VFW Auxiliary and millions of patriotic supporters. There are programs called "Veterans and Family Support" and "Unmet Needs."

I like to share with "Letters from the Heart:" The VFW

keeps their promises, and we were blown away by how smooth and immediate the VFW Unmet Needs assistance process was. It was a lifesaver for our family.

I want to thank all VFW and VFW Auxiliary supporters for generously supporting the men and women like me who wear the uniform. Your efforts help us achieve our academic goals, so we can continue serving our country and bettering our communities.

My prayers are with "ALL" of you.

Auxiliary Sr. Vice President's Report

Sandi Moss



Happy New Year!!! The holidays are over and we should be recharged and ready to finish off this year with a BANG!!! We are over a half of the way through the 2018-2019 year!! This is going to be a banner year under President Mary and Commander Danny. 'Believe - We Can Do It', is President Sandi Kreibel's theme. We are 'Providing

Top Cover', through Commander Danny's leadership and President Mary has 'Hats Off to Veterans!' 'Attitude is a little thing that makes a Big Difference!'. Our attitudes at this time should be excellent and ready to finish this year off with honors!! Remember, **No One Does More for our Veterans** than the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary.

I am looking forward to our Legislative Conference in Pierre. I hope to see new faces with new ideas at this meeting. Legislative is shorter this year and only requires a one night stay in Pierre. It is always a wonderful Conference when we get to honor our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners from our Districts around the State. These young men and women are very talented, they show their love of Country and our Veterans by their outstanding entries.

President Mary put me in charge of raising money for our State Banner. Our current Banner reads 'Ladies Auxiliary' and must be changed this year. It was decided at Fall Council to accept donations from Members and Auxiliaries and Districts around the State for the Banner. At the current time we have a generous donation from the Deadwood Auxiliary for \$100.00. This is a great start but we need at least \$680.00, plus postage, to purchase the Banner. If the

rest of our Auxiliaries and Districts donate at least \$25.00 each we will have more than enough to purchase the Banner and have it at State Convention in June. Please talk to your Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters about donating to the State Treasury. Send donations to our State Treasurer Carol Gross in Huron for the Banner. We operate on a very tight budget and we don't have the funds available to replace the Banner but, our Membership can make this happen.

It is my pleasure to be Senior Vice President for this wonderful organization. If you have any questions please call me at 605-431-6897, my cell phone number. God bless all of you, our Veterans and the United States of America.

Loyally,

Sandi Moss

Senior Vice President 2018-2019

Auxiliary Jr. Vice President & Membership/Leadership Chairman's Report

Donita Mullinix



Happy 2019. I hope everyone had a very nice Christmas and a happy New Year. The weather even cooperated for most of us. Now that our schedules have slowed down a little from all the hustle and bustle, we can concentrate on our membership. If some of our annual members slipped through the cracks and missed the Dec. 31, 2018 deadline,

they are no longer in good standings. Please try very hard to collect their dues as soon as possible to get them back in good standings. If this is a difficult time for them, maybe the Auxiliary could help them along. We all like a little surprise or a helping hand once in awhile.

Congratulations to the Auxiliaries that have reached 100%. Many Auxiliaries are 90% or more. Our 2nd quarter membership goal is 35 new or reinstated members by Jan. 31, 2019. We are currently at 91.26%. We have a ways to go, but if we work hard...I know we can do it.

We've had some Guard Units deploy over the Holidays, so please keep them in your prayers. Keep in touch with their families also. Maybe those that got left behind would be interested in joining our VFW Auxiliary family. This would be a good way to let them know we are here for them.

I wish everyone a safe winter and for those traveling south, safe travels.

Donita Mullinix,
Dept. Jr. Vice.



VFW Auxiliary-
Department of
South Dakota
@DeptofSDVFWAux

**UNWAVERING
SUPPORT FOR
UNCOMMON HEROES**

**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

Legislative Conference, National Representative Carla Jean Martinez, National Guard from the Department of Utah

Carla is a dual member of Miller-Frazier Post 8307 in Layton Utah. She has been a member of the Auxiliary for over 34 years and became a life member in 2005. She is a Gold Legacy life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Her eligibility for the Auxiliary came from her Dad, Harry Creel who served 23 years in the United States Air Force and was eligible because of his duty in the Korean War. She earned her eligibility with the Veterans of Foreign Wars through her 13 months spent in Korea and is retired from the United States Navy.

