



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

General Orders #2

“Speak Up and Reach Out”

August 1, 2021

1. Audit Reports - Put This on Your Must Do List: The quarter ended June 30, 2020. Post Commanders are reminded that it is their duty to ensure that Post Trustees comply with Section 218, page 74, Manual of Procedures – Duties of Trustees. This section states in part that the Audit Report shall be signed by the Post Commander and the three Post Trustees, who shall by their signatures, “certify to the accuracy of the information contained herein”. **The Audit Report is to be mailed or emailed to the Department Adjutant/Quartermaster as soon as possible.** Post Commanders, if you have complied with this section prior to the end of the month following the close of the quarter, thank you. **A Commander is not allowed to appoint an acting Trustee to fill in for a Trustee who is not present or to sign an audit report or any other document.** However, if the Signer has seen the document, they can submit an email authorizing their concurrence and approval this email must be submitted with the audit to the Department office.

2. Hot Item: Bonds: In compliance with Section 703, Page 39, National By-Laws, all Post Commanders are advised to have their Quartermaster bonded for a maximum amount of money usually in the treasury of the post at any time. Post Commanders are further reminded that old bonds expire August 31, 2021, regardless of when the bonds were ordered throughout the year. Bonds must be ordered through our State Headquarters, 5009 W. 12th St., Ste. 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 by mandates of the 1974 Department Convention. The cost of Bonds is \$4.50 per \$1,000 coverage up to \$99,000 **with minimum coverage of \$3,000.** \$100,000 to \$349,000 is \$4.00 per \$1,000 and over \$349,000 is \$3.50 per \$1,000. **Special information** concerning Bonds has been emailed to all Post Commanders and Quartermasters with the main concern the due date is moved to September 1, 2021, and delinquent after this date.

3. State Fair - Exact status of what is happening at the state fair as of the last Veterans Council Meeting had not been decided. Particulars and updates will be handled in separate correspondence.

4. Post Commanders and Quartermasters should comply with all orders set out under “Duties of Commander and Duties of Quartermasters” Section 218, page 72 and 73, Manual of Procedures. This Section specifically states that all annual dues and life membership fees received by the Post Quartermaster (Department and National) shall be forwarded to National Headquarters, Direct Dues Department, PO Box 119028, Kansas City, Missouri 64171, as prescribed in Section 104, page 10 of the By-Laws.

5. Post Commanders whose Posts operate Post Homes are ordered to comply with Section 709, page 40 and 41, By-Laws – Control of Units. Post Commanders are also directed to read Section 710, page 41, By-Laws – Inspection.

6. Members are reminded that their conduct in the Post Home should always be respectful. People are quick to criticize unbecoming conduct in the Post Home, which usually finds its way to outside sources and leads to disrespect of the Post. A person who is disrespectful of the Post Home should be removed from the premises so that others can enjoy the facilities without interruption. A poorly operated Post Home only tends to decrease the image of the VFW and negatively influences the Post membership.

7. Post Commanders and Post Hospital Chairmen are urged to insure **Hospital and Safety Reports** are submitted quarterly, four reports per year. Due in July, October, January & April. Report form may be downloaded via www.VFWSD.org. Reports are sent to the state office for further distribution.

8. Post Commanders and Post Community Service Chairmen are urged to ensure the Community Service Reports are submitted quarterly, four reports per year Due in July, October, January & April. Report form may be downloaded via www.VFWSD.org. Reports are sent to the state office for further distribution.

9. Veterans Day: District and Post Commanders should appoint their 2021 Veterans Day Chairman. Commanders are urged to utilize all Patriotic organizations in your community to take part in the Veterans Day activities. In the event your community is not able to observe Veterans Day, join with a neighboring community and assist them in the observance of this important day. Remember, this is part of our Community Service and Americanism Programs.

10. Post Commanders are directed to appoint a **Voice of Democracy Chairman** and a **Patriotic Pen Chairman**. Urge your Auxiliary to appoint a Co-chairperson. These are **Post and Auxiliary "Must Programs"** for 2021– 2022. Send the Chairman's name to Department Headquarters and the Department Chairman, Keith Blume. [Keith's information is P. O. Box 215, Custer, SD 57730 Home # 605-673-4143, Cell # 605-440-2331. E-Mail: krblume@goldenwest.net](mailto:krblume@goldenwest.net)

11. Post Commanders or Chairman of Post House Committees are hereby directed that you will not rent, lease, or offer their facilities to all non-American or subversive groups. If such is allowed, the Post involved will be jeopardizing their charters.

