

South Dakota Overseas Veteran
 Website: www.vfwsd.org
 "YOU'RE NEVER ALONE"

October/November/December 2019 The Official Publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota Vol. 76 Issue 2

HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING & A MERRY CHRISTMAS



Auxiliary Mourns
In Loving Memory of Marva Barg
Past State Auxiliary President 1997-1998

Marva Barg, 78, died Wednesday, July 17 at Sanford Hospice Cottage surrounded by her husband and family. Marva was born on September 28, 1940 in Hendricks, MN to Marvin and Phyllis Schulz, and was the oldest of 3 girls. She graduated from Brookings

High School in 1959, then attended Stewarts School in Sioux Falls. After she finished school she worked at several hair salons around the state until starting her own.

Marva married Rick in 1971 in White, S.D. During their 48 years of marriage, they resided in White and Sioux Falls. Together they spent many hours serving and helping others. Marva was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. Some of her passions included cooking, baking pies, playing cards, attending her grandchildren's activities, and serving veterans. One of her favorite things was to receive fresh cut flowers.

Marva was active in the VFW Auxiliary and served as Post, District and State President. The VFW was an instrumental part of her life and it's where she made her life long friends. She used her creative talents from planning banquets to creating poppy displays. Also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in White, S.D.

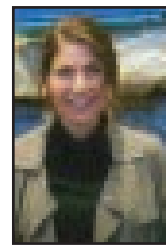
Marva owned and operated a catering business and the Park Ridge Soda Fountain/Lunch Counter, where her sister worked alongside of her for many years. The stools at the lunch counter were always full because everyone loved her egg salad, meatloaf sandwiches, soups

— Auxiliary Mourns, continued on pg. 3



Commander Sean Johnson, National Representative Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic; State Chief of Staff, Ron Krogman - Master of Ceremony.

National Jr. Vice Commander, Representative providing a excellent speech on the values of the VFW organization. Not only membership, but as awareness of what the VFW/Auxiliary does for the local communities. Always appreciative to have a National Rep. included in the banquet Program. L-R: State



South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem

A Tribute to Our Heroes

President Harry Truman once said this: "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

Earlier this month, I was honored and humbled to join veterans and South Dakotans as we broke ground on South Dakota's first State Veterans Cemetery. Despite pouring rain, more than 100 veterans and South Dakotans gathered at the site just outside Sioux Falls for their momentous occasion.

South Dakota is home to more than 72,000 veterans who served their country and made incredible sacrifices for our freedom. Of these, 50,000 live on the eastern side of our state – hours away from the nearest veterans cemetery. This new site will ensure that veteran families on both sides of the state have the ability to bury their loved ones near their homes and communities.

This cemetery is about more than providing a peaceful resting place for our heroes. This cemetery is a tribute to patriots. It immortalizes the sacrifices that have been made for our freedoms. Even more than that, it's a way we can show the next generation that sacrifice does not go unnoticed.

One thing that was particularly special was that this was a project for veterans by veterans. Many of our South Dakota veterans spent over a decade working to bring a state veterans cemetery to South Dakota. It was their passion for this project that kept the momentum going and made the dream a reality.

Others played a part, too. The city of Sioux Falls gifted the state over 60 acres of land, and the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs awarded us a \$6.9 million grant to get this project across the finish line.

I think it's incredibly special and symbolic that there were so many players to get us to the point where we could break ground. Because we all must be committed to caring for our veterans. Saying thank you isn't just a city issue, or a state issue. Gratitude isn't something we can count on someone else to do. It's a personal responsibility that requires action from each one of us.

This cemetery is a token of our gratitude. It's how we'll remember and honor their stories and sacrifices forever.

To all those who have served and to the families who stand beside you, thank you. You are what makes this nation great.



All American Post – Hutchinson County VFW Post 3298 Certificate awarded and accepted by Post Commander Barbara McKean. L-R: National Jr. Vice Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic; Recipient of award, Barbara McKean; State Commander Sean Johnson.



National Jr. Vice Commander, Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic presenting the duly elected Certificate as Commander Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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



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.

South Dakota Overseas Veteran
USPS 503-160

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

Send changes of address to:

Overseas Veteran
5009 W. 12th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
POSTMASTER:
to *Overseas Veteran*
at Publisher's Office:
5009 W. 12th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Official Publication of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars
Published: Jan./Feb/March, April/May/June, July/Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov/Dec
at American Publishing LLC
Greendale, WI 53129
Jenny DeBack, President

Send news copy by the 1st prior to each publishing Month:

Dick Pickering, Editor
404 Dogwood
Brandon, SD 57005
dickp.signs@gmail.com

Ken Payne, Department Publications Chairman
P.O. Box 8
Plankinton, SD 57368



Commander's Report

Sean Johnson



Hello, Comrades.

This has been a busy few months. I have enjoyed the many opportunities I've had to get out around the state and visit with many of you.

In July, I attended the 120th VFW National Convention in Orlando, FL. I'm always inspired to hear our national leaders speak about the year ahead. We celebrated the first increase in national membership for the first time in 27 years! The 121st convention will be held in Reno, NV next July.

South Dakota was once again honored to host our National VFW leaders during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. We recruited 125 members, and 200 Service Officer referrals. Overall, this was a highly successful event.

I attended the Auxiliary retreat in Grenville, SD to learn about the Auxiliary's procedures and plans for the coming year. Sandi Moss and I are committed to helping one another achieve our goals for the Department and the Auxiliary. One team, one goal.

My Chief of Staff, Ron Krogman and I attended a ceremony for Orville B. Lerew, 97, of Faulkton who was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his participation in the liberation of France during WWII. It was a moving ceremony and was well attended. I had the pleasure of visiting with him afterwards and share good wishes from the SD VFW.

In September I traveled to Hot Springs, SD to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the SD Veterans Home. What started out as a prison became a home for veterans. The veterans home has been taking care of veterans longer than the VA in South Dakota. This anniversary was honored with a parade and a program. Several dignitaries were in attendance, along with local residents.

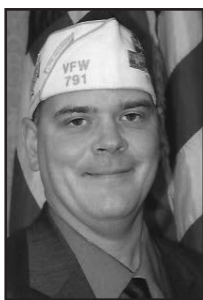
While I was west-river I had the opportunity to visit the Custer Post and speak with members. I also attended a membership drive at the Rushmore Mall. The weekend was rounded out by a Dining In at Ellsworth Air Force Base. This was a good opportunity for us to begin membership recruitment at Ellsworth. The State Surgeon, Chief of Staff, and VFW Auxiliary President were also in attendance.

On our way home I stopped in Huron for the District 6 meeting. The meeting was productive and I am grateful I had the chance to connect with our membership there.

October brought Homecoming for President Sandi Moss and me in Oacoma, SD during our annual Fall Conference. We had presentations from the Levi Colton Derr Foundation and AARP in addition to our normal course of department and district meetings. The banquet provided time to connect with comrades, honor accomplishments, and raise money for our cause. I appreciate everyone who made the trip for our joint Homecoming celebration.

Sr. Vice Commander's Report

Cody Mangold



Greetings Comrades,

I wish you a well Fall season and early winter. This year is a third finished and as such we had the Fall Council of Administration and the Commanders Homecoming. I want to congratulate Sean and Sandi on a great homecoming. The training at the Fall Council was great. Something new was tried with the District Commanders having training that the response was great. I look forward to this training to continue. We had the Deputy Director of Membership

attend and lead membership training for us. I know all in attendance had a wonderful time. Now comes the nitty gritty of it all from me. Please keep sending it Memorial Day reports to me. Also, your Veteran's Day is coming up, and I look forward to see what you do for your community and

fellow Veteran's. All of these are due by December 31, 2019. Only for the reports is it just extra points. Please remember to also send in you EMS, Firefighter, and Law Enforcement of the Year. Please submit these as the most of the EMS, and Firefighters are Volunteers in your Community. I want to mind you all that the Law Enforcement put themselves in danger every day. These individuals deserve recognition and appreciation. You would not believe how much this means to the individuals to receive this honor. Again, feel free to contact me, but if you call please leave a message with your name and number. I do prefer e-mails as I am able to respond at anytime even 1 am.