She has been with her current employer, WCF Insurance for 20 years helping individuals who are injured while on the job.

She spends her off time volunteering at the VA Hospital, recruiting with the VFW Membership team, co-chairing our Post Auxiliary Youth Group, sets out crosses Memorial Day and helps with Buddy Poppy events.

She was Department President in 2015-2016, District 3 President and Auxiliary President and all the offices leading up to President.

She is also a lifetime member of Order of the Cooties, also a life member of the Fleet Reserve Association.

Recycle the South Dakota Overseas Veteran by passing the edition on to others

Finished with this newspaper? Instead of just adding it to the papers in your recycling box, why not pass it along to someone else who may enjoy reading about the Department of South Dakota VFW and its efforts for Veterans! Be sure to black out your personal info in the mailing box – maybe even cover it with a label including info of where readers can get more info about your local Post. Then, “recycle” it at a local café, or waiting rooms at businesses like car repair shops or medical offices. (Be sure to get their permission to leave the paper there.) Thanks for spreading the word!

Women Veterans License Plates are Available

Some may already be aware that South Dakota now offers woman Veteran specialty license plates. Applicants must sign an affidavit stating they are an honorably discharged Veteran who has served on active duty in the armed forces of the U.S. Applicants must pay a \$20 special plate fee, a \$5 mailing fee, and annual vehicle registration fees. To learn more, visit <https://www.state.sd.us/eforms/secure/eforms/E1952V13-SDApplicationForVeteranLicensePlatesAndAffidavit.pdf>

Auxiliary Department of South Dakota 2018-2019

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Whitlock Named New Veterans Affairs Secretary



Governor-elect Kristi Noem announced that Greg Whitlock will join her administration as Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

“The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs should operate as a rally point, providing resources, support, and guidance to the state’s 65,000 veterans,” said Governor-elect Noem. “Greg Whitlock is a proven champion for veterans and brings with him a real-life perspective of issues South Dakota veterans face every day. Greg has lived a life of service and patriotism, he leads by example, and he shares my vision for the future of South Dakota veteran care. I’m grateful to have him on my team, and I look forward to the ways we will work together to prioritize South Dakota’s bravest men and women.”

I want to thank Governor-elect Noem for the opportunity to continue serving South Dakota veterans and their families,”

said Greg Whitlock. “I’ve dedicated my life to serving our country and state, and I’m honored to join Governor-elect Noem’s vision to expand employment opportunities and improve customer service for the people who’ve selflessly defended freedom.”

Whitlock, a Selby native, has served in the South Dakota Army National Guard since 1975. A decorated serviceman, he’s received numerous accolades including two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, an Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Whitlock served as the military and veterans service representative for Noem’s congressional office, and was influential in advocating for an East River veteran’s cemetery and fought to preserve the Hot Springs VA Hospital.

Whitlock begins his leadership role at SDDVA January 5.

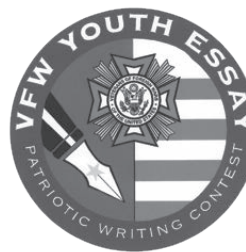
VOD /PP /Teachers of the Year District Winners 2018-2019

Patriots Pen: District 1, Luke Gapp, Sponsored by Vermillion VFW Post 3061; District 4, Madelynne Storm, Sponsored by Watertown VFW Post 750; District 6, Benjamin Gough, Sponsored by Aberdeen VFW Post 17; District 7, Jack Anderson, Sponsored by Winner VFW Post 4674; District 10, Calister Grinsley, Sponsored by Spearfish VFW Post 5860.

Voice of Democracy: District 1, Henry Heilberger, Sponsored by Brandon VFW Post 4726; District 4, Sara Hemmingson, Sponsored by Webster VFW Post 4690; District 6, Allyson Boomsma, Sponsored by Huron VFW Post 1776; District 7, Rose Eitemiller, Sponsored by Wagner Post 7319; District 10, Sierra Hillard, Sponsored by Spearfish VFW 5860.

Teacher of the Year: Jill Haberman, Scotland School K-5, Sponsored by Scotland VFW Post 2966; Michelle Storms, Winner Middle School, 6-8, Sponsored by Winner VFW Post 4674; John Vogel, Aberdeen Central High School, 9-12, Sponsored by Aberdeen VFW Post 17.

