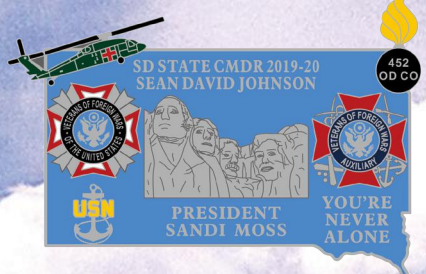



Website: www.vfwsd.org
"YOU'RE NEVER ALONE"

July/August/September 2019
The Official Publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
Vol. 76 Issue 1

YOUR VFW: NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of South Dakota Line Officers



L-R First Row: Colin Reisner, Judge Advocate; Barbara McKean, Jr. Vice Commander; Sean Johnson, State Commander; Cody Mangold, Sr. Vice Commander; Adam Swift, Surgeon; L-R Row 2: Darwin Tolzin, Quartermaster/Adjutant; Ron Krogman, Chief of Staff; Russel Dramstad, Chaplain.



South Dakota VFW Line Officers in line during the Joint Installion. L-R: State Auxiliary President Sandi Moss; State VFW Commander Sean D. Johnson; Cody Mangold, Sr. Vice Commander; Darwin Tolzin, Quartermaster/Adjutant; Barbara McKean, Jr. Vice Commander; Colin Reisner, Judge Advocate; Russel Dramstad, Chaplain; Adam Swift, Surgeon.

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at www.vfwsd.org

South Dakota Elects 90th State Commander



All American Sean Johnson of VFW Posy 17, Aberdeen - takes the oath of office for 90th State Commander, during the State's Convention in Madison by National Chief of Staff, Jerry W. Herker, from Medical Lake, Washington.

Sean Johnson became the Commander of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars in 15 June 2019 during the 89th annual VFW Convention in Madison, South Dakota.

SSG Johnson served nearly 26 years in the United States Army Reserve from 22 June 1988 to 10 February 2014. He earned his first VFW eligibility in 1990 during Desert Shield/Desert Storm with the 311th EVAC HOSP. In 1007, he served in (Bosnia) Tazar, Hungary with

the 452nd OD CO. During the Global War on Terrorism, he deployed to Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-2006 also with the 452nd OD CO.

In recognition of his service, he received the Meritorious Unit Citation, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Army Service Ribbon 2nd Award, Armed Forces Reserve Medal M Device 3rd Award Silver Hourglass 20 years, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Award, Army Achievement Medal 2nd Award, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal 5th Award, Army Overseas Service Ribbon 2nd Award, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal 3 Bronze Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Soldiers Medal, NATO Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal Kuwait, Kuwait Liberation Medal Saudi Arabia.


SSG Johnson joined the VFW in 1990 at post 1307 in Elgin, IL. In 1995, he transferred his membership to C.C. Crol Post 17 in Aberdeen, SD, where he maintains his Silver Legacy. He became active in his local post in 2009 as Surgeon and worked his way up the chairs as Junior Vice, Senior Vice, and Commander before stepping down in 2018 to focus on his state office. SSG Johnson began serving the Department of South Dakota in 2016 as Surgeon and has continued this service as Junior Vice, Senior Vice and Commander.

— **SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTS 90th STATE COMMANDER**, continued on pg. 4



Newly elected Auxiliary President – Sandi Moss of Rapid City Post 1273, with a Theme of “Veterans – the Heartbeat of America” and State Commander Sean Johnson of Aberdeen Post 17. Theme “You’re Never Alone.”





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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.



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 Sean Johnson



Hello, Comrades. Thank you for putting your confidence in me, my leadership, and our new line officers. It is our goal to serve you, and the state of South Dakota, to the best of our abilities.

Special thanks to Danny Frisby-Griffin, Sharon Mitchell, Vern Hanson, Post 2638, and everyone who helped with the 89th annual VFW Convention in Madison. It takes a great deal of work to organize and host an event of this size and they did a wonderful job.

In the year ahead I want to focus on my theme of *You're never alone*. I want every veteran in our state to know they are never alone – they have all of us, and the VFW – to support them. I invite you to join me in this mission by greeting veterans at your meetings, at the VA, or in your community and reminding them to reach out if they are struggling. Make sure you know how to reach the Veterans Crisis Line by calling 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, texting 838255, or visiting <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> for free, confidential support 24/7. It's our duty to be there for one another.

My overall Mission is to raise money for combating PTSD and PTSD research. We will be having a \$10,000 raffle fundraiser over 36 weeks and the money raised will go to the Colton Levi Derr Foundation to

continue their mission to eradicate 22 a day.

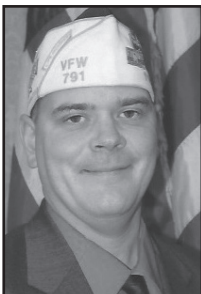
Later this year we will announce an exciting new membership incentive-based program. If you've let your membership expire, please consider renewing. Invite veterans in your community to join and learn about all the good services the VFW provides. This is the year we will revitalize our organization and strengthen our bonds.

Line officers, council members, and I will be visiting posts throughout the year and I encourage you to use these visits to share your successes as well as any difficulties you may be having. It's our desire to support you and help you remove any obstacles to having a robust presence in your community. I encourage you to contact the state office in between visits if you need any assistance.

Next month the 120th VFW National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL from July 20th-24th. If you haven't registered, please do so as soon as possible. We want to see many SD veterans and auxiliary members in attendance.

We are still looking for people to help with recruitment during Sturgis Bike Rally in August. If you can attend part or all of the rally, please contact me at 605-228-1636, Ken Moss at 605-580-7799 to volunteer. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your national officers and meet veterans across the country. I am honored to serve as your Commander this year. Remember, you're never alone.

Sr. Vice Commander's Report Cody Mangold



Greetings,

Comrades I want to thank you all for the confidence to continue to represent The Department of South Dakota VFW as your Sr. Vice Commander. This year looks to be a great year for our State. I would like to congratulate Danny Frisby-Griffin, and Mary for their wonderful year and convection this year in Madison. I would also like to thank their committee members for all of their hard work to make everything work out and have a good convention. I believe with having Sean Johnson Representing our State as the Department Commander. I am also excited to work with Rick Williamson in his new position as the National Council Member for the Department of South Dakota. I know Rick will do an amazing job as representing the interest of the Department of South Dakota. I am also excited to work with DD Couch as our next Legislative Council Member. This year I would like to see an increase in the nominations for our EMT's (EMS), police officer,

firefighter. These individuals do great things for our communities and I believe it is important to recognize and Thank them for what they do for all of us. I look forward to receiving everyone's Memorial Day, Loyalty Day, and Veteran's Day reports. You all do great things for our communities and we need to take credit for all your great work. You all are the ones who make the VFW what it is, and we need you to let us know what you are doing. Not only the reports I am in charge of this year I would like to see the community service, hospital and service and rehab reports increase. You are the ones doing to the work and need to take credit for what you are doing. I am very excited and proud to represent the South Dakota VFW as the Senior Vice commander. By this time the National Convention would be over. I also am attending the Sturgis Rally this year to assist the VFW in recruiting.

Cody Mangold
Sr. Vice Commander
"Looking out for Veterans"

Jr. Vice Commander's Report Barbara McKean



Greetings from your newly elected Jr. Vice Commander! Thank you for entrusting me in this new position. I will not let you down! A great time was had by all at this year's VFW State Convention in Madison, SD. I'm sad to see Danny Frisby-Griffin's year end as our State Commander. I can't even begin to tell you what a fantastic person he and his family are! Thank you for all your mentorship Danny!