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

Jr. Vice Commander's Report

Barbara McKean



Membership – what are YOU doing to make a difference. The same status quo will not work or be enough. We need to build our membership, not just maintain. Everyone needs to actively recruit. Every post needs to be setting up recruiting tables at community and school events. We need to portray an enthusiastic and positive image about the VFW. Only then will new members want to be part of our team.

Change is inevitable. The only thing constant in this world is change. Start moving forward and embrace all the positive tools and events the VFW offers. Don't complain, especially to your fellow post members or comrades, especially if you are not doing anything to improve your post. Remember, no-one likes to be around negative people! Reenergize your posts, be the change you want to see! Personally, invite members to your monthly and district meetings. Invite members to attend state and national conventions. Only then will others understand all the wonderful things the Department of South Dakota VFW is doing so they too can pass it onto new, potential members. If you are not utilizing the Department VFW website, you are missing out

and so are your post members. If you do not have access to a computer, seek someone in your post that does.

TO DO: Department of SD VFW website has changed to: <https://vfwsd.org>. If like me, I had an old one saved in my favorites (cached info). You need to delete the old SD VFW website and save this new link on your computers, so you get the current forms, information, etc.

District Commanders, Post Commanders and Quartermasters – you lead your team (POST(s))! As elected officers of your District/Post, there are minimum expectations required from ALL of you! Some of them are submitting your quarterly Audit Report, Community Service Report, Hospital and Safety Report and Annual Membership Plan. District Commanders, please follow-up with your posts to make sure they are submitting these reports as required! I understand a few comrades are frustrated, tired and/or burned out. Without your past leadership, efforts, guidance and experience, we wouldn't be where we are today. You've been faithful, hardworking members for so many years and you will not be forgotten! So, thank you!

Now is the time to mentor your replacements so our organization stays relevant and strong! If needed, take a break and step away, reenergize and

— JR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT, continued on pg. 10

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 December First, Two thousand and Nineteen for the Jan/Feb/Mar Issue. 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

Veterans Affairs Secretary



We have learned throughout our history that we can depend upon young Americans to step forward -- like many of us did -- when our country called. That spirit of patriotism and service is perhaps our greatest national treasure, and the most special of blessings.

veterans and guests gathered in Hot Springs for the 130th anniversary of the State Veterans Home. Residents, staff, buildings and titles of the Home may have changed; but the one thing that never changed during the 130 years is the commitment, dedication, and service that the staff, volunteers and partners have provided our heroes at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Our Home has, and continues to, offer a quality of life which emphasizes privacy, encourages independence, provides comfort and security and meets social needs. Our Home embraces a person-centered approach to caring for our residents.

As veterans age and different era veterans become residents, we are prepared to meet the challenges of these changing needs. Our staff continues to expand and introduce new programs designed to best meet the current, ongoing, and upcoming needs of all veterans. Caring for and maximizing the overall health, welfare and quality of life of South Dakota veterans has been, and will always be, our top priority.

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook or check out our calendar of events on our web page - <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/upcomingevents.aspx>. There are so many great events for veterans.

Greg Whitlock, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

This month we have had two great events to honor and pay tribute to the men and women that served this great country.

On September 9, we gathered in Sioux Falls for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new state veteran's cemetery.

Dirt work on this project will begin this fall. The first phase of the project will include the construction of the main entrance, roads, flag assembly area, maintenance building, scattering garden, committal service shelter, avenue of flags, a memorial wall, 610 pre-placed crypts, 999 in-ground cremains sites, 660 columbarium niches, 50 memorial wall markers; all in a beautifully landscaped setting in accordance with existing standards set by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Hours of rain and wind didn't deter veterans, speakers, or guests. This ceremony confirmed the commitment and dedication of our veterans. No matter the weather conditions they stand ready for the mission at hand.

On September 20th, state officials, community leaders,

Homeless Veteran Report

The Sioux Falls veterans stand down for 2019 was held on September 20 and was a success. Thanks to Post 628 for sharing their space again. We gave away Burger King cards again this year but these were for free meals with no strings attached. Post 628 had rounded up some toilet articles to give away also along with some gloves and boots and a person to assist. I think there were a lot of deserving people who got help this year. We had cards left over that will go west river for that stand down. Remember to help any homeless in your area and report what you do.

DeLane Fickbohm
Homeless Veterans Chairman

VA Partners with NGB

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense formalized a partnership June 28 between VA's Vet Centers and the National Guard Bureau, to provide Vet Center counseling, outreach staff and other services to members during training or drill weekends.

"This relationship between VA and the National Guard further advances the department's efforts to decrease service member and veteran suicide," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Vet Center staff will provide counseling and referral to those who may be under stress and at risk for self-harm."

VA's 300 Vet Centers, 80 Mobile Vet Centers and a 24/7 call center provide community-based counseling for a wide range of social and psychological services, including confidential readjustment counseling and outreach and referral to eligible veterans, active-duty, and National Guard and Reserve members and their families.

Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.

Suicide prevention is a top priority for the National Guard, which experienced the highest rate of suicide among military components in 2017. Since then, the VA has seen a 38% increase in National Guard service members seeking Vet Center services.*

Nearly 300,000 veterans and active-duty service members received Vet Center services in 2018.

To find out more about Vet Centers, or to locate a nearby Vet Center, visit www.vetcenter.va.gov.

*Data was pulled from October 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018 and compared with data from October 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019.

— *AUXILIARY MOURNS, continued from pg. 1*

and pie. Marva received the Eye's On You magazine, "Best of South Dakota" Best Apple Pie in 1993.

Survivors include her husband Rick; three children; Paul (Trish) Barg, Dana (Jeff) Sandene, Julie (Norman) Meyer; 4 grandchildren: Torie Sandene, Ty Sandene, Hattie Meyer, Logan Meyer; two sisters, Karen Papka, Carol Niklason; 10 in-laws, Verlie Barg, Midge (Don) Grant, Janet Kjelden, Sue (Larry) Lutterman, Fred (Peggy) Barg, Melodee (Conrad) Buresh, and numerous nieces and nephews including a special niece Becky (Justin) Swoboda and their three children, Lainey, Landry and Jensen.

Marva was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert Barg, her parents, and in-laws.



Past State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin



Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Announces Results of the 2019 South Dakota VFW Youth Baseball State Tournament

Department of SD VFW Baseball Chairman, Danny Frisby-Griffin, released the results of the Program's very successful 2019 SD VFW Youth

Baseball State Tournament Season. During the five weeks of the season, approximately 9 July to 11 August, 145 teams and over 2000 players participated in 16 regional and eight state

tournaments across the four age divisions and two classes.

SD VFW Baseball continued using the pitch count that was instituted last season to ensure the safety of our young pitchers and catchers' throwing arms. The baseball program continued on our innovation drive with 2019 Host Tournament Directors using Facebook Live and Youtube to provide live feed and recordings of the action. VFW Baseball is working with coaches on rule adjustments that will be discussed at the Annual VFW Baseball Meeting at 10 AM on January 19, 2020 (the third Saturday) at the VFW Post, Madison SD.







The Department of SD VFW and VFW Baseball would like to congratulate all our champions and qualifiers for a spectacular summer of baseball.