2018-2019 Themes



Patriotic Pen
“Why I Honor the American Flag”



Voice of Democracy
“Why My Vote Matters”

Inside Town Hall Features Program on State Veterans Cemetery

South Dakota’s State Veterans Cemetery was the focus of the Inside Town Hall program last week. You can view the program by going to the link below: <http://www.siouxfalls.org/innov-tech/Cablecast/cablecast-video-vertical-list/Inside-Town-Hall>

Inside Town Hall is a half-hour interview program designed to focus on current Sioux Falls City Council initiatives and City projects, operations, or future plans of public interest.

The objectives of Inside Town Hall are to increase awareness of the activities and deliberations of the City Council; provide information to the citizens of Sioux Falls on its services, facilities, functions, operations, and future plans of the City; and provide local government news not generally available through the existing broadcast.



Cootie Corner



You Lousy Cooties,

It's that busy time of the year again with the BIG hospital visits, and the 4 chaplains coming up. I will also be doing my inspections soon so watch out for that phone call. I do plan to attend the 4 chaplains out in Sturgis so watch out for me. Please keep out spending time with out veterans, we are doing well, but right now per my reports I am receiving we are 5th out of 10. Get your numbers into Rich K. as soon as possible please. I am pleased with all the hard work and your dedication and devotion to the veterans.

Lousiest of them all,

Cody Mangold Commander Grand
"Keep 'em smiling in Beds of white"
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1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066

Yankton World War II Veteran awarded Bronze Star Medal Posthumously

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) presented the Bronze Star Medal to Yankton resident Mrs. Lucille Mjoen on behalf of her late husband, World War II Veteran Private First Class Gilbert Kjoen. The Bronze Star was awarded to Mjoen for meritorious achievement in active ground combat against the enemy on December 19, 1944, in Holland, where he was wounded while serving with the 104th Infantry Division. He previously received the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

"It's my honor to present the Bronze Star to Mrs. Mjoen on behalf of her husband, Gilbert," said Rounds. "Like so many members of the Greatest Generation, Gilbert was called to serve our nation during World War II. He joined the army in 1943 and fought in Holland, Belgium and Germany. We are forever grateful for Gilbert for the sacrifices he made to preserve freedom here in the United States and around the world. I wish that Gilbert could be here to accept the award today, surrounded by his family and friends."

Mjoen was born on January 30, 1925, in Volin, SD in 1943, after graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Army's 104th Infantry Division. He was a first gunner on the light machine gun squad and the 50-caliber machine gun. He fought in the European Theatre of Operations, specifically Holland, Belgium and Germany.

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 Fort Meade, SD 57741
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 www.blackhills.va.gov

VA Black Hills Health Care System
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 Hot Springs, SD 57747
 (605) 745-2000
 Toll Free: 1-800-764-5370
 www.blackhills.va.gov

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System
2501 W. 22nd Street
 PO Box 5046
 Sioux Falls, SD 57117
 (605) 336-3230
 Toll Free: 1-800-316-8387

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.

— **VFW ANNOUNCES NEW BRAND IDENTITY CHANGE, continued from pg. 1**

represent length of service on most U.S. military uniforms.

As such, the first and leaner of the two service stripes represents the organization's steadfast entry into its second century of service to America's veterans, service members and their families. The second, broader stripe, represents its first storied century of service, spanning back to 1899. In addition to the direct metaphor of the stripes, the visual progression leading to the build of the letter "V" represents our sustained and forward movement into achieving the VFW's mission of service to others. The distinctive gold coloring gives nod to the VFW's stringent membership eligibility requirements and the gold standard of service the VFW provides. The red represents the danger each of its members has faced and the energy with which the VFW operates.

In support of the project, the VFW has created individual custom logos for use by each of its 52 VFW Department headquarters in all 50 states and overseas, and nearly 6,300 individual VFW Posts.

"The VFW is such an amazing organization and just as relevant, if not more so, than any other time in our history. It's time all of America notices us and I feel confident this is another step in accomplishing just that," said Lawrence.

— **PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT, continued from pg. 3**

Heart. Johnson is the only registered women with a Purple Heart in the Dakotas.

Recently, the SDSU grad and now Veteran Coordinator on campus reached out to the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The interaction resulted in the university becoming a Purple Heart Campus.

Matt Holsen: How does that make a Purple Heart Recipient feel?

Connie Johnson: I think it's an amazing thing that SDSU is willing to support and say, Hey we are a Purple Heart Campus. We support the men and women that have served.