Our newly elected State Commander, Sean Johnson, will be a great Commander and I know he's looking forward

to meeting many of you. One of his top agenda items this year will be membership and mentoring to VFW veterans. Starting 1 Jul, 2019 we all need to reach out and talk to fellow veterans. Encourage them to join our VFW and I encourage each of you to join the VFW if eligible and if already a member, COME BACK. Come sit in on some meetings and see what amazing things we are doing for YOU! Call or email me if you have any eligibility or membership questions! I look forward to an exciting year in my new position and remember, I'm here for you!

Barbara McKean
Jr. Vice Commander



WE SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

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

Look for VFW/AUX pride www.vfwsd.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

State Judge Advocate's Report Colin Reisner



Comrades,

As the commander's year winds to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for a great year. I have had the privilege of serving as your Department Surgeon and have learned a lot this past year in doing so. There is much more work to be done in the coming year and look forward to serving as your

Department Judge Advocate. I have been working hard at learning the job ahead of me and I truly look forward to serving all of you in my next role. Serving veterans is my true passion and representing the department as the chair of the Community Service and Youth Programs Committees

will be an honor. If you have any questions for me or need my assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I ask that you please remember to forward your next quarter's Community Service reports to me. I also recommend that you go to the Department website at vfwsd.org to download the current form. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all post community service chairs to incorporate your auxiliary's reports into your own. These reports were meant to be consolidated and turned in together. Thank you all in advance and I look forward to receiving your reports.

**Yours in Comradeship,
Colin G. Reisner
"Our Country, Not Ourselves"**

State Surgeon's Report Adam Swift



Greetings Comrades!

I would like to start off by first expressing my sincerest appreciation to all our Comrades of the Department of South Dakota VFW for your vote of confidence in me to rise to the Department Level of our organization as your Department Surgeon! I would like to congratulate Commander Danny and President Mary, along with and

the members of the 89th Annual Department Convention Committee, on a successful 89th Annual Department Convention and a hard-fought year! We have a long way to go, but with the leadership group in place, I have no doubt that we can accomplish many great things together!

Post Commanders please make sure we are getting the Hospital and Safety Reports fully completed and turned in on time. Remember, they must be submitted to me no later than

the 10th of the month prior to close of the quarter in order to receive full points for All-State judging!

The Hospital and Safety Report is available for download at: www.vfwsd.com under Resources>Reports and Forms. Please submit these to the email listed on the form or listed below. Please make sure you are discarding all previous versions of this form so there is no confusion on who receives these.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 605-415-9493, or via email at adam.swift.vfw@gmail.com. I am here to help any way I can! Again, I look forward to serving the veterans of the State of South Dakota as the Department Surgeon!

Let's have a great year together!

**Adam R Swift
Surgeon, VFW Department of South Dakota
"-For our Veterans, We Aim Higher-"**

Quartermaster/Adjutant Report Darwin G. Tolzin



HOW CAN WE GET THE JOB DONE BETTER WITHIN THE VFW?

We spend a lot of time practicing and training our newer Volunteer Leaders to accomplish the job better than we, the prior leaders, were able to do and that is to Lead Volunteers. We have Leadership seminar's and other training to make

things more efficient and palatable to our newer generation VFW Veterans. Maybe we should spend more time teaching salesmanship techniques in other words spend time selling what we need to accomplish instead of the "it has always been this way" technique. That phrase does not work any longer and does more harm than good. I wish I had the answer because I would have to much money and no time to write this article. Maybe we should try to tie Leadership, Salesmanship, and Motivation to come up with a Motivated Leader that can Sell a concept or product. I am hung up on motivational quotes as they are button pushers and have listed a few to show you what I mean:

1. "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." -Thomas Edison
2. "Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long

enough to make them yourself." -Eleanor Roosevelt

3. "Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later." -Og Mandino
4. "Beware of monotony; it's the mother of all deadly sins." -Edith Wharton
5. "Become the person who would attract the results you seek." -Jim Cathcart
6. "Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going." -Sam Levenson
7. "What we dwell on is who we become." -Oprah Winfrey
8. "What differentiates sellers today is their ability to bring fresh ideas." -Jill Konrath
9. "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." -Walt Disney
10. "Either run the day or the day runs you." -Jim Rohn

Everyone has a motivational button that can be pushed we just have to find it and then great things will happen in every instance.

So to summarize we need our Leaders to demonstrate what needs to be done by example and then Sell these ideas to whatever the audience is and then Motivate that same group to complete whatever the task or mission is. If it was easy someone would have already accomplished the task, well it isn't, but we still need to persevere to get the job done.

Inspector Ken Payne



Comrades,

I would like to thank Commander Johnson for appointing me to be Inspector again this next VFW year. I will do my best to see that the job is done correctly.

I recommend that Post Officers go to the Department website at: vfwsd.org and then click on the "forms" quick link and download or print off

a copy of the post inspection form. This way you can look it over and have things ready for when you are inspected. Some of the things to have ready for the inspector are when by-laws were signed by the National Commander, when the Post was incorporated with the Secretary of State, what the full name of the incorporated unit is, and name of the Registered Agent with the State. Having this makes it easier for the Inspector to fill out the inspection sheet accurately and quickly. Just answering 'yes' for all of these is technically not acceptable. A 'no' answer on the inspection is not a bad thing, it can be explained and is not a black mark for the Post.

I am also in charge of the newsletter judging for the Department. We follow the National judging rules; the main one being that they judge newsletters by calendar years, not the VFW year. On a statewide level there was very good participation during the 2018 calendar year. So far this year, I am not seeing as much participation. I would ask that Posts put me on the mailing list if they send out a newsletter, or you can email your newsletter to me if that works. I do have a new address, so please change that. My new address is:

Ken Payne, PO Box 8, Plankinton, SD 57368

My email address is: k-e-n-p@hotmail.com

If anyone has any questions, you can contact me and I will try to answer them. Again, thank you to Commander Johnson for giving me this opportunity.

**Ken Payne
Inspector**

State Chief of Staff Ron Krogman



Hello Comrades from Chief of Staff Ron Krogman. We had a successful convention and everyone enjoyed themselves. I hope everyone made it home safe and sound. I want to say congratulations to all the Officers and to Commander Johnson. I am proud to be picked to be his Chief of Staff and look forward to working with him in the year ahead. He has a very good agenda laid out and we should be busy. I look forward to working with many of you in the upcoming year until then enjoy your summer.

18th Annual VA Cruise Night

VA Show and Shine: August 14th – 5:30 p.m.

The VA Show and Shine August 14th! 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. Mark your calendars and come join the fun! Event at VA Medical Center.



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.

State Chaplain's Report Russel Dramstad



State Convention is now history for another year. We must now look forward for the next 12 months and work to continue to achieve our organizations goal for the next year. We must continue to work to achieve our Legislative goals to help all our Veterans. Our Veterans have fought for our freedoms and we must not let them down.

I want to thank all for electing me State Chaplain for this next year. I will strive to do my very best to serve you.

Please pray for Comrades, Auxiliary Members and families. May the good Lord keep a watchful eye on our Military and especially those who are serving our country in harm's way. Protect

our troops and bring them home safely.

May god bless our Veterans, our Troops, our country, our families, our organization and you.

Russel Dramstad
State Chaplain

Past State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin



It's been one amazing year and I can't believe how fast the time has flown past. This spring I had the privilege of participating in or attending the following: the City of Madison Memorial Day Program, District 6 Spring Meeting and District 1 Spring Meeting. I had the honor to represent the Department at the National Legislative Conference and VOD/PP Parade of Champions, one SD Veterans Council Meeting, Brandon May Day Parade and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Annual Convention as well as Chair of the Lake County/Madison Veterans Honor Park Committee. I made sure to spend time at the Department Headquarters and visited the following

days 02/6, 02/20, 03/20 and 3/27 with numerous phone conversations with the Department Quartermaster in between. In May, I was able to take the entire family on the National Commander's Trip to Costa Rica. It was a great time especially being able to watch my daughter complete her basic PADI Scuba Diver qualification.