12. Post Chaplains are reminded to forward the name of each deceased comrade to the Post Quartermaster for reporting online to National.

13. Fall Council of Administration and homecoming is scheduled for 8, 9 and 10 October 2021. Further information will be forthcoming.

14. Big 10 Conference: Members are reminded that the Big 10 Conference will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota on October 15th–17th, 2021. Directions for Registration and Hotel forms are on the website VFWSD.ORG or contact Mike Mullen Chairman.

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 or the Department Adjutant by no later than the 25th day of the month preceding the publication of the General Orders. Prior to submitting information please go to the General Orders from the previous year (listed in the Web Site) and that is what is used as a strawman for this year and make sure the topic is not already going to be covered. Duplication takes time and can be eliminated. Submissions will be edited to maintain appropriate content and professionalism.

16. District Commanders: Please schedule your Fall District meeting ASAP between September 1 and October 31, 2021. Provide date, time, and location to Department Headquarters by August 25th so we can publish in the September General Orders and ensure a Department Officer is available to inspect and report. State Headquarters information: E-Mail is vfwsd@aol.com or vfwddeptsd@gmail.com.

17. Baseball Fans: Check the SD VFW Baseball Website or Department of [SD VFW Facebook Event Pages](https://www.facebook.com/SDVFW) for dates and locations of the 2021 VFW State Baseball Tournaments.

18. HOT ITEMS COMING UP: Bonds, State Fair Manning, Veterans Day, Fall Council of Administration, Homecoming, Big 10 Conference, Schedule for District Meetings, etc.

OFFICIAL:

Darwin Tolzin

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

BY ORDER OF:

Barbara McKean

Barbara McKean, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

MAJOR CHANGE

All Posts have been told to send your VMS donations direct to National.....LAST MINUTE CHANGE....

Please send to Department Office prior to 5 October 2021 if possible!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

There is a MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR VMS In Sioux Falls on 14 October 2021 and we would like to donate our check at that event.

DEPARTMENT PROGRAM DEADLINES

For several years the list has been available on the Department Web Site: VFWSD.ORG go to [RESOURCES](#) go to [TEMPLATES & FORMS](#) and under that is [ANNUAL PROGRAM DEADLINES](#). This is a guideline for most programs required by the Department and National. Is it all inclusive NO but is a great guideline. It has been in place for many years and no plans for it to go away.

NOTICE: ALL complete (if they are 2 pages include both even if no data) reports (Comm. Service, Hospital, Memorial Day, etc.) will come through the State Headquarters in the future. We will then get them to the Chairman for review. This will save confusion for the posts and time changing the data on forms for the web master. PLEASE start sending all reports to 5009 W 12th St. Suite 6A, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 or vwfsd@aol.com or vwfdeptsd@gmail.com.

Sturgis Bike Rally

Sturgis SD

August 2021

The National VFW membership people will be at the Sturgis Rally again this year recruiting members. They have asked the Department of South Dakota to help manning the recruiting booth in the Armory downtown Sturgis. I'm working on a schedule of volunteers and am asking for your help. We need people to man the booth from Friday August 6 through Saturday August 14.

There will be three shifts per day of 4 hours each from 9 am to 9 pm.

Please share this with your membership and have them contact me if they're able to help. I've got about 24 shifts to fill and could use all the help you can muster.

Thanks
Kris Fenton
307-689-0086
Post 5969@midconetwork.com

BUDDY POPPIES

GET YOUR POST ORDER TO STATE HEADQUARTERS

Order forms are posted on the Web site, vfwsd.org. We would appreciate orders in multiples of 500 if possible.

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REPORTING OF DECEASED COMRADES

Tell members to go ahead and report them as they occur, there won't be any amnesty this coming year. Plus, when they report a member deceased, it generates a Sympathy Card from the VFW, we don't want that going to a family six month after the member has passed.



News from the Staff Members and Committee Chair's

Barbara McKean, Commander

August 2021 General Orders

Greeting Comrades,

We are still in need of volunteers to work the Recruiting booth at the Sturgis Bike Rally from Aug 5-13. Please, if able to spare a few hours, contact Kris Fenton; 307-689-0086; deepseadv@icloud.com to sign-up.