SDSU Veterans Affairs Office Director Russ Chavez says the title means the school will go out of its way to help Purple Heart recipients and Veterans.

"We are a Veteran-friendly campus and that we care. It's not just an office to check a block. It's an office to make sure that you're checking all the blocks and you are taken care of properly," Chavez said.

Chavez and Johnson are working to get special parking for Purple Heart recipients at SDSU. It's a well-deserved spotlight for service Johnson says doesn't get talked about enough. She remembers the moments right after her injury.

"He came in and he put the Purple Heart on my pillow and then he walked off and met other people. Then I was fixed and then I was back out. No one really said anything. So when I got out, I never said anything," Johnson said.

Now she's telling her story hoping it will inspire others to open up.

"It helps me to talk about it because I didn't for years and years and years. So if anyone even sees this and they're like, 'She was fine. I never noticed anything.' It's because I hid it. You don't talk about it," Johnson said.

That is starting to change across the country and here in KELOLAND.

You can hear more from Johnson in Monday's Eye on KELOLAND. The former soldier focuses on her experience with post-traumatic stress disorder. We also highlight what SDSU is doing to address the mental health issues among Veterans and active military on campus. It's called Warrior Wellness at SDSU and it will air Monday at 10 p.m.

Do you know who this is?

Answer:
Dennis Sharp PSC 2016-2017



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



"...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!

Rapid City, VFW Post 1273

Cox Calvin, Korea, Vietnam USAF, Life; Warren Stevens, WWII, USN, Life; Eckert Melvin E., WWII, USA, Life; Eberhard Wayne L., WWII, USN, Life; Neiman Lowell, WWII, USA/USAF, Life; Pariseau Rynnie, Vietnam, USAF, Life; Peck Vearl, Korea, USMC, Life; Grundhoffer Francis, Vietnam, USAF; Buetow Maylen, Korea, USMC, Life.

Watertown, VFW Post 750

Foss Laurel A., Korea, USA, Life; Bruchhof Leonard W., Korea, USN Seabee, Life; Ustrud Jerone D., WWII, USA, Life; Johnson Lynn A., Korea, USA, Life, Past Post Commander; Ries, Jr. Robert J., WWII USN, Life.

Vermillion, VFW Post 3061

Vernell Holter, WWII, USA; Stan White, Vietnam USN, Life.

Mitchell, VFW Post 2750

Honomichi DeWayne E., Korea, USA National Guard, Life.

Sturgis, VFW Post 2730

Mechling Chris R., Korea, USA, Life; Christenson, Wayne R., USA, Germany/West Berlin; Hallock Morris G., Christoffersen Warren J., USA, Germany/West Berlin, Life.

Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628

Gerald Postma, Korea; Roger Kehm, WWII Coast Guard; Granade Harrigle, WWII; Robert Elmen, Korea; Jack Green, WWII; Dr. Howard Osphiem, USA; Dr. Jerome Marek, WWII; Fred Masek, WWII, USA; Laverne Decker; James Swanson, Korea, USMC.

VFW Baseball Annual Meeting Agenda Held at VFW Post 2638 Madison, SD Sunday, January 20, 2019

1.1. 2018 Tournament Report: **148** Teams participated or registered for 2018 VFW Baseball Tournaments

1.1.1. 2018

- 1.1.1.1. 16U: Class A **16** teams; Class B **21** teams (+3)
- 1.1.1.2. 14U: Class A **19** teams; Class B **32** teams (-2)
- 1.1.1.3. 12U: Class A **14** teams; Class B **18** teams (-1)
- 1.1.1.4. 10U: Class A **12** teams; Class B **16** teams (+3)

1.1.2. 2017

- 1.1.2.1. 16U: Class A **16** teams; Class B **19** teams
- 1.1.2.2. 14U: Class A **27** teams; Class B **26** teams
- 1.1.2.3. 12U: Class A **15** teams; Class B **18** teams
- 1.1.2.4. 10U: Class A **13** teams; Class B **12** teams

1. New Business

1.1. Website Presentation (<http://www.sdvwbaseball.com/home>)

1.1.1. 2019 Tournament Registration

- 1.1.1.1. Fee Structure Change and timing
- 1.1.1.2. Registration form simpler?