This is the 60th season of SD VFW Baseball and we're looking forward to another successful year. We've modified our registration process to allow us to track players through their years of playing VFW Baseball so we can award. The 2019 Annual meeting minutes is in the book of reports as well as an updated list of tournament dates. Unfortunately, the American Legion had to move their tournament to our 16U weekend due to the American Legion National moving their tournament. Since we're a department program versus national, we have more flexibility in our tournament dates and rules. You'll be able to follow tournament games on the GameChanger App again this year.

VFW Baseball home page: <https://www.sdvfwbaseball.com/home>

Speaking of the new website, <http://www.vfwsd.org>, we're still slowly making the conversion to the same platform National uses. The new website has now become our only site that is updated.

As I hand over command, I look forward to continue working with each and every one of you "Providing Top Cover to those who served." Thank you Commander Johnson for appointing me the Departments National Military and Veteran Support Committee Chairman and I look forward to helping you support veterans and their families.

Final reminder, the 2020 updated forms (VOD and PP are already uploaded) and revised membership books will be uploaded to the website (<https://vfwsd.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=33863>) as soon as available and if you have problems with them, drop me a note at the email below explaining exactly what happened.

Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
Department of South Dakota; Commander 2018-2019

— SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTS 90th STATE COMMANDER, continued from pg. 1

SSG Johnson was employed by the Aberdeen Fire Department as a Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic for 13 years from 1995-2008 before he medically retired.

Since his retirement, he has been an active member of the Disabled American Veterans, Blinded Veterans Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, 40 et 8, and Cooties.

SSG Johnson learned to ride a tandem cycle after completing blind rehab. After participating in several training camps, he went on to compete in cycling and track and field in the Warrior Games in 2014, 2015, and 2016 where he won several bronze, silver and gold medals. In 2017, he competed at the Invictus Games in Toronto where he earned a gold medal in the 1500 meter run.

SSG Johnson and his wife of 25 years, have three grown children and three grandchildren. They live in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Veterans Affairs Secretary

SDDVA Secretary Whitlock's June Column –
New Laws Impacting Veterans



Each year South Dakota agencies, legislators, constituents, and lobbyists review, debate, and consider hundreds of legislative issues. During the 2019 legislative session 1,589 legislative bills and resolutions were introduced. Although, over 1,500 bills were considered, not all became law.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs serves as an advocate for veterans and reviews all the bills introduced and identifies those that will impact our veterans.

State legislation that will impact veterans and their families after July 1 include the following:

- Exemptions from the twelve-month residency requirement for university students was modified to be in compliance with federal regulations. Simply put, this was a cleanup bill and does not change eligibility.
- Property tax exemption was increased from \$100,000 to \$150,000 of the full and true value of a dwelling that is owned and occupied by a veteran who is rated permanently and totally disabled from a service connected disability(ies).
- Annual certification is no longer required for the property tax exemption for certain paraplegic or amputee veterans or their surviving spouses.
- The number of days is unlimited for group pheasant hunts for disabled veterans and purple heart recipients.

Federal benefits are ever changing and can be very confusing. We encourage all veterans to visit their county or tribal veterans service officers (CTVSO's) and allow them to assist in filing claims. These men and women have worn the boots, walked the trenches, conducted maneuvers, commanded troops, sustained missions, and protected our freedoms. Who better to have on your team? To locate the CTVSO nearest you visit: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>

For more information, contact: Audry Ricketts (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs) at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

Greg Whitlock, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

USD Students Research Clay County Fallen Veterans

For the fourth year in a row, USD students dug into the history of "Clay County's Fallen" during their SEED 415: 7-12 Social Science Methods course this spring. This year's first place researcher, as determined by a panel of judges from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3061, was USD student Brett Hughes, who will be a featured speaker at Vermillion's Memorial Day observation in May.



USD student Brett Hughes is presented his first place award by Andy Howe, VFW Post 3061 quartermaster. A panel of judges from the VFW Post determined that Hughes is the "first place researcher" among university students researching Clay County's fallen veterans.

Hughes received a \$150 cash award from the VFW and the guest speaker honor. The veteran he wrote about was Lloyd Merlin Thompson.

Course instructor Jing Williams created this community-based research project to help the community, as well as to inspire her students about how to teach about war.

"Each student enrolled in this course researches a fallen hero from Clay County, South Dakota, and writes a biography for that fallen hero," said Williams. "This project was designed to enlighten future secondary social studies teachers how to teach about wars from a human perspective, teach them how to do research through local archives and online resources, increase their awareness of veterans' ultimate sacrifice to this country, honor the fallen heroes, and foster a strong and positive relationship between the University of South Dakota and the local community."

Researching local heroes is not an easy task, admits Williams.

"These were veterans who hadn't been written about previously," she said. "There was scarce public information about these fallen heroes. My students had to do real historical research. They worked like historians, spending hours and hours in the libraries and archives looking for pieces of information about their fallen heroes. They visited the Clay County Historical Society, where the Executive Director Wess Pravecsek worked with them and guided them how to find more information on their subject. One student also found a good amount of information of his fallen veteran at the W. H. Over Museum. Most family members or relatives of the fallen had passed away or were impossible to be contacted. However, several student researchers were lucky enough to find their fallen's family members or relatives and were able to conduct personal interviews as well."

Williams hopes the research conducted by her students will have a lasting impact on the Vermillion community. Last fall, Williams compiled previous student work into a book, "Hometown's Fallen: Discovering the Human Aspects of Wars," which features the stories of 10 fallen veterans. She is currently working on a second volume to contain 10 more stories. Volume II is scheduled to be published this summer.

"It is our hope that our fallen service members' stories can be remembered forever," said Williams.

VFW Department of South Dakota Post State Awards

Post Buddy Poppy, Largest percentage increase in purchase – Grant County, Milbank VFW Post 3486; Largest number increase in purchase – Paha Sapa, Sturgis, VFW Post 2730.

District VII – Highest percentage of Posts purchasing

Hospital Program, Category I, Winston M. Tommey, Gettysburg VFW Post 8530; Category II, Burke VFW Post 9950; Category III Ronald Westby, Madison VFW Post 2638; Category IV, George Dokken Brookings VFW Post 2118; Category V, Frank H. Adams, Watertown VFW Post 750; Category VI, Rushmore, Rapid City VFW Post 1273.

Community Service Book, 1st Place, Black Hills, Deadwood VFW Post 5969; 2nd Place, George Dokken, Brookings VFW Post 2118; 3rd Place, Hutchinson County, Parkston VFW Post 3298.

Outstanding Community Service Post, Black Hills Deadwood VFW Post 5969 and it's Auxiliary.

Loyalty Day, Category I, Hutchinson County, Parkston VFW Post 3298; Category II, Three Rivers, Brandon VFW Post 4726; Category III, Paha Sapa Sturgis VFW Post 2730; Category IV, George Dokken Brookings VFW Post 2118; Category V, C.C. Croal Aberdeen VFW Post 17.

Publications Contest, Published five or more times per year, Rushmore Rapid City VFW Post 1273; Published four or less per year, Rollie Bucholz, Wagner VFW Post 7319.

Fire Fighter of the Year, 2019, "Jack Diez," Sponsored by the Winner VFW Post 4674; Law Enforcement Officer 2019, "Jarrod Zaruba," Sponsored by the Aberdeen VFW Post 17; Emergency Services (EMT), 2019, "Stuart Donaldson," Sponsored by the Aberdeen VFW Post 17.

Boy Scout of the Year, Eagle Scout, 2019, "Donald J. Weigel, Jr." Sponsored by the Brookings VFW Post 2118.