— *2019 SOUTH DAKOTA YOUTH BASEBALL TOURNAMENT, continued on pg. 4*

State/District Membership Standings – 2019/2020

State Total as of October 1, 2019

Life: 6252 | New: 44 | Rein: 3 | Cont: 422 | Total: 6821 - 82.10%

| |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| State Members at Large | District 1 | District 4 | District 6 | District 7 | District 10 | |
| Life - 173 | Life - 1658 | Life - 1658 | Life - 929 | Life - 740 | Life - 1764 | |
| New - 12 | New - 15 | New - 5 | New - 0 | New - 5 | New - 7 | |
| Rein - 2 | Rein - 1 | Rein - 0 | Rein - 0 | Rein - 0 | Rein - 0 | |
| Cont - 13 | Cont - 117 | Cont - 74 | Cont - 10 | Cont - 53 | Cont - 62 | |
| Total - 200 | Total - 1791 | Total - 1167 | Total - 1032 | Total - 798 | Total - 1833 | |
| 79.05% | 84.48% | 80.64% | 77.82% | 79.48% | 84.93% | |



Jr. Vice Barb says "I know you can fly and make Commander Sean proud." Membership is our future, lets make it happen.



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.

— 2019 SOUTH DAKOTA YOUTH BASEBALL TOURNAMENT, continued from pg. 3

Class A 10U was played in Webster, SD, July 12-14, 2019

Champion: West Central Boltz
 Runner Up: Lennox
 3rd Place: Flandreau
 4th Place: Dell Rapids

Class A 12U was played in Webster, SD, July 12-14, 2019

Champion: Dell Rapids
 Runner Up: Winner
 3rd Place: Lennox
 4th Place: Webster

Class A 14U was played in Flandreau, SD, July 19-21, 2019

Champion: West Central
 Runner Up: Dakota Valley
 3rd Place: Dell Rapids
 4th Place: Spearfish 14
 Consolation Champion: Flandreau
 VFW William Radigan Yeam Sportsmanship Award: West Central

Class A 16U was played in Dakota Valley, SD, Aug. 2-4, 2019

Champion: Dakota Valley
 Runner Up: Beresford-Alcester
 3rd Place: West Central
 4th Place: Tea Area
 Consolation Champion: Volga
 VFW Lou Thury Team Sportsmanship Award: Beresford-Alcester

Class B 10U was played in Castlewood & Estelline, SD, July 12-14, 2019

Champion: Mount Vernon-Plankinton
 Runner Up: Canistota-Freeman
 3rd Place: Parkston 10
 4th Place: Alexandria

Class B 12U was played in Castlewood, Hayti, Hazel, DeSet & Lake Norden, SD, July 12-14, 2019

Champion: Canova
 Runner Up: Canistota-Freeman
 3rd Place: Corsica-Stickney
 4th Place: Lake Norden

Class B 14U was played in Gregory, SD, July 19-21, 2019

Champion: Elkton
 Runner Up: Redfield
 3rd Place: Garretson
 4th Place: Groton
 Consolation Champion: Canova
 VFW William Radigan Team Sportsmanship Award: Platte-Geddes

Class B 16U was played in Garretson, D, August 9-11, 2019

Champion: Canova
 Runner Up: Tyndall
 3rd Place: Garretson
 4th Place: Parkston
 VFW Lou Thury Team Sportsmanship Award: Wessington Springs



2019 14U Class A 1st Place Winners



2019 16U Class A 1st Place Winners



2019 14U Class B 1st Place Winners



2019 16U Class B 1st Place Winners



2019 10U Class A 1st Place Winners



2019 12U Class A 1st Place Winners



2019 10U Class B 1st Place Winners



2019 12U Class B 1st Place Winners

Va Releases 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released its 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report. It includes findings from its most recent analysis of veteran suicide data from 2005 to 2017. The 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report highlights suicide as a national problem, and urges all Americans to come together to address the larger social issues that contribute to the increased rates of suicide in the U.S.

One key change from this year's report is that it does not group together Veterans eligible for VA services with service members and former National Guard and Reserve members who were never federally activated. This change was necessary because these groups are unique and do not all qualify for the same benefits and services, therefore they require individualized outreach strategies.

Moving forward, the VA's report will include a separate section focusing on never federally activated former Guard and Reserve members, while the Department of Defense will publish a separate report focusing on servicemember suicides.

The most recent data, from 2017, has allowed the VA to better understand and address current trends in veteran suicide, as well as evaluate ongoing suicide prevention programs. Key VA initiatives described in the report reflect the department's efforts to prevent Veteran suicide through targeted strategies that reach all veterans.

The VA's public-health approach to suicide prevention focuses on equipping communities to help veterans get the right care, whenever and wherever they need it. That approach is the foundation for the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) executive order, which aims to bring together stakeholders across all levels of government and in the private sector to work side by side to ensure that our veterans are able to seek and receive the care, support and services they deserve.

"The VA is working to prevent suicide among all veterans, whether they are enrolled in VA health care or not," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "That's why the department has adopted a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention, using bundled strategies that cut across various sectors — faith communities, employers, schools and health care organizations, for example — to reach veterans where they live and thrive."

The VA was one of the first institutions in the United States to implement comprehensive suicide risk surveillance, which involves collecting and interpreting suicide-related data.

"Data is an integral part of our public health approach to suicide prevention," said Wilkie. "The latest data offers insights that will help us build networks of support and research-backed suicide prevention initiatives to reach all veterans, even those who do not and may never come to us for care."

The report yields several insights pertinent to ongoing suicide prevention efforts:

From 2005 to 2017, suicides among all U.S. adults increased by 43.6 percent, while suicides among veterans increased by 6.1 percent.

- America's non-veteran population is increasing while its veteran population is decreasing over time.
- The number of veteran suicides exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008 to 2017.
- In 2017, the suicide rate for veterans was 1.5 times the rate for non-veteran adults, after adjusting for population differences in age and sex.
- Firearms were the method of suicide in 70.7 percent of male veteran suicide deaths and 43.2 percent of female Veteran suicide deaths in 2017.
- In addition to the aforementioned Veteran suicides, there were 919 suicides among never federally activated former National Guard and Reserve members in 2017, an average of 2.5 suicide deaths per day.

Suicide is heartbreaking, and our nation understandably grieves with each one. However, suicide is preventable, and we all have a role to play in saving lives. The 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report emphasizes that suicide can be prevented through meaningful connection, one person at a time.

The full report and the accompanying state data sheets are available at

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/Suicide-Prevention-Data.asp.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

South Dakota Awarded NCA Grant for State Veterans Cemetery

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has awarded South Dakota a grant in the amount of \$6,904,794 for the establishment of South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

"Partnering with South Dakota to establish a new veterans cemetery in the eastern half of the state is exactly the kind of project that the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program was made for," said Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves. "This new cemetery will give tens of thousands of veterans and their families the peace of mind that comes from knowing they will have a burial option close to home."

This grant will fund the construction of 610 pre-placed crypts, 999 cremains gravesites, 660 columbarium niches, 50 memorial wall markers, a main entrance, an avenue of flags, an administration building, a maintenance facility, roads, an assembly area, a committal shelter, scatter burial area, a memorial walkway, landscaping, and supporting infrastructure. The project will develop approximately 12.9 acres. The project will enable the cemetery to serve

— SD AWARDED NCA GRANT FOR STATE VETERANS CEMETERY, continued on pg. 5

—SD AWARDED NCA GRANT FOR STATE VETERANS CEMETERY, continued from pg. 4

approximately 43,000 Veterans, their spouses and eligible family members.

The closest national cemetery is Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota, which is approximately 408 miles away.

The VA Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) complements the 136 VA national cemeteries across the country. Since its inception 41 years ago, the VCGP has awarded grants totaling more than \$817 million to establish, expand, improve, or operate and maintain 115 state and tribal Veterans cemeteries. These VA-funded cemeteries provided more than 39,000 burials in 2018.