Now is the time to get the Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen information sent to all your local schools. This is a great way to get the VFW out in the community and our way to get our youth involved to show their Patriotism and Americanism. We also want submissions for Teacher of the Year! **The Department wants submissions this year in all categories from all our posts.** Our chairman for these programs is Keith Blume. Reach out to him if you have questions. Also, the Department office can assist you with forms if you can't access these forms on our department website www.vfwsd.org.

- Voice of Democracy – **2021-2022 Theme: "America: Where do we go from here?"** DUE: October 31. This audio-essay competition annually awards nearly \$2 million in scholarships to students in grades 9-12. The first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship.
- Patriot's Pen – **2021-2022 theme is: "How Can I Be a Good American?"** DUE: October 31. More than \$1.2 million is awarded annually to students in grades 6-8 in this essay contest. The first-place winner receives \$5,000.
- Teacher of the Year – Due: November 1, 2021. The VFW annually recognizes one exceptional (K-12) schoolteacher for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Awards include \$3,000 for his/her school and an all-expense-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention.

I'm asking with the Fall Council of Administration (Homecoming Banquet) at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, SD approaching Oct 8-10, 2021, that you check these GO's for registration forms and complete and return ASAP. **Banquet theme will be "Western"**. We are asking for your inputs on what you would like to see for training, information, etc. during this conference. Our intentions are to have training that will be beneficial to everyone. Post Commanders and Quartermasters please encourage attendance from post members and at **a minimum you both or your designee(s) should be in attendance.** The information presented during the Fall Council is very important and is geared to help you have a productive year.

MEMBERSHIP: I hope you have had time to read both the 2021-2022 National and SD Membership Plans (available on Department website www.vfwsd.org). Please refer to the Checklist in the SD VFW Program & Membership Guide and start working on post requirements now. If you have questions, call the Department office. Start sparking interest in your communities with your VFW involvement. This happens when you get the VFW name out in the community/public. Things like VFW Baseball, Patriots Pen, VOD, and Teacher of the Year will help accomplish this. Community programs for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc. help also.

Membership is the backbone of our VFW. The VFW is instrumental with the legislative process both in our state and Washington D.C. The more you recruit now, the more help you will have to assist with your many projects throughout the year. Our Membership Chairman this year is Dave Baumiller (Dept JVC). Let him know if you need any assistance. If you need ideas for membership round ups, why not count the SD State Fair or the Sturgis Rally support as one of your activities.

Below is our final number for State of SD in Membership for 2020-2021. Our “start” number for membership (GOAL) is 7861. This is what we need to make 100%. National’s goal is still 100%+1, and our National Commander states he is not dropping that goal. Start now!

Department	Current Year	Prior Year	%	Diff	Date Diff
South Dakota	7,861	8,073	97.37	-212	-212

New this Year: The SD VFW will be featuring our members who have proudly worn the uniform of our country and continue that legacy of service in their communities today. We would like one submission for each week. Please visit our state website at www.vfwsd.org to access this document (Weekly Social Media (Facebook) Highlight for VFW of SD) to be filled out by you (VFW Veteran) and emailed to Barb McKean along w/ a couple photos (in .pdf). **Also attached to these GO’s**

Action Corps: The VFW Action Corps is our national grassroots advocacy network, keeping you up to date on issues facing our veterans, our military, and their families. It is free and open to ALL patriotic Americans who care about the military and veteran communities. You will receive the newsletter, regular action alerts on how to get involved when our nation’s military, veterans, and families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill, and more. National is asking for 5 new sign-ups for the Action Corps e-flyer per Post. It’s easy to do and they do not have to be a VFW member! It can be anyone interested in veterans’ issues. District & Post Commanders should be pushing this at every meeting they attend by asking everyone to pull out their phones and get signed up. <https://www.vfw.org/ActionCorpsSignup>; Use the QR code below to join the VFW’s Action Corps. Or you may “TEXT VFW” to 50457.