Department of South Dakota VFW Posts 100% and over 2019, Hutchinson County, Parkston VFW Post 3298 – 112.82%; Three Rivers, Brandon, VFW Post 4726 – 108.13%; Dell Rapids VFW Post 10632 – 107.69%; Black Hills, Deadwood VFW Post 5969 – 105.53%; Ernest Bowyer, Yankton VFW Post 791 – 103.31% Corn Place City, Mitchell VFW Post 2750 – 103.21%; Chamberlain VFW Post 6463 – 103.03%; Queen City, Spearfish VFW Post 5860 – 102.83%; Kenneth Kuper, Custer VFW Post 3442 – 102.34%;

Burke VFW Post 9950 – 100.92%; Paha Sapa, Sturgis VFW Post 2730 – 100.51%; C.C. Croal, Aberdeen VFW Post 17 – 100.45%; George Dokken, Brookings VFW Post 2118 – 100.34%; Forrest McMullion, Huron VFW Post 1776 – 100%; Elk Point, VFW Post 915 – 100%; Paul Grosssheusch, Scotland VFW Post 2966 – 100%.

2019 White Hat Posts, Aberdeen, VFW Post 17, Commander Darvin Vetter, Quartermaster Davin Johnson; Brookings VFW Post 2118, Commander Roger Hansen, Quartermaster Darwin Tolzin; Parkston VFW Post 3298, Commander Barbara McKean, Quartermaster Charles McKean; Sturgis VFW Post 2730, Commander Roland Enninga, Quartermaster Dwight Griffie; Spearfish VFW Post 5860, Commander Eric Kinslow, Quartermaster Joseph Miller; Deadwood VFW Post 5969, Commander John Datka, Quartermaster Kris Fenton.

District 7 – Tom Hafner, Commmander, District 7, Parkston VFW Post 3298.

Tice-Baker-Radigan 2019 Baker Simpson Award, Outstanding Post Commander, "Eric Kinslow" Queen City, Spearfish VFW Post 5860; William J. Radigan Award, "Kris Fenton" Quartermaster, Deadwood, Black Hills VFW Post 5869; Tice-Gallagher Award, Outstanding District Commander, "Tom Hafner" Hutchinson County VFW Post 3298.

Captain All State Post Commanders Team – 2018-2019, "Barbara McKean," Hutchinson County, Parkston VFW Post 3298.

Captain All State Quartermaster Team – 2018-2019, "Charles McKean," Hutchinson County, Parkston VFW Post 3298.

Captain All State District Commanders Team – 2018-2019, "Tom Hafner," Hutchinson County, Parkston VFW Post 3298.

"TGR" State Senior Vice Commander "Sean Johnson," South Dakota VFW 1931-2019, 87 Years of Service to Veterans TGR Award 2019.

Double Eagle Award – State Commander, 2018-2019, J. Danny Frisby-Griffin, 2019, Ronald Westby, Madison VFW Post 2638.

Captains of the "All State" Post/District, Commanders/Quartermaster, Hutchinson County, Parkston's VFW Post 3298. Team: Tom Hafner, District 7 Commander; Barbara McKean, Post Commander; Charles McKean, Post Quartermaster.

Past National Council Member D.D. Couch



To the comrades of the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. This is my last report as you National Councilman. My 4 year term will end at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida July 20-24, 2019. I have had nothing but pleasure representing South Dakota, one of the best Departments in the VFW Organization around the world.

I had the pleasure of nominating my successor Rick Williamson of Canton VFW Post 3164. He has a long line of leadership at Post, District, Department and National. His latest accomplishment was being Department of South Dakota Commander 2017-18 and being

an All American at that position. He will be a very dedicated comrade for our Department at the National level.

The Blue Water Navy Bill has passed both side of Congress with ZERO votes against. Now waiting for the President to sign!!!! That is a great accomplishment for veterans. Still there a long list of Legislative priorities VFW is working to have recognized. I and Rick Williamson will strive to keep information to our comrades.

As I leave National Council, I have receive the 3 year appointment for National Legislative Member for South Dakota. This appointment comes from the Department Commander, THANK-YOU Commander Sean Johnson I will strive to do my best for our comrades in South Dakota. I must say that I need to THANK the outgoing National Legislative Member from South Dakota [THE LEGEND] Russell Dramsted from Huron VFW Post 1776. He has lead by a professional means at all his level over the years. I am sure the comrades of the Department of South Dakota VFW would also like to THANK Russell all 9000 plus of us!!!!

VERY HUMBLLED

Darold D. [D.D.] Couch

SCOTUS Rules on Bladensburg Peace Cross

"The Supreme Court made the right call"

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 20, 2019) – Today, the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision that the World War I memorial in the shape of a 40-foot-tall cross can continue to stand on public land in Maryland. The high court's 7-2 decision in favor of allowing the cross to stand, clarifies the fact that the mere shape of a monument does not create an "Establishment" of religion. Therefore, the nearly 100-year-old memorial will be allowed to stay on public land. The Veterans of Foreign Wars' amicus brief is cited in the opinion.

"The Supreme Court made the right call," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "Today's decision not only protects this memorial outright, but helps to establish a precedent to protect thousands of other veterans' memorials that currently reside on federal, state or municipal land.

"My hat's off to all of the organizations that joined the VFW in filing amicus briefs concerning this case."

Blue Water Navy Act Now Law

VFW-championed Legislation will benefit tens of thousands of veterans and dependent children

WASHINGTON – The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting the president for signing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 into law.

"Tens of thousands of Blue Water Navy veterans of the Vietnam War and dependent children born with spina bifida due to a parent's toxic exposure will now benefit from this new law," exclaimed VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence, "and the VFW is proud to have helped lead the charge to return these benefits to these deserving veterans and to expand existing benefits to dependent children. We look forward to the Department of Veterans Affairs publishing implementation guidance on their website very soon."

The VFW-championed Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, or H.R. 299, restores VA benefits to thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes. It benefits veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ with an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested — to Sept. 1, 1967, instead of April 1, 1968 — and expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. The new law also requires 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.

"The VFW is proud of the 116th Congress for ending this benefits inequity, and we salute President Trump for quickly signing H.R. 299 into law," said Lawrence.

Though the following VA webpages have yet to updated to reflect the new law, veterans and their families can learn more about benefits associated with Agent Orange exposure here, and about spina bifida birth defects related to exposure here. For assistance in filing claims, find an accredited VFW service officer here.

South Dakota State Cemetery Update

Ownership of land donated by the City of Sioux Falls has been transferred to the State of South Dakota. The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs has been working closely with numerous state agencies, our design firm Stockwell Engineers and the National Cemetery Administration, on the schematic design of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery (SDVC).

Journey Construction has been selected as the Construction Manager at Risk for the project. Journey will work with the Department to make the best use of the grant dollars received from the project and ensure that the project is completed on budget and in a timely manner.

The SDVC is on schedule. Currently, the SDVC is in the sixty-five percent design phase. Ground could be broken on the project in late 2019. It is estimated that the SDVC will take twelve to eighteen months to complete once construction begins.



Highlights Around South Dakota VFW



Emergency Service (EMT) of the Year 2019, "Stuart Donaldson" accepting the Certificate of Appreciation from National Representative Jerry Herker, and Chairman Sr. Vice Commander Sean Johnson, State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin. Sponsored by the Aberdeen VFW Post 17.



Captains of the "ALL STATE" Post/District, Commanders/Quartermaster, Hutchinson County, Parkston's VFW Post 3298. Team: Tom Hafner, District 7 Commander, Barbara McKean, Post Commander; Charles McKean, Post Quartermaster.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Sponsored by the Aberdeen VFW Post 17. Certificate of Appreciation presented by National Representative, Jerry W. Herker; Recipient, Jarrod Zaruba. Also pictured, Chairman, Sr. Vice Commander Sean Johnson and State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin.