1.1.2. Gamechanger required use discussion

1.1.3. VFW Youth Baseball Sponsor/Partnership Program Update

1.2. Rule Changes Submitted (bold items below to be voted on)

1.2.1. Season start for 14U and 16U

1.2.2. Decision not to play 14U or 16U regional championship game

1.2.3. Equipment: simplification of bat standard

1.2.4. Pitch Count modifications (lessons learned from 2018)

1.2.5. Other rules as highlighted

1.3. 2019 Tournament Checklist Review and Recommendations

1.4. 2019 Tournament Host Sites Reveal

1.4.1. Class AA (tentative)

- 1.4.1.1. Class AA 12U: **7/12-14/2019**
- 1.4.1.2. Class AA 10U: **7/12-14/2019**

1.4.2. Class A

- 1.4.2.1. Class A 16U: **8/2-4/2019: TBD** (Regions should be completed by **7/26**)
- 1.4.2.2. Class A 14U: **7/19-21/2019: TBD** (Regions should be completed by **7/11**)
- 1.4.2.3. Class A 12U: **7/12-14/2019: TBD**
- 1.4.2.4. Class A 10U: **7/12-14/2019: TBD**

1.4.3. Class B

- 1.4.3.1. Class B 16U: **8/2-4/2019: TBD** (Regions should be completed by **7/26**)
- 1.4.3.2. Class B 14U: **7/19-21/2019: TBD** (Regions should be completed by **7/11**)
- 1.4.3.3. Class B 12U: **7/12-14/2019: TBD**
- 1.4.3.4. Class B 10U: **7/12-14/2019: TBD**

1.4.4. 2020 Tournament Dates

- 1.4.4.1. Class AA, A and B 10U and 12U: **7/10-12/2020**
- 1.4.4.2. Class A and B 14U: **7/17-19/2020** (Regions should be completed by **7/9**)
- 1.4.4.3. Class A and B 16U: **7/31-8/2/2020** (Regions should be completed by **7/24**)

1.4.5. 2021 Tournament Dates

- 1.4.5.1. Class AA, A and B 10U and 12U: **7/16-18/2021**
- 1.4.5.2. Class A and B 14U: **7/23-25/2021** (Regions should be completed by **7/15**)
- 1.4.5.3. Class A and B 16U: **8/6-8/2021** (Regions should be completed by **7/30**)

1.4.6. 2022 Tournament Dates

- 1.4.6.1. Class AA, A and B 10U and 12U: **7/15-17/2022**
- 1.4.6.2. Class A and B 14U: **7/22-24/2022** (Regions should be completed by **7/14**)
- 1.4.6.3. Class A and B 16U: **8/5-7/2022** (Regions should be completed by **7/29**)

1.4.7. 2023 Tournament Dates

- 1.4.7.1. Class AA, A and B 10U and 12U: **7/14-16/2023**
- 1.4.7.2. Class A and B 14U: **7/21-23/2023** (Regions should be completed by **7/13**)
- 1.4.7.3. Class A and B 16U: **8/4-6/2023** (Regions should be completed by **7/28**)

1.5. VFW Youth Baseball Grant Program Update: **2018** Webster, Selby and Dell Rapids

1.6. VFW Youth Baseball Community of the Year Recognition Update: **2018**—Madison; **2018** Friends of VFW Baseball Recognition: Chamberlain Baseball Association and Volga Baseball Association

1.7. VFW Youth Baseball Veterans Program Donation Program Update: 2018—SD Veterans Cemetery and VFW National Disaster Relief Fund

Official:

By Order of:

Danny Frisby-Griffin,
Baseball Chairman
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

Rob Lind,
Director of VFW Baseball Operations
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

— *PHEASANT HUNT, continued from pg. 7*

Hovey, South Korea. Essig has held numerous military positions including: Airborne, Infantry, and Cavalry Scout at all enlisted leadership levels at Ariz. Army National Guard (1985 – 1992), Minn. Army National Guard (1992 – 2015), deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina (2003 – 2004), deployed to Iraq (2005 – 2007), and deployed to Kuwait and conducted missions in Iraq (2011 – 2012). Essig received his purple heart as a result of wounds received as a result of an IED explosion in Iraq in Aug. 2006.

Essig's son is currently serving as an Infantry Captain in the Minnesota Army National Guard. "This was my first experience at pheasant hunting, but I do hunt deer, ruffed grouse, ducks, and geese.

Essig enlisted when he was seventeen and entered active duty at eighteen, later leaving active duty when he was twenty-two. Essig enlisted in the Army National Guard at twenty-six and retired from the Army National Guard at fifty-six. "Since I retired, my plans are to spend more time with my family, enjoying the grandkids and cruising on my new Harley Davidson motorcycle," Essig said.