VFW Job Opportunity (DUE: Aug 16): The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of South Dakota is seeking a qualified VFW member for the position of Department Adjutant and Quartermaster (AQ). This position requires consistency, dedication, and long-term commitment to serve our veterans, membership and our Organization to the fullest. This is a fulltime position with office located in Sioux Falls. Hours of employment at the Department Headquarters office is subject to needs of the Department and will be negotiated with any potential applicants. Anyone interested in applying for the Department AQ position is urged to submit a resume and letter of interest. Direct questions to the undersigned and/or Darwin Tolzin, current Department AQ at vfwdeptsd@gmail.com. Please visit www.vfwsd.org for full job description with duties/responsibilities. Please complete your resume and letter of interest not later than **August 16, 2021** to undersigned below (you can email or mail).

Barbara McKean, Dept of SD Commander
504 S Wallace St; Parkston, SD 57366
mckeanbarb@gmail.com; 605-630-0771

Mark your calendars now - 2021-2022 VFW Events

1. July 30 – Aug 4, 2021– National Convention in Kansas City, MO
2. Aug 6-14, 2021 - Sturgis Bike Rally (VFW does Recruiting during Sturgis)
3. Aug 22, 2021 - VFW Baseball Meeting in Madison, SD VFW Post
4. Sept 2, 2021 – VFW only will man Booth 1-day during State Fair in Huron, SD on Sep 2 from 10-4:30. Admission is free for all Veterans on September 2nd.
5. District Meetings: Fall - Sep/Oct 2021 (Dates TBD watch GO's on VFW Website for meeting dates). District Commanders please submit dates to Darwin in Aug for Sep/Oct.
6. Oct 8-10, 2021 - Fall Council of Administration (Dept of SD VFW & Auxiliary) (Homecoming Banquet) – at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, SD – **Banquet will be a “Western” theme.**
7. Oct 15-17, 2021 - Big Ten Conference (VFW & Auxiliary) at Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza in Rapid City, SD. Get your registrations turned into State office and Posts/Districts consider placing an AD in Big Ten Program!
8. Nov 11, 2021 – VETERANS DAY
9. District Meetings: Mid-Winter – Jan 2022 (Dates TBD watch GO's on VFW Website for meeting dates) District Commanders please submit dates to Darwin.
10. Jan 29-30, 2022 - Legislative Conference/Councils of Administration and VOD, Patriots Pen & Teacher Awards Banquet – Fort Pierre, SD
11. District Meetings: Spring – Apr 2022 (Dates TBD watch GO's on VFW Website for meeting dates) District Commanders please submit dates to Darwin.
12. May 30, 2022 - Memorial Day Observance at the Black Hills National Cemetery – Rapid City
13. Jun 9-12, 2022 - Department Convention – Ramada Inn & Suites Conference Center Mitchell. **Banquet will be a “Formal - Glam” theme.**
14. July 16-21, 2022 - 2022 National Convention in Kansas City, MO

I'll have lots to share in next month's GO's from the National Convention in MO, Sturgis Recruiting and VFW Baseball Tournaments. If there is anything I can do to assist, please give me a call. I want to remind you that I work for you, and it is my honor to help you make your Post better. Thanks again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

Events with Department of SD VFW attendance:

- June 17-19, 2021 – Department (State) Convention in Yankton, SD
- Jul 14, 2021 - Congressman Dusty Johnson in Aberdeen. DTOM 22/0 Ranch (Warner) Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Pinning Ceremony (Sean Johnson attended in my place)
- July 17, 2021 – VFW Baseball at Canova 10 & Under
- July 21, 2021 – Veterans Council in SF
- July 23, 2021 – VFW Baseball at Vermillion 14 & Under

Barbara McKean

State Commander

Barbara.mckean@ujs.state.sd.us

605-630-0771



**Senior Vice Commander
Tom Hafner General Orders August 2021**

Our Organization has a wide variety projects on our plate during the next quarter to include the National Convention (Jul-Aug); VFW Booth during Sturgis Bike Rally (Aug); Memorial Park & Chapel Caretakers during Sturgis Bike Rally (Aug); South Dakota State Fair (Sep); District Meetings (Sep-Oct); Fall COA & Homecoming (Oct); Big 10 Conference (Oct) and Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/Teacher of the Year kickoffs. Your assistance and participation are necessary if we are to have successful outcomes. Please consider volunteering in any area you can. Thank you.

