

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders #6

“You’re Never Alone”

December 1, 2019

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Department Commander and his staff extend Christmas and New Year greetings to all comrades and sisters and their families. On these special days let us be thankful for the privilege of living in the United States.

1. The State Headquarters office will be closed on December 24th and 25th in observance of Christmas. It will also be closed on December 31st and January 1st for New Years.

2. Membership: Membership efforts in December should be concentrated on contacting **ALL** 2019 members who have not paid for 2019. All unpaid members become delinquent at the end of their anniversary month. The Direct Dues Payment Program does not eliminate the need for membership teams and committees to collect the dues of those members who have not responded to the annual notices that are mailed out by National Headquarters. Also, review the expired membership roster and start contacting them to help those “lost” members to become updated again.

3. Veterans Day Reports: This report is needed from ALL Posts. Form may be downloaded by going on line to www.vfwsd.org. Email or mail the report to Sr. Vice Commander, Cody Mangold 1101 Main Street, Tyndall SD 57066, email cody.mangold@hotmail.com. If your post has not sent in your report, please do so now.

4. Education Teacher Award: Winning entries at the Post level are to be submitted to the Department Chairman, prior to December 15. Each Post is encouraged to have a winner in each of the three categories, K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Post winners should be forwarded to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730, email krblume@goldenwest.net.

5. Voice of Democracy: District judging should be completed by now. As soon as possible after District judging is completed, the winning essays and audio files should be sent to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730, email krblume@goldenwest.net. Each District will send their district winner to Pierre for the presentations of the State winners during the Legislative Conference. Plaques will be presented to the top three (3) winners at the State level.

6. Patriots Pen: District judging should be completed by now. As soon as possible after District judging is completed send the winning essays to the State Chairperson, Keith Blume, P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730. Each District will send their district winner to Pierre for the presentations of the State winners during the Legislative Conference. Plaques will be presented to the top three (3) winners at the State level.

8. Legislative Conference: Council of Administration, Legislative Conference and Voice of Democracy & Patriot’s Pen Banquet has been set for January 26th & 27th, 2020 in Pierre. See enclosed notice for registration and agenda.

9. The National Voice of Democracy and Legislative Conference meeting will be held on March 1st-5th, 2020 in Washington, D.C., at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, VA. The VOD parade of winners will take place at 6:00 pm on March 4th 2020.

10. Checks Sent to Department Headquarters: All checks sent to the Department Headquarters should be made out to “Department of South Dakota VFW” and marked as to what purpose each check is for. Do not make checks payable to a special account. Remember to use our **new** address **5009 W 12th Street, Suite 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.**

11. 2019 By-Laws Manual & Roberts Rules of Order: The Department recommends that all Posts purchase a new 2019 By-Laws Manual from National, and Roberts Rules from Amazon.com.

12. Fly Flags at Half Staff on December 7th: Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994 designates December 7, as **National Pearl Harbor Day** and all Posts should fly their flag at half-staff from sunrise to sunset.

13. Wreaths Across America: On December 15th, 2019. Wreaths Across America programs will take place all at the same time. Services will be held at the following cemeteries in South Dakota, and all VFW and Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend one of these programs. What a project!

- Black Hills National Cemetery – Sturgis (10:00 am).
- Fort Meade, National Cemetery – Sturgis (10:00 am).
- Hot Springs National Cemetery - Hot Springs (10:00 am).
- Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery – Pringle (10:00 am).
- Hills of Rest Memorial Park Cemetery – Sioux Falls (11:00 am).
- Restlawn Memory Gardens Cemetery – Huron (11:00 am).
- Greenwood and Lutheran Cemeteries – Brookings (11:00 am)

14. Mid Winter Meetings: This is what we have to date:

- District 1 will meet at Post **TBD**
- District 4 will meet at Post **TBD**
- District 6 will meet at Post **TBD**
- District 7 will meet Sunday February 16th
- District 10 will meet at Post **TBD**

15. Sending In Material For General Orders: All Department Officers, State Chairman and anyone else that wants to publish information in the General Orders must submit the material to Department Headquarters by no later than the 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders. Pleas be sure you send article in a word document.

OFFICIAL:

BY ORDER OF:

Darwin Tolzin
Darwin Tolzin, Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Sean D Johnson
Sean D Johnson, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

TAPS

With a heavy heart we report that member Ken Moss Post 1273 Rapid City and the husband of Department Auxiliary President Sandi Moss passed away surrounded by family on Saturday night 11/23. Memorial services for Ken will be held in June 2020, we will let you know then what arrangements will be. Sandi's address is 10577 Dogwood Ln., Rapid City SD 57702

Memory Care Information

I wanted to reach out and to let you know about the work my team is currently doing to help veterans learn about the memory care benefits that are available to them.

Based on our research and conversations we have had with community leaders across the US, many veterans suffering from Alzheimer's are unaware of the available programs that can help maintain or improve their quality of life. So, we created a resource that provides comprehensive information on topics like available care options and financial support that can provide assistance during their time of need. You can read more about our work here: <https://www.memorycare.com/veterans/>. Our contact here has been Carrie Carson.

ALL AMERICAN DASHBOAD

Post and District Adjutants please check over the Dashboard on the OMS system. You need to input your own information to keep your post up to date. There is a guide and video posted with the Dashboard to help you navigate the system. Please call Crystal if you need help.

Commander & Presidents PTSD Project

The Sweepstakes is going well, 10 weeks in now so **PLENTY** of time left to buy tickets and get in on the drawing. Buy **NOW!!**
YOU could be the next winner of \$200, \$300, \$400 or 1 of the 2 Grand Prize drawings of \$500.