He is a life member of the Deer River, Minn. VFW Post 2720.

Gary "Doc" Evins, served in the U.S. Navy from July 1965 to May 1968 and was in the United States Marine Corp as a Combat Hospital Corpsman (Medic) in Vietnam.

Evins received two Purple Hearts, one on July 7, 1967 and the second on August 27, 1967. "Both times we walked into ambushes and I was wounded the first time from a grenade and a gun shot in the right hip the second time," Evins said.

Evins father was a Marine at Pearl Harbor when Japan bombed it, so it was expected of him to join the USMC. Immediately after graduation from high school, he went to enlist in the Marine Corp at the age of eighteen. "They informed me that all medical support for the USMC comes from the Navy, so I enlisted in the Navy and after training I was assigned to serve the remainder of my time with the Marines," Evins added. He served as a combat hospital corpsman with a couple Marine corps units, but after being wounded the second time, he was returned to the States and spent eleven months in a military hospital. After almost a year recovering from being wounded, he was medically retired in May 1968. "I was nineteen years old when I went to Vietnam and retired at age twenty," said Evins.

He was wounded both times while rendering medical support to fellow Marines in his unit.

Evins always wanted to be a doctor but after spending so much time in the hospital his desire to stay in the medical field was lost, so he went to engineering school. He worked for Siemens Engineering, a German company, in the automation division. A memorable project he worked on was being responsible for the motors on the Panama Canal and he retired from Siemens seven years ago.

"It was an award winning day, and an experience I will never forget," said Gary Evins, after shooting several pheasants. Evins is a member of the San Antonio, Texas VFW Post 8541 and Purple Heart Chapter in San Antonio. Evins has never been to South Dakota and never hunted pheasant, but enjoyed visiting and plans to return soon.

Rex Wilson, was drafted at age twenty into the Army in Nov. 1967 and trained in Fort Ord, Calif., starting in Jan. 1968, and then completed Basic and Advance Infantry Training (AIT). "I was a squad leader in basic and acting drill sergeant in AIT, went to leadership preparation course, was in 11-B-10 Infantry, went to Germany and was in 11-B-20 Mechanized Infantry," Wilson said. "I was supposed to be there for 18 months but was called to Vietnam." Wilson fought for his country and was wounded Aug. 12, 1969 and was proud to have received the Purple Heart award. "Another unit was being over run and our unit just came back from a mission and I jumped on a tank at Quentin to help the unit and was blown off by mortar or artillery," Wilson added. "I still have a bunch of shrapnel in my lower back."

Wilson read about the pheasant hunt in a VFW article and thought it sounded like a wonderful thing to spend time with fellow veterans, and he has family and friends in S.D., so he applied. Wilson have never hunted pheasant, but used to hunt deer and elk in Calif and Colo. Wilson's dad and uncles served during World War II in the Army and both of his brothers-in-law were in the Navy and served in the Korean war.

"I just want to thank everyone for the lifetime experience of being chosen with these other Vets for the wonderful event that the Gettysburg S.D. VFW hosts," Wilson said.

Wilson lives in Fallbrook California and plans to join the VFW Post 1924.

"Fantastic, awesome, I have never met so many nice people and it is an honor to be here and I really enjoyed the heck out of it, and I haven't had this much fun in a very long time," Wilson said. "I think it is wonderful you do this for the Vets and it really means something special to me."

"This pheasant hunt has had many positive impacts for the community," Darwin Tolzin, Department of South Dakota VFW Quartermaster, said. "It is a year long effort, from having fundraisers, arrangement of locations to hunt, housing, and food for morning, noon, and evening is never ending." With the motto of the VFW being "No one does more for Veterans" this project falls right into that commitment. The Gettysburg VFW Winston Toomey Post 8530 members are responsible for making things happen and have full control of the event with only assistance from others.

The Gettysburg VFW Post 8530 got the opportunity to host the pheasant hunt when another area chapter approached them a few years ago asking if they were willing to take it over. "We saw it as an opportunity to give our fellow Veterans an opportunity to do something they may never get to experience, plus a chance to come to our area, meet our members, and our community, which is one of the most patriotic communities in the country," said Butch Anderson, VFW member and this years event coordinator. The Gettysburg VFW received 44 applications for this year's hunt. Due to the large number of applicants for five hunting spots, all names were put into a hat and five were drawn out plus two alternates. "Let your fellow service members know about this hunt, talk about it at your VFW meetings, and of course financial aid is always appreciated," Anderson added. Anderson was in the US Army from March of 1969 through the end of October 1970, serving in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970.