Fire Fighter of the Year, Jack Diez, Sponsored by the Winner VFW Post 4674. Certificate being presented by National Representative, Jerry W. Herker; Recipient, Jack Diez, Chairman, Sr. Vice Commander Sean Johnson and State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin.



Micah Nelson singing the National Anthem prior to the Banquet/Program at the 89th State Convention in Madison with State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin saluting the American Flag.

"TGR" Award

This award is named after Past Merton Tice, Ray Gallagher and William Radigan, and is presented to an outstanding member for continuous leadership and dedication to a Veteran that has given to the Veterans of Foreign Wars,, Department, District and Pots. 1931-2019, 87 Years of Service to Veterans.



Sean D. Johnson accepting the "TGR" Award from State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin.

Boy Scout Eagle of the Year



Boy Scout (Eagle) of the Year 2019. Plaque and monetary award being presented to Recipient, Donald J. Weigel, Jr. by Chairman Roger Hanson, and State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin. Sponsored by the Brookings VFW Post 2118.

recommending Don for this scholarship. I have no doubt he will uphold standards of the scholarship program and become a shining member of your community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding his character, past academic work or any other qualifications related to the Scholarship.

Dear Distinguished Eagle Scout Scholarship Program Recommendation Letter

It is my pleasure and honor to recommend Don Weigel Jr. for the Eagle Scholarship Program. I have known Don for about eight years. I was his scout master in troop 188 for most of those years.

Don is Eagle Scout. Only 4% are granted this rank. Don has a lot of Scout spirit, he is a great leader. He was the SPL for eight months, and did a great job, and scouts really like him. Don was scout of the year in North District Star in 2017. One thing about Don is that he helps the young scouts all the time. Don follows the scout law every minute of the day. He is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, courteous, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

I have absolutely no reservations about recommending Don for this scholarship. I have no doubt he will uphold standards of the scholarship program and become a shining member of your community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding his character, past academic work or any other qualifications related to the Scholarship.

Highlights Around South Dakota VFW



Auxiliary Jr. Vice President and Jr. Vice Commander Barbara McKean. President and Commander together in 2021-2022.



Patti Mitchell, Purple Award Recipient. See page 9 for article.



Parkston, Hutchinson County VFW Post 3298 awarded the wooden Colby's Burnt Flag for the outstanding membership growth of 112.82%. Left to right, Post Quartermaster, Charles McKean; Post Commander Barbara McKean and State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin.



Auxiliary Past Presidents in attendance at the 89th State Convention June 13-16, 2019, Madison, SD. Front row L to R: Clara Wiedemer, Joyce Schat, Gloria Fortin, Neva Jean Corlett, Pat Cerny and Imogene Ellis. 2nd Row: Carrie Alm, Vickie Rosse, Nancy Fickbohm, Nancy Chester, Connie Heggstad, and Neta Peterka. Third Row: State President Mary Kirkvold, National Representative & Past National President Leanne Lemley, Jan Rae Endes, Nancy Worth, Sharon Mitchell and Nelda Jorgenson. Forth Row: Vicki Williams, Karen Sharp, Carol Gross and Mary Hammond.



VFW State Line Officers pledging their willingness to support the VFW Department of South Dakota for this pursuing year 2019-2020 toward the newly elected State Commander Sean Johnson.



Past State Commanders Present at the 89th State Convention in Madison, SD. Row 1, L-R: Bill Cerney, 1991-92; Mike Mullen, 2015-16; Gary Knudson, 2005-06; Darold Couch, 2013-14; Danny Frisby-Griffin, 2018-19; Row 2, L-R: Don Dahlion, 2014-15; Rick Williamson, 2017-18; DeLane Fickbohm, 1997-98; A.J. (Jerry) Heggstad, 1982-83; Russel Dramstad, 2006-07; William Barlow, 2009-10; Verne Hanson, 2011-12; Dick Pickering, 2008-09.



Colby's Burnt Wood Flags, donated a burnt flag to each of the Line Officers, District Commanders, Council and Legislative members. Left to Right, Kenneth Moss, Bill Reuppel, Darwin Tolzin, Tom Hafner, Gary Kuecker, Cody Mangold, Sean Johnson, Danny Frisby-Griffin, Russel Dramstad, Barbara McKean, Colin Reisner, Darold Couch and Rick Williamson.

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.



"Veterans - The Heartbeat of America"
Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes!!



-VETERANS-
The Heartbeat of America

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

Sandi Moss



Summer is finally here and State Convention is over. Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and President Mary Kirkvold had a wonderful Convention in Madison, South Dakota to end their 2018-2019 year! I am looking forward to a great year with the help of all my Brothers and Sisters from across this great State!

I pledge to work hard beside our new State Commander Sean Johnson from Aberdeen and his Line Officers and Chairmen. We **WILL** have an outstanding year as we provide **UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES!!** Thank you Brothers and Sisters as we work together for a successful year!

National President Peggy Haake's theme is **"Serving Our Veterans With Aloha"**. This means to continue to serve our Veterans and Active Duty Personnel as we have in the past and to do an even better job today!! National Commander 'Doc' Schmitz theme is **'Dare to Care'**. Commander Sean's theme is very simple but very poignant **"You're Never Alone"**. Suicide is taking 22 of our finest each day, we must convince them that they are not alone and we will be there to help. My theme this year is **"Veterans - the Heartbeat of America!"**. Our Veterans have fought for our freedom since the start of the American Revolution, without them, we would not be the free nation we are today. They have

kept this Nation's heart beating for over 250 years! Thank You Veterans!

To continue the programs of the National Auxiliary we need to expand our Membership! Membership is the key to a strong Auxiliary! We know there is strength in numbers. Our Membership Chairman this year is Wanda Mix, our Junior Vice President! Carrie Alm is working as our Assistant Membership Chairman. Our membership year begins on 1 July and does not end until 30 June 2020. This year I am asking each and every one of our Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters to be Membership Chairmen. If everyone brings in one new member under Wanda's guidance, we will be a force to be reckoned with for our Veterans!!

This year National has added one new program. It is Mentoring for Leadership, it incorporates respecting the past, embracing the present and planning for the future. Our Auxiliary has changed over the years, we have many younger members, men and women, we need to mix all of our strengths and become a stronger, more cohesive unit, one that puts Veterans and their families **FIRST**.

This past year we have been **Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation**. We will continue using this resource for all members at all levels. This resource includes information in step-by-step guidelines and training that bolsters and educates us as members from Auxiliaries to Department level. It is an invaluable tool to use every day in our organization!

Commander Sean and I will be announcing our project at the Fall Council meeting in Oacoma. We will be raising funds for our Veterans who have problems re-adjusting to life after the military. We are the **Home of the Free - Because of the Brave** and we must not let them down!!

I am looking forward to this year. I want to thank all of those who have encouraged me over the years and pledge that I will do my best as State President of the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. If you have questions please call me - 605-431-6897 - and I will help in any way I can. Your Line Officers are here to serve you and no question is insignificant!

I want to Thank You again for all you do as volunteers in this organization. You work tirelessly day after day, helping Veterans, Active Duty personnel and their families. When you look in your mirror each morning, please give that person a big 'Thank You'! Without all of your help many of our Veterans would never find the help they need. Every time I get a smile from someone I have been able to help, I feel so much better, because in some small way a difference has been made in their life - and mine.

God bless all of you and God bless America!!

Loyally,
Sandi Moss
South Dakota VFW Auxiliary
Department President

Auxiliary Sr. Vice President

Donita Mullinix



Where has time gone? Our Dept convention will be here in a couple of weeks. I congratulate Commander Dan and President Mary on a successful year. You both made great leaders and I wish you more success in whatever path you choose in the future. I know you'll be great mentors for the upcoming Commander Sean and Present Sandi. I wish them both a successful

year also.