Election Reports

Unfortunately, during the year some changes in line officers happen, you need to get a new election report in as soon as you have voted in new officers. It is very important to have this information into headquarters so we know contact people and their information. **Thank You**

AIL American Income Life

Everyone received their notice that they have **FREE** accidental death and dismemberment insurance through the above listed company. If you are a VFW member in good standing you are

eligible, and to this date AIL has paid 4 claims (\$14,000) and from the time I notified the company the checks were mailed within 3-5 weeks. If you have any questions please contact this office and we will assist and get you the answers you need.

Overseas Veteran

The Department of South Dakota VFW thanks our Editor/Historian Dick Pickering for his many years of dedication to the publishing of our VFW Overseas Veteran. Dick you set the bar very high and your patience has been above and beyond. We know you will help Troy as much as he needs. Dick will remain as historian so not completely leaving us.

Troy Maroney, Iraq Veteran, Life Member Post 2118, Brookings will be assuming the duties as Editor/Publisher of the Overseas Veteran. Please welcome him and provide information in a timely manner as he will be publishing the paper locally.

His email is: mugsbymaroney@gmail.com and phone number is 605-691-1312

Cody Mangold Sr Vice Commander

2019 December General Orders

Greeting,

I wish you all a great holiday season. I want to thank all of you that have sent in Veterans Day reports. I have received a decent amount of reports already. Please remember the deadline for early points for the Memorial Day, and Veterans Day is December 31. I want to Thank everyone for their Veterans Day programs, and activities. Keep up the great work! Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cody Mangold

Sr. Vice Commander

General Orders – Dec 2019

Barbara McKean Jr Vice Commander

Christmas – the most wonderful time of the year! The membership goal for each post in our state was **92%** or higher by 30 Nov! I've sent out unpaid and "at large" reports to Commanders, Post Quartermasters and Membership POC's. Lots of prior VFW veterans to recruit in South Dakota! Please reach out and call or send letters to these veterans. Also, each week I'm sending out the stats for each post. Everyone is doing a fantastic job! Keep up the excellent work. To the posts that have reached 92% or higher, AWESOME Job! Way to represent!

South Dakota as of Monday, November 25, 2019

| Post | Dist | Life | New | Reinst | Cont | Total | Prior Year | Percent |
|-----------------|------|------|-----|--------|------|-------|------------|---------|
| District Totals | 1 | 1661 | 19 | 2 | 186 | 1868 | 2120 | 88.11% |
| District Totals | 4 | 1092 | 7 | 1 | 127 | 1227 | 1447 | 84.79% |
| District Totals | 6 | 933 | 0 | 2 | 163 | 1098 | 1326 | 82.80% |
| District Totals | 7 | 757 | 9 | 2 | 90 | 858 | 1004 | 85.45% |
| District Totals | 10 | 1784 | 14 | 1 | 144 | 1943 | 2158 | 90.03% |
| District Totals | 99 | 174 | 13 | 2 | 18 | 207 | 253 | 81.81% |
| State Total | | 6401 | 62 | 10 | 728 | 7201 | 8308 | 86.67% |

I must rant and rave about the Gettysburg Pheasant hunt! My husband and I were lucky enough to get to attend a couple days of this hunt this year. What an amazing, wonderful experience. Thank you to everyone from Gettysburg for your hospitality and commitment to make this such an enjoyable event! I might have to move there 😊

I want to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We have much to be grateful for this year. We are all so blessed to be alive and surrounded by other veterans who care so much!

v/r,

Barbara

Barbara McKean
Dept Jr. Vice Commander
504 S Wallace St, Parkston, SD 57366
C: 605-630-0771; Email: mckean4@live.com or
barbara.mckean@uj.s.state.sd.us



**SD State Surgeon
Adam Swift**

Greetings Comrades!

The Christmas season is upon us! Many of us will be spending time with the ones we love, however there are many that will not get the pleasure of fellowship with family and loved ones. When you set the table for your family this Christmas, please remember to set a place to honor those that are deployed or are never able to return home for the holidays. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers as you give thanks for your blessings!

If you have a chance, maybe swing by your local VA hospital, Assisted Living home, or Nursing home and wish them a Merry Christmas and give them a Christmas Card! Those that reside in these facilities are always happy to receive these items!

Another season that is upon us – Flu Season! Remember that now through March 31, 2020, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local VA-Clinic or Walgreens pharmacy. If you are VA-enrolled and go to Walgreens, your VA medical records will be automatically updated. Even though this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare and many healthcare plans.

As a reminder, quarterly reports are due by Nov 10; Feb 10 & May 10 (approximately 10 days after end of Quarter). Let's get those reports in!

Like I said last month, something else that can accompany the holiday season is depression. Reach out to those that you feel need a buddy and invite them over for the holidays, so they are reminded that they are not alone! Don't let anyone fall into the depressive spiral this holiday season!

From my family to yours,

Merry Christmas!!

Adam Swift
Department Surgeon
605-415-9493
Adam.swift.vfw@gmail.com

“For Our Veterans... We Aim Higher”

Thank YOU, Thank YOU, Thank YOU, from VFW Post 8530, Gettysburg SD.

The 2019 Decorated Veterans Pheasant Hunt was an overwhelming success. You can Google; VFW Post 8530 pheasant hunt and read the complete story about the 5 purple heart Veterans and this year's activities. We are humbled, and very appreciative of all the support that SD VFW Post's have given, by selling raffle tickets, and donations! There were two fair weather hunting days, one "special added event day" and the last two day's we had to often thaw the hunters out, before the next walk. There are also post's and many pictures on VFW Post 8530's face book page. Take a look. Until next year, members of VFW Post 8530 "salute you" in helping us "Dare to Care"!



Robert Larry Darrell Lynn George



This Years " Special Added Event": Sunday Snow Storm