If you would like to help financially with future Decorated Veterans hunts, please send your contribution to Gettysburg VFW Post 8530, P. O. Box 15, Gettysburg SD 57442.

The six purple heart decorated Veterans Pheasant hunt was picked up from the Pioneer paper and published in a half dozen other papers across the country, showing the interest that this hunt proved to be an outstanding news article. Thank you to Tom and Lonnie Pitts, and Bill Gibson of Gettysburg VFW Winston Toomey Post 8530, and its members and community.

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 Please advise and assist all members of this change.



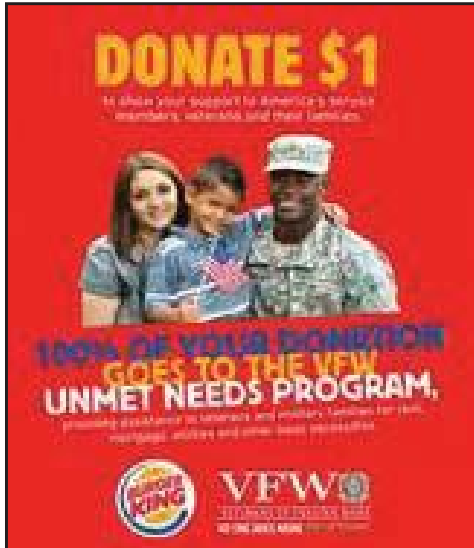
WELCOME TO THE SD VFW/AUXILIARY

The South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars has a rich tradition of serving veterans, military families and their local communities. We invite you to explore website www.sdvfw.org to learn more about our organization.



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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (October 29, 2018) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is pleased to announce that for the twelfth consecutive year, participating BURGER KING® franchisees raised funds throughout the month of November for the VFW's Unmet Needs program.

"America's military and veteran families have given so much to our country, and not being able to make their rent or mortgage payment is a stress they shouldn't have," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "Every year, BURGER KING® franchisees and their loyal patrons set the bar of support higher and higher, helping to ensure the VFW can keep meeting the needs of America's service members and veterans and provide them with the support they deserve."

The Unmet Needs program provides financial assistance to service members and military families during times of financial hardship, providing them financial grants toward basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments, vehicle repair, medical expenses and food. Since its inception in 2004, Unmet Needs has provided more than \$10.5 million in aid to nearly 9,000 service members, veterans and their families.

Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees have raised more than \$5.3 million in support of the program. More than 1,000 locations nationwide participated in last year's fundraising campaign with even higher participation expected this year.

About the BURGER KING® brand: Founded in 1954, the BURGER KING® brand is the second largest fast food hamburger chain in the world. The original HOME OF THE WHOPPER®, the BURGER KING® system operates more than 14,000 locations in approximately 100 countries and U.S. territories. Almost 100 percent of BURGER KING® restaurants are owned and operated by independent franchisees, many of them family-owned operations that have been in business for decades. The BURGER KING® brand is owned by Restaurant Brands International Inc. (TSX,NYSE:QSR), one of the world's largest quick service restaurant companies with more than \$23 billion in system sales and over 19,000 restaurants. To learn more about the BURGER KING® brand, please visit the BURGER KING® brand website at www.bk.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally-chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in more than 6,300 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at www.vfw.org.

VFW Contact: Randi K. Law, Manager, Communications and Public Affairs, rlaw@vfw.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 (April 2019) of the **South Dakota Overseas Veteran**, the deadline is **March 1, 2019**.

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

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All Veterans and visiting
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Post Meeting Nite 3rd Wed.
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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
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Saturday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers or Chicken Strips and Fries
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Friday Night Fish Fry Starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Ronald Westby VFW Post #2638 510 S. Washington Ave. Madison, SD 57042 (605) 256-6771

Open Mon.-Thur. 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Fri-Sat 12 pm to 10 p.m.-ish
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

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Open Mon. - Fri. 4:00 PM to close
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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**: 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, Mike Boxa, VFW Post 9950, Commander Roland Holub and Bette and Norman Thompson. **Silver category**: Rick and Cindy Williamson, John Wightman **Bronze category**: Dick Pickering.