I have enjoyed being the Dept. Membership chairman for the Auxiliary this past year. It has been a most enjoyable journey. I have learned a lot about the ways to increase our membership. It's been a joy to work with all the membership chairmen of the Auxiliaries. It's amazing how many different

ways each Auxiliary recruits members. Our Dept. was at % as of June 1, 2019. I'm hoping that next year we can find those lapsed members and get them back so we can reach 100%. Looking through the VFW Post rosters and our list of deceased members, I've discovered many new people I could ask to join. Some of the names on our deceased list I had never met, but I do know their children or grandchildren. I'm hoping to recruit some of them. I would like to thank President Mary for asking me to be her Membership Chairman.

As I close my year end as Dept. Jr. Vice, I hope I have served our state well and made you all proud. I traveled to Kansas City, MO for the Auxiliary Jr. Vice training at the beginning of my year and got to meet other Jr. Vices from the other Departments. I also traveled to the National Home for Children where I experienced the way of life at the home. I stayed at the guest lodge of the home, so I was on campus the

whole time. All the VFW Post and Auxiliary Jr. Vices from the other Departments also were invited to tour the NHC. SD VFW Jr. Vice Cody and I visited with the staff at the home to get a greater understanding what they all did there. We met some of the residents there and heard their stories. Some were very emotional and heartbreaking. We got a chance to visit with more of the Jr. Vices from other Departments also. It was a great trip.

As I move forward, I'm excited about entering my year as VFW Auxiliary Sr. Vice. It will be a busy one making all the plans for my year as Auxiliary President. I look forward to serving you next year. Thank you for your support this past year and I ask for your support in the future.

Remember to Thank a Veteran. Our Freedom is not Free.

Donita Mullinix
VFW Auxiliary Dept. Sr. 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.vfwsd.org

2019-2020 Auxiliary Lines Officers



Row 1, Left to Right: Patti Mitchell, Chaplain; Wanda Mix, Jr. Vice; Sandi Moss, State President; Donita Mullinix, Sr. Vice; Carol Gross, Treasurer; Row 2, Left to Right: Cindy Williamson, Secretary; Pam Vissia, Conductress; Suzanne Booth, Guard; Sharon Mitchell, Chief of Staff.

South Dakota Newly Elected District Presidents 2019-2020



Row 1, L-R: Nancy Fickbolm, District 1; Wanda Mix, District 4; State Auxiliary President, Sandi Moss; Nancy Chester, District 6; Else Foursch, District 7; Row 2, Regis Blodgett, District 10.

Family Program Community Purple Award Winner

The Service Member and Family Support Group of the SD National Guard recently held an awards banquet in Fort Pierre to honor those who have made a positive impact on family readiness. Patti Mitchell was awarded the Family Program Community Purple Award for her efforts in spearheading the annual Day County Coyote Hunt. The award is presented to a community group or organization that best exemplifies the true meaning of "the Purple" concept of the Joint Family Program.

The annual Day County Coyote Hunt provides financial assistance to the South Dakota National Guard Family Support Group. This event is sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Goodwin Post 6361, under the direction of Patti Mitchell, a staunch advocate of Veterans and Family Support.

Volunteers have contributed many hours, and through Patti's diligence thousands of dollars have been raised in the past twelve years during the Day County Coyote Hunt. **All monies raised provide essential assistance to deploying SD National Guard units and families.**

To show their support for Patti and all that she does for our veterans, members from Pierre Post 2038, Lois Knudson, Penny Galinat, Sue Schulz, Eunice Jungling, and Deb Fahey, attended the banquet and program. They were also recognized for their volunteer efforts with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Daughter Bobbie Ann (not pictured), life member of Sisseton auxiliary, and granddaughter Chyann also attended to cheer Patti on.

Vickie Ross Elected 2019-2020 VFW Auxiliary National Hospital Ambassador



I am thrilled that the VA partnered with **Objective Zero Foundation!** The Hospital Program's number one goal is to Spotlight Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Issues. The VFW Auxiliary has been learning and talking about Objective Zero Foundation all year. I am excited this app is getting the attention it deserves. Read the VA news release below for more information.

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently partnered with the nonprofit Objective Zero Foundation to aid in connecting Veterans with suicide prevention support and resources.

The partnership, formalized on December 3, 2018, provides a shared goal of preventing suicide among service members and Veterans, with a special focus on service members transitioning out of the military.

Objective Zero offers a free mobile app that instantly and anonymously connects Veterans, service members, their families and caregivers to suicide prevention resources and a nationwide community of peer supporters via text, voice and video chat. The foundation enhances social connectedness among Veterans and improves access to mental health and wellness resources.

"At VA, we are working to prevent Veteran suicide by using an approach that looks beyond our traditional health care settings," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Our partnership with Objective Zero is an integral part of reaching Veterans where they live, work and thrive, and we are looking forward to working more closely with them."

Objective Zero Co-founder and Executive Director Betsy Mercado said her foundation was proud partner with VA to improve the well-being and mental health of Veterans.

"Joining efforts with this community provides better access to resources and highly needed support for the men and women that have served and sacrificed so much for our country," Mercado said.

VA has a suite of mobile mental health apps that offer information about mental health issues, tools to help develop and practice coping skills, and assessments that allow users to track progress over time. Learn more at www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile

2019 Line Officers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| President Sandi Moss | Assistant Conductress Kay Rypinski | Wanda Mix Mentoring for Leadership - Vickie Rosse | Kay Rypinski Pat Cerny |
| Sr. Vice President Donita Mullinix | Assistant Guard Zoe Berman - Yellin | Scholarship - Jan Endes | State Fair Co-Chairman Sue Jones |
| Jr. Vice President Wanda Mix | Assistant Treasurer Sandy Meisenheimer | Veterans & Family Support - Suzanne Booth | Patti Mitchell |
| Treasurer Carol Gross | Assistant Secretary Jennifer Little | Youth Activities - Patti Mitchell | Presidents Homecoming Carrie Alm |
| Chaplain Patti Mitchell | Assistant Musician Sandra Vanneman | VAVS Reps and Deputies | National Presidents Visit Connie Seymour |
| Conductress Pam Vissia | Past Department Presidents on Council Nancy Worth Karen Sharp Carrie Alm Mary Kirkvold | Royal C Johnson - Rep. Mary Kirkvold - Deputy Judy Evink | Christmas Tree Deb Fahey |
| Guard Suzanne Booth | | Hot Springs VA and State Home - Rep. Carrie Alm - Deputy Zoe Berman-Yellin | Standing Rules Sharon Mitchell |
| Chief of Staff Sharon Mitchell | | Ft. Mead - Rep. Sheila Deserly - Deputy Barbara Embrey | Budget Committee Chairman - Carrie Alm |
| Secretary Cindy Williamson | District Presidents 2019 - 2020 | SD Human Services - Rep. Judy Potts - Deputy Norma Bender | Donita Mullinix Wanda Mix Patti Mitchell Jennifer Little |
| Color Bearer #1 Angela Ross | District 1 - Nancy Fickbolm | | |
| Color Bearer #2 Jackie Dale | District 4 - Wanda Mix | VFW Parks & Chapel Beth Hendricks | Audit Committee Chairman - Jan Endes |
| Color Bearer #3 Deb Fahey | District 6 - Nancy Chester | | Donita Mullinix Wanda Mix |
| Color Bearer #4 Lois Knudson | District 7 - Elsie Foursch | SD Veteran Cemeteries Council Rep. Kay Rypinski Alternate Beth Hendricks | State Convention Chairman Nelda Jorgenson |
| Banner Bearer Gerri Dahlin | District 10 - Regis Blodgett | | |
| Flag Bearer Colleen Folland | Program Chairman 2019 - 2020 | Ways & Means Co-Chairman Jennifer Little Laurie Mulder | Local State Convention Chairman Jan Vetter |
| Patriotic Instructor Sandy Meisenheimer | Americanism - Sandy Meisenheimer | | |
| Musician Norma Hanson | Buddy Poppy/VFW | Auxiliary President Judging Karen Sharp - Chairman | Resolutions/Convention Rules Lois Ladegaard |
| Soloist Suzanne Booth | National Home for Children - Gerri Dahlin | Lois Ladegaard Colleen Folland | Credentials Committee Mary Hammond Joyce Schatt |
| Cares and Concerns Sandy Meisenheimer | Chief of Staff/Extension - Sharon Mitchell | District President Judging Nancy Worth - Chairman | (updated 06/29/19) |
| | Historian/Media Relations - Jan Olson | | |
| | Hospital - Leanne Payne | | |
| | Legislative - Pam Vissia | | |
| | Membership - | | |



Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold, speaking highly of Past Auxiliary President Imogene Ellis of Madison VFW Post 2638, for her Outstanding service to Veterans, post and to the VFW Department of South Dakota.