For more information about the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery, contact SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard at 605-360-4173.

State Veterans Home Celebrates 130 Years



Seated L-R: Ken Moss and State VFW Auxiliary President Sandi Moss.

Lt. Governor Rhoden and Superintendent Richardson thanked and recognized all veterans and commended the staff for their unending dedication to our heroes. Special guest for the celebration was Medal of Honor Recipient Michael J. Fitzmaurice, his wife Patty and his mom Darlene. The State Veterans Home was named after Fitzmaurice in 1998. Michael received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity of action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Specialist Four, United States Army, Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 17th Calvary, 101st Airborne Division at Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam, March 23, 1971.



Va Secretary Visits South Dakota

United States Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie visited the VABHHC yesterday as part of a tour of VA facilities in four states. During a sit down meeting with Governor Noem, South Dakota Congressional delegation and community leaders, Wilkie discussed access to services, transportation, private providers, and suicide data. At the conclusion of the meeting, Wilkie agreed to make another trip to South Dakota to visit the VA facilities in Hot Springs.

Wilkie also did a question and answer session with the West River American Indian Veterans Advisory Council. The meeting was held at The Retired Enlisted Association post in east Rapid City.

Present at the meeting were tribal veterans service officers from Standing Rock, Oglala, Rosebud, and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes, representatives from the states congressional offices, subject matter experts from the VA Black Hills and SDDVA Field Service Officer Will Huffmon.

Sec. Wilkie started off the session with remarks regarding his experience with Native American culture via his upbringing in Oklahoma and current areas of focus as the Secretary to include tele-health and addressing veteran suicide. Once the floor was open to questions, the topics discussed included limited access to network coverage in rural and tribal areas in respect to tele-health, the ongoing need for “boots on the ground” mental health care services, and the need to clarify the current memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the VA and Indian Health Services (IHS).



Veterans Service Officer of South Dakota

“To honor the dead, by serving the living”

The VFW Service Office staff is available for ALL Veterans seeking assistance with filing original claim, claims for increase or appeals of VA decisions. The Department Service Officer and Office information: William Hoffman, 2525 West Main St., 303A - #3, Rapid City, SD 57702.

A VFW Service Officer will:

- Offer research and advice to Veterans who wish to file their own claims.
- Assist Veterans with original claims for compensation, claims for increase or pension and complete the required claim paperwork.
- Assist widows and dependents with claims for DIC and death pension benefits.
- Provide status updates for pending claims and monitor claim throughout the VA development process.
- Assist with appeals of VA decision and file the appropriate paperwork. Provide research and advise on how to gather evidence to support the appeal.
- Review Statements of the Case regarding appeals and file the appropriate response in a timely fashion. Request hearing with VA staff when appropriate.
- Respond to telephone inquiries regarding federal and state benefits.
- Assist with obtaining additional benefits for those Veterans who attain 100% service connection.
- Provide assistance and information to Veterans regarding Veteran and dependents education benefits.

South Dakota VFW Present Donation to Cemetery Endowment Fund

Big “SHOUT OUT” to Past State VFW Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and Past State Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold for working with their members to secure a donation of \$20,002.40 for the State Veterans Cemetery Endowment Fund!



Governor Declares November Month of Caring

Governor Kristi Noem has officially proclaimed November as “South Dakota Month of Caring”. The goal is to encourage individuals, businesses, and nonprofits to take part in the rich tradition of caring in South Dakota and to go out and perform good deeds in their respective communities.

November has always been our month to honor our veterans and to be thankful for all we have received because of their sacrifices.

Perhaps this is a great opportunity to reach out to our veterans and make sure they are ok—do a buddy check. Encourage them to visit their local county or tribal veterans service officer. Assist them with challenges they might be facing.

With hundreds of soldiers deployed, November might also be a great time to send a care package or two to the troops. It might a be a great time to reach out to the families of the deployed and make sure they have everything they need or assist with small projects.

Legislative Chairman – D.D. Couch Report

Remarks submitted by Representative Dusty Johnson



Since I joined the U.S. House of Representatives in January, I’ve done my best to steer clear of the political crisis we see on a daily basis in Washington. Instead I’ve worked successfully with my colleagues to pass legislation preventing child abuse and making it easier for Americans to save for school and retirement. I’ve been laser focused on passing the United States Mexico and Canada Trade Agreement, moving forward welfare reform, and implementing the 2018 Farm Bill.

But I just have to say – the impeachment process unfolding in the House over the last several weeks should cause pause for all members of Congress and the American people.

Some of my colleagues are for impeachment and others of us are opposed, but we should all admit that by its very nature, impeachment is emotional, taxing and divisive.

Let’s remember – some are seeking to remove our duty elected president from office. That is no small thing. This is changing the trajectory of American history. Given how contentious and how important this proceeding is, members of Congress have a special

— NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, continued on pg. 10



Special State & National Convention Highlights



Head table for the State Commander, and State Auxiliary President's Home Coming. L-R: National Representative, more noted as Fritz; Cindy Williamson, State Secretary; Rick Williamson, National Council Member 21; State Chaplain Russel Dramstad; Sean Johnson, State Commander; Sandi Moss, State Auxiliary President; Sandee Bellows, National Auxiliary Representative; Patti Mitchell, State Chaplain. God Bless America.



State Commander Sean Johnson presenting the SD State gift to National Representative Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic.

State Auxiliary President Sandi Moss and National Auxiliary Representative, SD/NEB Auxiliary Councilwoman 21, Sandee Bellows of Nebraska.

State Commander Sean Johnson being escorted by State Auxiliary Conductress Pam Vissia to the Auxiliary Council Visitation.



Parade of VFW and Auxiliary Departments.



Portion of the Auxiliary/VFW South Dakota delegates at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida.



All-American Post 3298, Parkston, Post Commander Barbara McKean posing with National Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence during the National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Highlights Around South Dakota VFW

5th Annual SD VFW Auxiliary Retreat

The 5th Annual retreat was held at The Roost in Grenville, South Dakota from August 22-25. The time was spent getting to know each other while working on veterans projects. They are yellow roses for deployment bags that are assembled and given to the families, 3'x6' plastic mats for homeless vets and Tear drop pins for suicide awareness. The State Chairman for all the auxiliary programs gave a presentation as well as a greeting and presidents project by President Sandi. We had a surprise of SD VFW Post Commander Sean showing up and lending a hand with tear drops as well as a brief presentation of his support for the auxiliary.



State VFW Commander Sean Johnson and State Auxiliary President Sandi Moss; Kenneth Moss.



State VFW Commander Sean Johnson and President Sandi Moss at the State Fair 2019 Veterans booth.



★ ★ ★
Carved eagle mounted on a State (South Dakota) plaque gift to the National Representative, National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic.
★ ★ ★



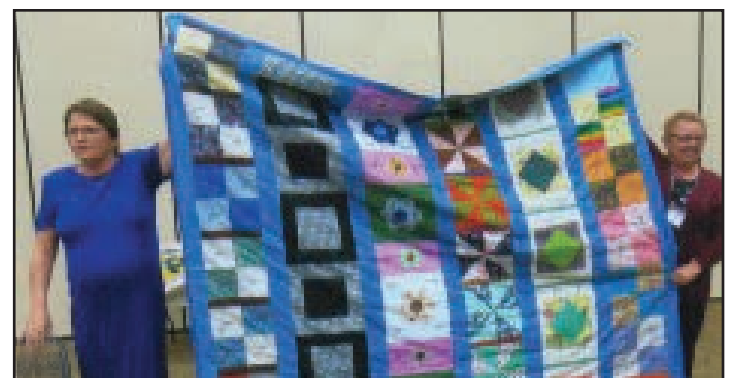
A large group visited the National Veterans Cemetery in Sisseton S D. as part of their 5th annual retreat.