Thanks to everyone that donated and collected plastic bags. These mats were shown at the Stat Convention. Jerri, thanks for going around Spearfish and the area and Colleen for driving them to Madison.



State Auxiliary Mary Kirkvold introducing the National Representative Leanne Lemly, Past National Auxiliary President during the Awards Ceremony.

BK® Franchises Kick Off July Fundraiser for the VFW

Donations will support the VFW's Unmet Needs program

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) is pleased to announce participating BURGER KING® franchisees are set to kick off their summer fundraiser to benefit the VFW's Unmet Needs program.

Starting on July 1, patrons are encouraged to visit any of the nearly 850 participating BURGER KING® restaurants located throughout 31 states and donate \$1 or more to the VFW's Unmet Needs program upon checkout. Donations will be accepted until the end of the month.

Established in 2004, the Unmet Needs program assists service members and military families experiencing financial hardship by providing financial assistance grants toward basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments.

Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees and their customers have contributed more than \$6 million to Unmet Needs, which has provided more than \$11.3 million in aid to more than 10,000 struggling military and veteran families since its inception.

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

Ground breaking for New South Dakota State Cemetery

Save the Date
Monday, September 9, 2019
at 9:00 am (CT)

CAF JOE FOSS SQUADRON PRESENTS:

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1975 HANGAR PARTY

A TRIBUTE TO OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

AUGUST 15, 2019

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

MAVERICK AIR CENTER, SIOUX FALLS, SD

In Conjunction with Sioux Falls Airshow
Vietnam Era Military Aircraft on Display
from Cavanaugh Flight Museum

\$15 Advance Tickets Available at
www.cafjoeboss.com/events
\$20 at the Door
Open to the Public | Cash Bar

Live 60's & 70's Music by
The Last Call Band



Medical Centers of the VA South Dakota Health Care Network

VA Black Hills Health Care System
Fort Meade Campus
113 Comanche Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741
(605) 347-2511
Toll Free: 1-800-743-1070
www.blackhills.va.gov

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

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System
2501 W. 22nd Street
PO Box 5046
Sioux Falls, SD 57717
(605) 336-3230
Toll Free: 1-800-316-8387

*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
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

"...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.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

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

Parkston, VFW Post 3298

Baltzer Leroy E., Korea, USA, Life; Behrend Paul L., Vietnam, USA, Life; Fergen James W., Korea, USA, Life; Palmer Ralph R., WWII, USA, Life; Winter Darrell D., Korea, USA, Life

Vermillion, VFW Post 3061

Pickner Merie, Korea, USN; Willroth William, WWII, USN

Brandon, VFW Post 4726

Anderson, Arlo D., Vietnam, USA

Watertown, VFW Post 750

Gantvoort Russell M., WWII, USA, Life; West John Sr., E., WWII, USA, Life; Gauger Myron M., Korea, USA, Life;

McCabe Joseph D., Korea, USA, Life; Welch Clifford L., WWII, USN

Huron VFW Post 1776

Schmit Orvel, WWII, USA, Life; Dubre, Lowell C., WWII, USA, Life

Rapid City VFW Post 1273

Broderick James M., Vietnam, USAF, Life; Payne Ralph, WWII, USA, Life; Pepper George A., WWII, USA, Life; Anderson Glen A., Vietnam, USAF, Life; Dau Gordon P., WWII, USN, Life; Van Antwerp Robert, Vietnam, USAF, Life; Nelson Dennis L., Korea, USA, Life; Jensen Jerry E., Vietnam, USA, Life; Hoehn Leo H., WWII, USA, Life; Wiest Calvin, WWII, USA, Life; Etherington Lawrence C., USA, Life; Dubs Roger D., Vietnam, Life

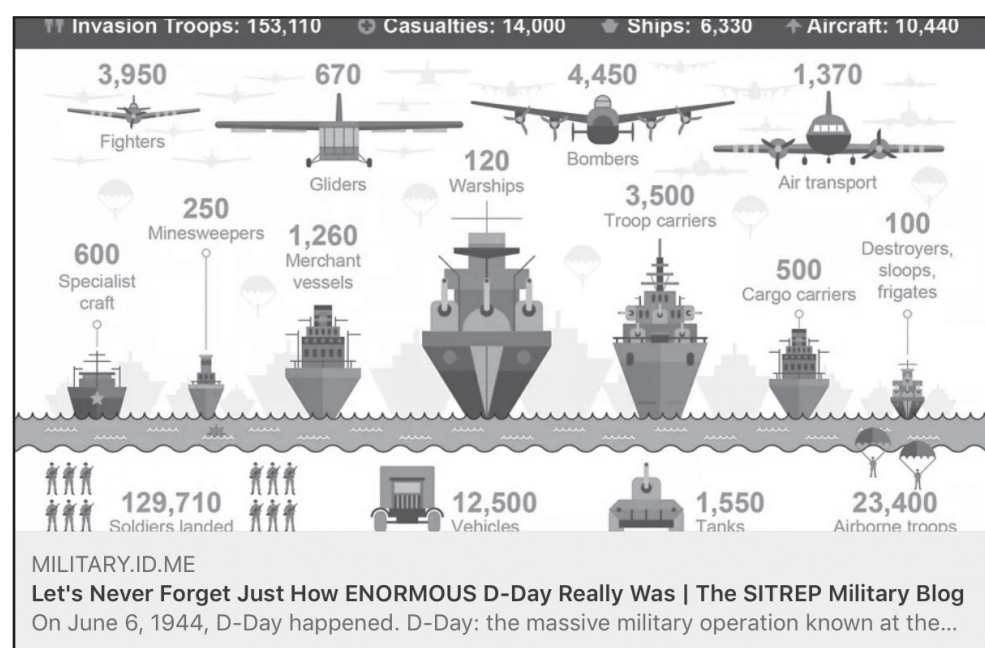
Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Announces 2nd Annual Youth Baseball Grant Results

Sioux Falls (May 31, 2019) – Department of SD VFW Baseball Chairman, Danny Frisby-Griffin, released the results of the Program's 2nd Annual Youth Baseball Grant Program. Drawing upon set-aside funds and a generous donation from the Frisby-Griffin Family, VFW Baseball was able to provide a total of \$1500 divided among the following two grant applications: Scotland Athletic Association and Salem Baseball.

The grant program was created to help ensure youth across South Dakota have an opportunity to participate in baseball. In addition to the grant program, the Department of SD VFW Baseball also created a Youth Baseball Community of the Year Award (monetary), Friends of VFW Baseball and established a Veterans Program Donation process to allow VFW Baseball to donate to various VFW Veterans programs and initiatives.

Scotland Athletic Association plan on utilizing their funding to remodel their batting cage by putting down artificial turf as well as getting a new net. The batting cage is used by all teams in town. Salem Baseball are also utilizing their grant for Field Turf installation on baselines, base paths and walk up paths on the baseball field. This ambitious project is estimated at \$55,000.

"We take our goal of allowing any kid that wants to, play baseball very seriously. This is an awesome opportunity for the Department of SD VFW and their Baseball program to give back to the future leaders of our nation," said Frisby-Griffin. "And who knows, there may be a future major league player out there that just needed a bit of support to keep playing."



Volunteers Needed to Drive Golf Carts

At the South Dakota State Fair this year again. Contact Chairman Bev Freng or dickorbevfreng@santel.net. I would really like to see more Veteran's with their VFW caps on driving. Volunteer drivers are desperately needed for the afternoon and late shift's, 4:00-10:00. Thanks for your support. I could not, and there would not be this program if you and all the supporters didn't help out on this! Thanks a bunch.

It is necessary to have drivers, for the current companies contract is about to run out after the fair this year, so may have to do something different. All monies designated for the fair, to be sent to the Auxiliary State Treasurer, Carol Gross, P.O. Box 657, Huron, South Dakota 57350. It needs to be earmarked GOLF CART program or it will all stay in the state fair funds.

Bev Freng
Chairman

U.S.S. South Dakota Battleship Memorial

May 1 through September 30, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm Daily
12th Street and Kiwanis Avenue

The U.S.S. South Dakota battleship was the most decorated battleship of World War II. It fought in every major naval battle in the Pacific from 1942-1945. Visit this museum and memorial to our state's namesake. It is free admission.



Pictured above are three members of the Sisseton VFW Post 3342. Two of the Veterans participated in the Veterans Creative Arts Competition on February 13 at the Fargo VA Center.

On the left is Russ McKee who is the VFW Commander for Post 3342. Next is Harry Moshier with his entry of Two Turkeys which won 1st place in the Acrylic Painting division. On the right is Keith Kelly who won 1st place in the Kit & Special recognition Category, with his painting of wolves. Not pictured is Troy Foster who entered the wood division.

This is a very worthwhile program that the VA does for the Veterans. They have many different categories to participate in. There is something for everyone. If you are interesting in participating, contact your Veterans Service Officer for more information.

Sturgis VFW Auxiliary #2730 & Boy Scouts of America



Paha Sapa VFW Auxiliary #2730 President, Nancy Worth, visits with the Cadets and adult leaders at the send-off breakfast on Sunday, May 26, 2019.

VFW Auxiliary #2730 members (yes, VFW Post members helped with cooking and serving) recently provided five (5) meals for the 2019 Cadet Law Enforcement Challenge. The Cadet Challenge is a Boy Scout weekend event that Learning for Life, Explorer Posts, Crews and other law enforcement agencies assist with.

This year's statewide event took place May 24-26 at the Fort Meade Regional Training Institute. Cadets (ages 14-20) and adult leaders from Aberdeen, Sioux Falls and Sturgis participated in team building exercises, crime scene scenarios and common traffic stop scenarios.

Sturgis #2730 VFW Auxiliary served meals for the participants Friday evening, 3 meals Saturday and the Sunday send-off breakfast to a total of 17 attendees. Sierra Hillard, SD Voice of Democracy winner, spoke to the group Saturday evening about her experience in Washington, DC and encouraged the youth to seek out opportunities to better themselves.



2nd Annual Poker Run

Dwight Griffie, Adjutant/Quartermaster, VFW Post #2730 (Sturgis) prepares for the 2nd Annual VFW #2730 Poker Run. The 2019 Run had approximately 22 participants with lots of door prizes, silent auction and registration items for all who attended.



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.vfwsd.org Please advise and assist all members of this change.



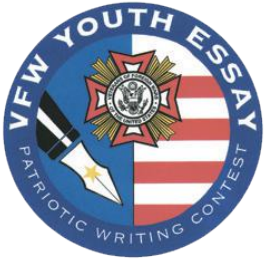
WELCOME TO THE SD VFW/AUXILIARY

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.vfwsd.org to learn more about our organization.



2019-2020 Themes

Voice of Democracy and
Patriot's Pen theme:
"What Makes America Great"



If you have a son or daughter that may be interested in participating, contact your nearest VFW Post for an application and instructions.

Ready to Join the VFW

Contact any member or stop by
your local Post for additional
information or visit us on the web
at www.vfwsd.org

Sioux Falls VA Campus and Facilities Will Become Smoke Free

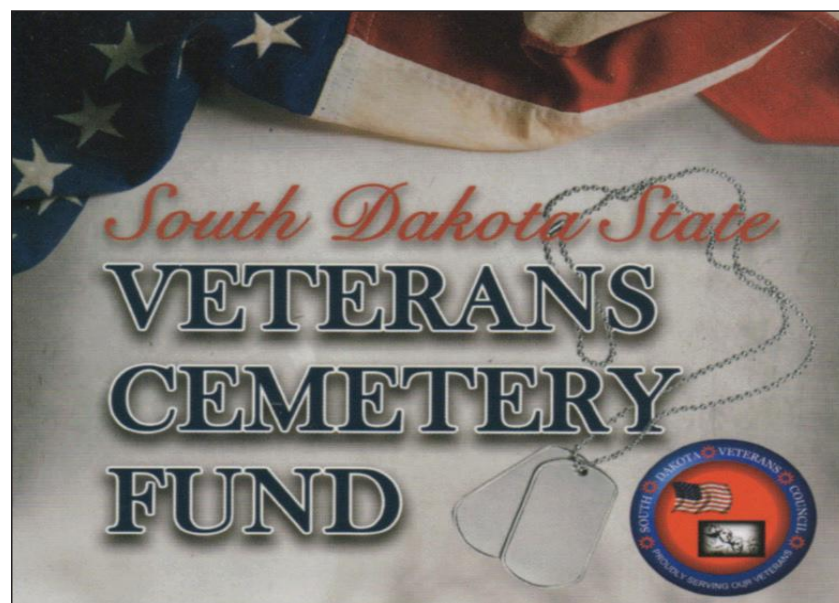
As part of VA's commitment to provide excellent health care for Veterans, the Sioux Falls VA is pleased to announce all facilities, including Dakotas VA Regional Office, will be smoke free for all visitors, contractors, volunteers, vendors and Veteran patients by May 31, 2019. A national Veterans Health Administration Directive 1085, Smoke-Free Policy for patients, visitors, contractors, volunteers, and vendors at VA Health Care facilities outlines the plan for VHA facilities.

VA has several supportive tools and resources for Veterans who would like to quit tobacco use to improve their health. Patients are encouraged to speak with their providers for information regarding these tools and resources.

Resources include:

- <https://smokefree.gov/vet>
- <https://www.veteranshealthlibrary.org/>
- VA Tobacco Quitline – 1-855-QUIT-VET (1-855-784-8838)

Over 4,000 health care facilities and four national health care systems in the U.S. have implemented smoke-free grounds and include many VHA health care facilities.



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

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

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

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.

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

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/Cheesburgers 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

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

Brookings George Dokken Post #2118

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

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

Black Hills Post 5969 Deadwood

Wednesday: Hamburger Night
Friday: Dinners

Lounge & Gaming

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.**

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

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

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



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

DEADLINE

For the next issue (October 2019) of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran, the deadline is September 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

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, Mike Mullen, Kenny & Nelda Jorgenson, Robert Folkerts, VFW Post 9950, Commander Roland Holub, Bette and Norman Thompson, Russel Dramstad, Madison VFW Post 2638 and Brookings VFW Post 2118. **Silver category**: Verne & Norma Hansen, John Wightman **Bronze category**: Dick Pickering.