Barbara McKean accepting the bracelet from National Recruiter Rick McKenna for answering a recruiting question on membership strategy.



Tootie presented a bag and quilt to two VFW members at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron. L-R: Tom Hafner, Parkston SD Tootie; Darwin Tolzin, Brookings, SD.



State Chaplain Patti Mitchell "Acting Auctioneer" for the State Fundraiser which raised \$1,150.00, with 25 items donated. The quilt is one of the items auctioned off by Patti and Vissia.



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 and Autumn sure went fast!! The snow is flying but we still have work to do. We had a great time in Oacoma this year. Fall Council and Commander Sean's and my Homecoming were held at the same time. We had a great time. I want to thank everyone for being at the Banquet Saturday night. National Junior Vice Commander 'Fritz' Mihelcic gave a

wonderful speech after our great dinner. Teamwork is essential as the VFW and Auxiliary work together! Thank you for the cards and gifts, they were wonderful, the VFW and VFWA are truly a family!! The Auction went well, earning over a thousand dollars for the Colton Levi Derr Foundation, the Commander Sean's and my project. A big thank you to those who donated items for the Auction and to Patti Mitchell and Ron Krogman for the use of their awesome auctioneering talents!!

Our School of Instruction went well. Each Chairman gave

a brief rundown on their topic in the morning and set up a table where they gave out more information in the afternoon. Our Representative was Councilwoman #21, Sandee Bellows from Nebraska. Sandee said she enjoyed the training and the way we did it. We were honored to go to a couple of VFW trainings as well. We sat in on the Colton Levi Derr Foundation program given by Colton's Dad, Jerry. The whole family is involved trying to help our Veterans with PTSD and other problems. Melissa Johnson, our Commanders wife, gave a training from the American Red Cross. Melissa is one of three from the Programs and Services Associate Military and Veteran Caregiver Network. She travels and works one on one with Veterans and their families

We still have time to bring in more members, it is never too late. No one does more for Veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary! Remember if your Auxiliary reaches 95% prior to 30 November, they will earn \$50.00 from National (which I am sure would be useful). New members help revitalize us and keep us strong so that we can

keep all of our programs going at full strength.

National, the State VFW and State Auxiliary are stressing TEAMWORK!! Together we can accomplish much more than if we go our separate ways. This holds true for our Auxiliaries, Districts and the State Auxiliary, together we can do anything and really help our Veterans and their families. Your Line Officers and State Chairman are examples of working together. **Veterans are the Heartbeat of America** and working as a Team we can assure that **You're Never Alone** to each and every one of them!

Our next Statewide function will be Legislative in January after our Mid-winter meetings in District 10 and District 1. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Thank You for all you do to help our Veterans and their families. God Bless the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary and God Bless the United States of America.

Loyally,
Sandi Moss

Auxiliary Sr. Vice President

Donita Mullinix



October is here already. Where has summer gone. It was a busy summer for the VFW and Auxiliary. I would like to thank the VFW Auxiliary for supporting me and voting me in as the Dept. Sr. Vice President at the Dept. convention held in Madison. I appreciate all the advice, suggestions, and mentoring you have provided me with. I hope you will continue to support me in

the next couple of years. Thank you to Madison VFW Post and Auxiliary for a wonderful convention. Despite all the construction, it was wonderful to be there.

The National convention was held in Orlando, FL and we had a very good turnout from SD. A few of us went down ahead of time to do some sightseeing and shopping. Colleen Foland was a great tour guide and organizer. The convention was interesting and educational. We came home with a lot of information to share with our Post and Auxiliaries. It was also nice to see the friends that we have made again and to meet new people from around the nation.

In August we had a retreat held in Grenville at Patti Mitchell

and Skip's resort "The Roost". This is a time for us to relax and get to know our brothers and sisters out of the convention atmosphere. We always do some touring around the area. This time we went to a Veterans cemetery in Sisseton and toured the historic Stavig House Museum and made our regular trip to Roslyn to the only Vinegar Museum in the world. Some people even tried their luck at fishing. We also worked on a few crafts for the homeless and the upcoming deployments. Our delicious meals were cooked by VFW Auxiliary member Chef Zoe Berman-Yellin. She cooked up enough food to feed an army. Needles to say, we didn't go away hungry. Each Dept. Chairman gave a short report on their plans for the upcoming year. Commander Sean was present to speak to us about his project and upcoming year. President Sandi Moss also highlighted us on her upcoming year and spent the weekend with us. Thank you, Carrie, for organizing a great retreat and Patti and Skip of letting us meet at the Roost.

Then on to the State Fair in Huron. Did we have a fun time with the Plinko game. As people came up to try their luck, they had to first answer a question. Amazing, how many people do not know what VFW stands for. The young and old all had many laughs trying to win a plinko chip to get a prize. Great idea Sue and Patti.

Now that our summer fun is over, it's time to get down to business. Members, members, members. We all need to try our best to collect dues and recruit new members. If we all only could recruit one new member, we would be at 100% in no time. Let's make it our goal. After we have gotten that new member, don't forget to mentor them. Make sure to keep in contact with them and encourage them to be involved. Along with your help, they will be an asset to our organization. At Fall Council there will be more information on mentoring new members as well as all the other important programs. We need to keep up with our scholarships and the youth. They are our future.

As I prepare for my year as Dept. President, I'm discovering all the challenges that go with the office. Sr. Vice Commander Cody and I have working together to make our coming year a great one. One that we can all learn from and enjoy being a member of the VFW and Auxiliary. Together, we can do it. Thank you again for electing me as Sr. Vice President and for all your support and mentoring.

Remember to Thank a Veteran.

Donita Mullinix
Dept. Sr. Vice President



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

Auxiliary Jr. Vice President

Wanda Mix



Greetings Auxiliary members,

Thank you to President Sandi Moss for appointing me as the Department's Membership Chairman.

It will be a great year for our Department to work towards getting 100% in membership. We all can do it. Auxiliaries remember to Invite, Include, and Invest in members.

We already have 4 Auxiliaries over 100% Plus in membership, 4 Auxiliaries over 95% in membership; and several real close to 95% to get the \$50 Award.

There are several awards from National that all of the members can receive. For signing up five new and/or rejoined members you will receive a White Plumeria Pin, 10 members a Blue Plumeria pin, 20 members a Red Plumeria pin. It would be wonderful to see these pins on every member at the State Convention. A \$50 Award from National for any Auxiliary who has 95% by November 30th, 2019 and A \$50 Award for 100% plus one by January 31, 2020. The Department will receive \$500 for 95% Plus by November 30, 2019 and another \$500 for 100% plus by January 31, 2020. As of October 10, 2019 our Department is 83.14%. The Department needs 615 members to get 95% Plus to get the \$500 Award we can do this! We already have four Auxiliaries over 100% Plus in membership, 4 Auxiliaries over 95% in membership; and several real close to 95% to get the \$50 Award.

I am challenging all members and Auxiliaries to work toward these Awards. I will also give out a special Award to anyone who gets the most new and/or rejoined members at the State Convention.

There is a new brochure and application from National for new members. You can get them at the VFW store. The application is a lot simpler to fill out. If you have any questions about membership please call me and or email me.

Jr. Vice President
Wanda R Mix

\$1,000 donation for "Patti's soldiers," deployed 152nd's family group

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary have received a \$1,000 donation from the Day County Coyote Hunt. Funds raised by the annual hunt go toward providing encouragement and assistance to families of deployed South Dakota National Guard units, according to Deb Fahey, secretary Pierre Post 2038 Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Based out of Grenville, the hunt is open to all hunters. The 13th annual Day County Coyote Hunt is Dec. 13-15. "It was my dream to help my soldiers," said Patti Mitchell, hunt organizer, a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and the mother of three National Guard members. "They might be your children, but I think of them as my children once they belong to a National Guard unit." Taking her duty seriously, Mitchell is a staunch advocate in support of this nation's veterans and active military. The check was presented to Kari Bauman and members of the family support group of the Deployed 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of Pierre.



Shown, back row from left, are Ron LeBeau, Gordan Paul, Gary Knudson, Ed Assman, Ken Rousch and John Noyes. Front: Bobbie Ann Sullivan with Chyann Mitchell, Deb Fahey, Lois Knudson, Sonya Johnson, Kari Bauman, Sandy Cronin, Karen Sharp and Eunice Jungling.

13TH ANNUAL DAY COUNTY COYOTE HUNT DECEMBER 13-15, 2019



Hunt Anywhere in South Dakota



The Day County Coyote Hunt helps support our South Dakota National Guards Family Support Group and takes place the third weekend in January.

Contact Patti Mitchell, coordinator at the ROOST, 605-486-0016 or 605-280-0777 (cell). Sponsored by the Goodwin (John H. Larson) VFW Post 6361 and it's Auxiliary.

Department Auxiliary Presidents Judging 2018-2019

Category 1 (10 through 50 Members)

Runner Up – Sharon Crovier, Lemmon 2969
1st Place – Clarice Paulson, Alcester 6149

Category 2 (51 through 110 Members)

Runner Up – Donita Mullinex, Beresford 2975
1st Place – Colleen Miller Foland, Plankinton 6554

Category 3 (111 through 225 Members)

Runner Up – Elise Forsch, Burke 9950
1st Place – Nancy Worth, Sturgis 2730

Category 4 (226+ Members)

Runner Up – Cheryle Van Dyke, Yankton 791
1st Place – P. Rene Larson, Deadwood 5969

Fort Sisseton VFW Auxiliary 3342

Fort Sisseton VFW Auxiliary #3342 in South Dakota has been doing a project that has got the entire State Auxiliary and the local community involved.

They are making mats out of plastic bags. Members across the State of South Dakota and within the Sisseton community have been saving and collecting plastic bags to make Plyarn (yarn out of plastic bags). The Sisseton auxiliary has had a class for those interested in the community to come together to learn to cut bags and tie them (make Plyarn) and to learn to crochet the bags.

The completed bags will be given to the homeless in the area and then spread out into other areas in the state for homeless citizens and veterans.

The summer group Youth Works even helped to make Plyarn for one of their community projects. They made it into a team building project also.

Tammy Chase
Auxiliary President #3342

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**WE SUPPORT
OUR VETERANS**

— NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, continued from pg. 5

obligation to play by the rules. We need a process that is open, sound, and fair. Congress is failing at that special obligation.

First, the Speaker has launched impeachment without a vote of the legislative body. This is unprecedented. Members have been denied their authority, their voice, and their opportunity to be on the record. Let us be clear: under the Constitution, the authority to launch impeachment rest with the U.S. House of Representatives, not with the Speaker of the House or the Chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

Second, this proceeding has not been open and transparent. Instead, members have been denied access to witness testimony, there is no live feed or TV coverage like we've seen during past impeachment proceedings, and Republicans are being removed from committee hearings. The result is that Americans and most members of Congress are not getting the facts.

Finally, this proceeding has not been fair. In the past, presidents have been allowed to have legal counsel present. Counsel had an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses. The accused had an opportunity to examine the evidence and prepare a defense rather than battle secondhand accounts of closed-door testimony selectively leaked to the media.

Two hundred and twenty-eight of my colleagues have announced they are ready to impeach the president even though the evidence hasn't been fully gathered yet, and in any case, we haven't been allowed to review it. How in the world is that fair?

— JR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT, continued from pg. 2

come back! we are only as strong as our membership! We are all cut from the same cloth! We do what we do for our veterans because we are proud of our military and volunteering is in our blood. Please stay active and positive. Mentorship is essential for our growth and survival! The newer and sometimes younger veterans need your guidance, wisdom and mentorship. If you are unsure of anything that you should be doing in your posts, reach out to someone, Darwin, me, past commanders, etc. We are all in this together! One Team!

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you this year. My year as Department Jr. Vice Commander will focus on MEMBERSHIP! I am here for you. Together, we can make our teams stronger and happier! Comrades, what do you say, let's do it!

Barbara McKean
Dept. Jr. Vice Commander

On Doolittle's Raid

One of sixteen B-25 bombers in the famed "30 seconds over Tokyo" left the USS Hornet and Pierre native Lt. Henry A. Potter, navigator; Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, pilot and a crew of three others set course for Tokyo in WWII.

Henry Potter was not the only South Dakota performing with honor on the mission. Don Smith, the pilot of Plane #15 was from Belle Fourche. Though like most of Doolittle's Raiders, Don Smith survived, he died in a plane crash near London in 1942. Honored by Congress; There's no question that Doolittle's raid was immensely important. Doolittle led a force of sixteen two-engine bombers across hundreds of miles of ocean to the coast of Japan and then hit multiple targets, losing no planes in the attack and suffering only minor damage to one of the planes from anti-aircraft fire. Much more to this article that was originally published in the April 17, 2015 edition of the Capital Journal.

PSC Gary Knudson



Comrade Couch reported that during his visit to Washington, D.C., commented that his visit with the South Dakota Representative, and Senators, that were very fortunate to have the three we have in regards to Veterans issues and etc.



Alcester VFW Post 6149

Visit Alcester VFW Post 6149 Facebook page for pictures of the remodeled memorial in the city park. We got three grants to mainly fund the project, working with the American Legion Post and Auxiliaries.

Veterans' Outreach Center Program

The Veterans' Outreach Center in Rapid City serves 650 Veterans each month. It is a safe place for veterans and their families to access resources to meet their immediate needs and to connect with long-term services for housing, employment, and healthcare.

The center is equipped with free services including laundry, showers, message/mail services, telephone use, computer resource center, and a community room. All supplies are provided, including coffee and healthy snacks. It also serves as a hub for DAV transport services to and from Hot Springs and Fort Meade.

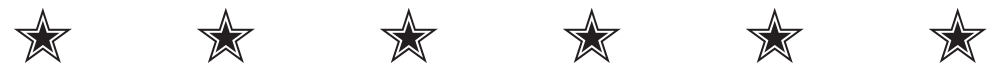
They need Tide pods, dryer sheets, boxes of tissue, plastic silverware, paper plates, and feminine hygiene products.

Recently, a food pantry has been added for access by Veterans in need. The center purchases food from the Feeding South Dakota program so they have enough rice and spaghetti but they are seeking donations of canned and boxed goods that can be included in the food boxes.

Sue Jones helped box food on Thursday night, September 19 and reports the box contained the following: 1 each spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, rice, tune helper, green beans, a sleeve of crackers, tomato soup and chicken noodle soup; 2 cans tuna and 2 boxes mac and cheese; three apples (until they ran out); 5 individual size mayo. This is supposed to be for a week for a family.

The immediate need is for cans of fruits and vegetables and all kinds of soups but they will take any canned goods that we can provide. All items must be current (not expired). You could also donate money instead so the center can purchase more items.

Along these same lines, we will also be collecting the small hotel-size toiletries for use at the Stand-down coming up in November. Thank you for your generous support of this project. Contact Sue Jones at 605-877-2665 for more information.



Medical Centers of the VA South Dakota Health Care Network

**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

**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

**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!

Mitchell, VFW Post 2750

Kinsella Jack G., WWII/Korea, USA/USAF; Patton Paul WWII, USA; Pearson James A., Vietnam, USN, Life; Pattison Jerry D., Korea, USA

Huron, VFW Post 1776

Kozel Lavon, WWII SA, Life; Wendel Donald E., USA, Life; Sagrie Eugene C., USA, Life

Watertown, VFW Post 750

Dendel Daniel L., Desert Storm, USMC

Quinn, VFW Post 9120

Flatt Merl L., WWII, USAF

Rapid City VFW Post 1273

Fisher Earl, USN; Stockstad Christian, USN; Cole Hilary P., WWII/Korea, USA; Jensen Al R., USA

Vermillion, VFW Post 3061

Deverell Cliff, Vietnam, Life

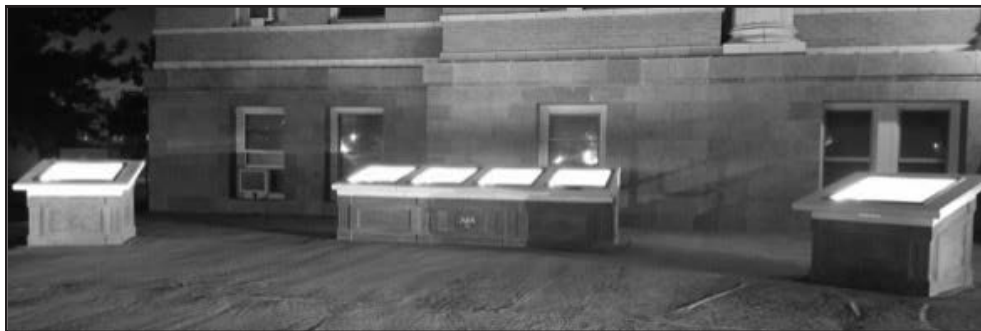
Eureka, VFW Post 5126

Rau Perry G., Korea, USA, Life

Gettysburg, VFW Post 8530

Kunstle Donald K., Miles Arlyn D., Kula Calvin; Butler Thomas R.

Charters of Freedom



The Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution and Bill of Rights came to Tripp County. On September 2nd these founding documents known as “The Charters of Freedom” were permanently installed at the Tripp County Courthouse in Winner, SD.

Tripp County is the second Charters of Freedom setting permanently placed in South Dakota by Foundation Forward, a 501(c)(3) educational foundation created by Vance and Mary Jo Patterson of Burke County, North Carolina. The inspiration to set up Foundation Forward followed their first visit to the National Archives to see the founding documents. The first city in South Dakota to receive the Charters of Freedom was Clark, SD.

Vance Patterson, Founder of Foundation Forward, recalled, “*Seeing something our founding fathers had actually penned, and then seeing their signatures – Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Rutledge, Wilson and the others - I just got goose bumps. And, then when we moved over and saw those first three words of The Constitution, ‘We The People’, I actually got a lump in my throat. It was really an emotional experience.*”

Foundation Forward’s mission is to install Charters of Freedom settings in easily accessible locations so communities can view these founding documents in a proper setting without traveling to Washington, D.C. These settings will provide a hands-on education in American History and Civics. “Imagine if you will school teachers bringing their 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes to their Charters of Freedom for annual field trips to learn a little about our founding fathers, the history surrounding beginning of our country, and how government is meant to serve and protect ‘We The People,’” says Vance in his dedication speech. This local access will also provide a place for Tripp County citizens to gather, celebrate, honor and reflect.

VFW & Auxiliary Dress as Colonial Residents



During the State Fall Council of Administration banquet these four Colonial residents, namely John Hancock, Betsy Ross, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin visited with VFW and Auxiliary members at the banquet with the purpose of sharing information about the Charters of Freedom located in at the Tripp County Courthouse in Winner, SD.

The noted Colonial residents handed out material about the

Charters. The residents; John Hancock, aka, Melvin Connot of Winner VFW Post, Betsy Ross, aka, Deb Fahey of Pierre VFW Aux., Thomas Jefferson aka Keith Blume, of Custer VFW Post, and Benjamin Franklin aka Ken Payne, of Plankinton VFW Post. The Colonials reported they had a great time introducing the Charters of Freedom to the attendees.

Brenda Muhs, Life member of the Winner VFW Auxiliary spoke to the delegation about how Winner obtained the Charters of Freedom. “The purpose of the Charters is to provide educational opportunities for the youth and adult alike to learn about the documents that we live by and their importance in our lives today.” Muhs hopes that by using the colonial costumes the public will enjoy learning more about our founding fathers and promote interest in the history of our country

VFW & Sport Clips Haircuts Surpass \$6.4 Million in Scholarships for Veterans

Kansas City, Mo. – Together with longtime supporter Sports Clips Haircuts, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce its “Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship” program has surpassed awarding \$6.4 million in scholarships to more than 1,450 military and student veterans. The latest fall semester award of nearly \$762,000 will help to ensure 165 student veterans attending colleges across the country are one step closer to achieving their educational goals.

South Dakota Human Service Center Therapeutic Recreation Department Donation

A donation was made with combined matching funds from the Department of South Dakota VFW, Yankton VFW Posts 791 Auxiliary, and Pup Tent 12 Cooties of Yankton for the amount of \$900 to the South Dakota Human Service Center Therapeutic Recreation Department in Yankton. The donated funds will all be used for the Veterans at the Human Service Center.

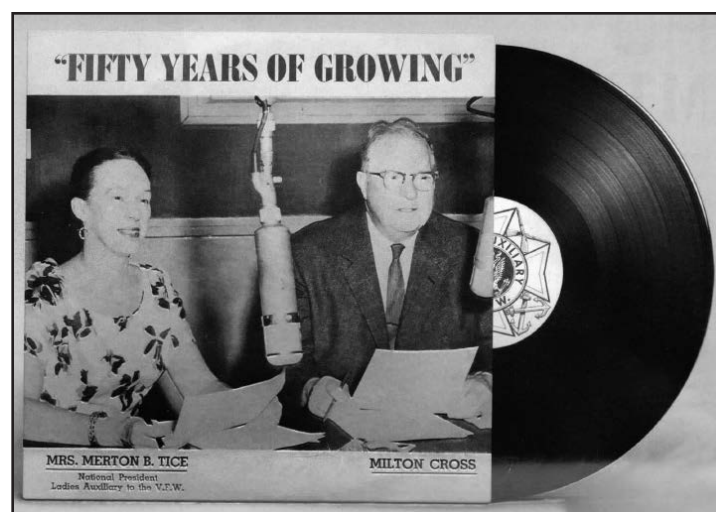


Pictured left to right is Judy Potts Yankton Post 791 Auxiliary Representative - Donald A. Dahlin Past Department of South Dakota VFW Commander - Keith Tramp - Susann Baker who are South Dakota Human Service Center Therapeutic Recreation Specialists - Laddie Novak Cootie Pup 12 Seam Squirrel - Dale Stibral Cooties Past Grand Commander.

Auxiliary History: Fifty Years of Growing

By VFW Auxiliary National President Elfrieda Tice (1962-1963)

It was 1963 and the VFW Auxiliary was preparing for its 50th anniversary celebration. To mark the milestone, National President Elfrieda Tice (1962-1963) and noted radio commentator Milton Cross share highlights of the Auxiliary’s origins o the 7-inch record, “Fifty Years and Growing.” The recording was produced



as a companion to the rerelease of “The American Trail” radio program, sponsored by the then-Ladies Auxiliary and also available on a seven-record album set. The radio series originally aired in 1953 and was targeted at educating children and families about significant moments in American history. In addition to tidbits about the Auxiliary’s origins and history, Tice also spoke to contemporary Auxiliary achievements – 1.5 million Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) hours served in a year’s time – and her special project, building “Courage Cottages” in Korea. In his mellifluous voice and perfect diction, Cross dubs members of the Auxiliary “Hometown Heroines,” acknowledging the contribution members make in the lives of veterans. Listening to this treasure harkens back to a simpler time but also demonstrates how much has stayed the same as current-day Auxiliary heroines and heroes continue to support veterans, active-duty service members and their families.

Submitted by Vickie Rosse, 2019-2020 VAVS National Deputy Representative; 2019-2020 Big 10 Conference Guard; 2019-2020 SD Department Program Chairman Mentoring for Leadership. She can be contacted at 120 13th Avenue, Brookings, SD 57006, (H) 605-697-6317, (C) 605-690-0283 or rosse27@mchsi.com.



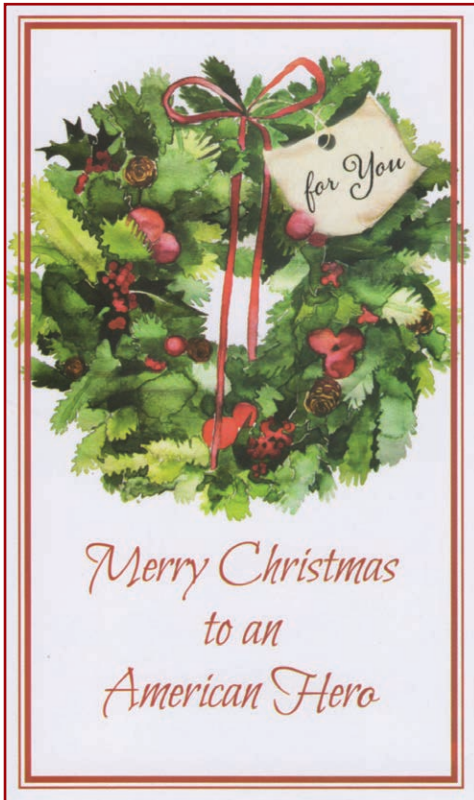
South Dakota Overseas Veteran quarterly publication

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.



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



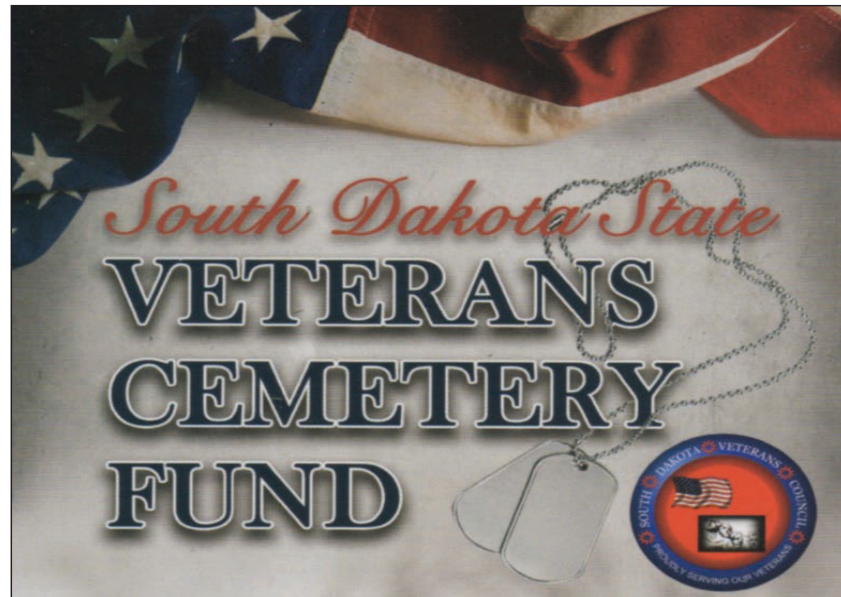
VFW Turns 120 This Year

VFW celebrated a significant milestone in September when the organization recognizes the 120th anniversary of its founding on September 29.

On that day in 1899 in Columbus, Ohio, 13 veterans of the 17th Infantry Regiment who fought on Cuba during the Spanish-American War gathered to establish what they called the American Veterans of Foreign Service. That group led a merger with two other veterans associations in 1914 to form the VFW.

The original organization pledged to "promote the general welfare" of those who had "borne the brunt of battle." It vowed to place the veteran "in the front ran of American citizenship," among other goals.

at 120 years old, VFW is America's oldest major veterans organization. Along with its Auxiliary, it counts nearly 1.6 million members an some 6,300 Posts in communities around the world.



Department of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars are encouraging all Veterans and non-Veterans to participate in helping finance the South Dakota Community Foundations by forwarding a generous donation. Make your gift (Ear marked for the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery Fund) and mail it to the VFW Department of South Dakota at 5009 West 12th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 57106.

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

Brookings George Dokken Post #2118

Bingo: Mon., Wed. and Fri.
Lounge: Bingo nights & Sat.
Hall: Available for rental
520 Main Avenue 605-692-6771

C.C. CROAL POST #17 ABERDEEN, SD
Post/Auxiliary Meetings
Second Thursday - 7:30 PM
Room for Parties
All Occasions
M-S Hours: 2 PM - 2 AM

Black Hills Post 5969 Deadwood

Wednesday: Hamburger Night
Friday: Dinners
Lounge & Gaming

FRANK H. ADAMS POST #750 808 South Broadway Watertown, SD
Open Monday thru Friday
2:00 p.m. till 2:00 a.m.;
Saturday 12:00 till 2:00 a.m.
All Veterans and visiting members welcome
Post Meeting Nite 3rd Wed. Aux. Meeting Nite 2nd Wed.

THREE RIVERS POST #4726 BRANDON, SD (The most eastern Post in SD)
Interstate 90, Exit 406
Post Meeting,
3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Auxiliary Meeting,
2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Welcome Veterans & Friends to Our Freedom Grill and Bar Lounge.

Ernest Bowyer Post No. 791 209 Cedar St. Yankton, SD (605) 665-3562
Open 3 p.m. Sun. thru Sat.
All Veterans and Visiting Members Welcome
Meeting Night 2nd Tuesday

Rollie Bucholz Post 7319 Wagner, SD 57380 PHONE: 342-9804

Open Daily: Mon.-Sat. at 5:00
All Veterans & Guests Welcome
Short Orders served during week.
Saturday evening special dinners served

Post Meeting - 3rd Tues.
Auxiliary Meeting - 2nd Tues.

Bingo every Wed. night

Rushmore - Post #1273 420 Main St., Rapid City, SD 57701 PHONE: 342-9804

Meeting Nights
MOC/MOCA Pup Tent 17 - First Thursday
VFW & Auxiliary - Second Thursday
Joint Meeting - Fifth Thursday of any Month
With Five Thursdays

Hours of Operation
Sunday-Friday - 11:00 am to Closing
Saturday - 10:00 am to Closing
Sunday - Closed
Monday-Friday Daily Lunches 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Saturday 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers or Chicken Strips and Fries
Monday Night Family Dinner Starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Friday Night Fish Fry Starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Ronald Westby 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 605-347-4682

Open Mon. - Fri. 4:00 PM to close
Sat. noon to closing
Short orders & dinners available
VFW Post #2730 & Auxiliary AL Post #33 & Auxiliary DAV Chapter 11 & Auxiliary

Kenneth Kuper Post #3442 721 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD 605-673-4262

Lounge Opens 2pm

Post & Auxiliary Meetings
Third Thursday - 7pm

Visit us on your trip to the Hills

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Press 1 for Veterans

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

DEADLINE

For the next issue (January 2020) of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran, the deadline is December 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, Bette and Norman Thompson, Russel Dramstad, Madison VFW Post 2638 and Brookings VFW Post 2118. **Silver category**: Verne & Norma Hansen, John Wightman, Yankton VFW Post 791.