Please keep in mind that the future of the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the Year, EMT, Law Enforcement and Firefighter Programs are in your hands. Failure to support these Programs could very well spell their demise. Make your contacts early. Thank you.

I had the pleasure of attending the Veterans Council meeting as your representative. The Council is under new leadership, and I anticipate some changes as to how they do business. At the time of the meeting there was discussion as to what Legislation the Council would support and the Building on the State Fairgrounds in Huron, but nothing definite at this time.

As of the date of these GO's the following Posts have submitted a Memorial Day Report: Yankton, Webster, Aberdeen, Pierre, Turton, Gettysburg, Mitchell, Parkston, Tyndall, Armour, and Deadwood. A Negative Report is necessary if you did not conduct a Program. Contact me and I will submit for you if your Report is Negative. Please submit your Reports to Department Headquarters ASAP. I am like the little kid in the backseat who keeps asking "Are we there yet". The sooner we receive responses the sooner I will stop asking. Thank you in advance.

If I can be of any assistance contact me at the email or phone number (leave a message if no answer) listed below.

Tom Hafner

Sr. Vice Commander

tbfhafner@santel.net // 605-661-2750



**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
Dave Baumiller
August 2021 GENERAL ORDERS**

I would like to encourage all District Commanders to help get their membership plans submitted. Getting South Dakota to 100% is do-able, if we all work together nothing can stop us.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve all the VFW members of South Dakota,

Dave Baumiller
Jr Vice Commander



**Judge Advocate
Sean Johnson
General Orders August 2021**

Hello Comrades

I hope all is well with you and your post. I am hoping that all the posts in South Dakota are very busy at this time of the year. With that being said, the first quarter of the Community Service Report is due, and I would like to have it turned in on time so we can document all the good things we are doing. If you are having trouble, call and we will help, be prepared I will be calling to see where you are at with your report if you have not turned it in so I can help get it in. **I care about your post getting credit first and foremost and the state getting credit. So, if you can help us out, Please Do Thanks Ahead of Time.**

Sean Johnson



**Surgeon
Glynis Collier
General Orders August 2021**

Hello all,

I hope you all had a great 4th of July weekend. I was honored to be a Color Bearer on The 4th of July Parade for the Fort Pierre/Pierre communities and carry The American Flag! I was so proud as the Dept. of SD VFW Surgeon to be included in this year's Color Bearer Team! I will be attending the 122nd VFW National Conference in Kansas City, MO and hope to see many of you there.

Last month I asked the Post Commanders and Quartermasters without internet access and email capability to call me on my cell **803-466-7031** and provide me with your mailing address, so that I may send you blank copies (most current) of all the report templates. I have not received any calls yet. As you know my main concern as the State Surgeon is to stay abreast of all the reports each month and quarterly. **Please** contact me ASAP if you do not have internet access and email capability.

I will in turn email you a current blank copy of all the necessary reporting documents for the ensuing year. I will also send you reminders of when certain reports are due throughout the year. We all are very busy and courtesy reminders help us remain successful.

Please submit your reports to your Post Surgeon by the **tenth day** of each month and be sure to include your **efforts** regarding any special services you provided related to the 4th of July Holiday to your Post Surgeon in your August 2021 reports.

Thank you for your Service and everything you do each day for Veterans and their Family Members.

Respectfully,
Glynis Collier
State Surgeon
Dept. of SD, VFW

JOB VACANCY AT DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VFW

QUARTERMASTER/ADJUTANT

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of South Dakota is seeking a qualified VFW member for the position of Department Adjutant and Quartermaster (AQ). This position requires consistency, dedication, and long-term commitment to serve our veterans, membership and our Organization to the fullest. This is a fulltime position with office located in Sioux Falls. Hours of employment at the Department Headquarters office is subject to needs of the Department and will be negotiated with any potential applicants. Anyone interested in applying for the Department AQ position is urged to submit a resume and letter of interest. Direct questions to the undersigned and/or Darwin Tolzin, current Department AQ at vfwdptsd@gmail.com. Please visit www.vfwsd.org for full job description with duties/responsibilities. Please complete your resume and letter of interest not later than **August 16, 2021** to undersigned below (you can email or mail).

Yours in Comradeship,

Barbara McKean
Commander
Department of South Dakota
504 S Wallace St
Parkston, SD 57366
mckeanbarb@gmail.com
605-630-0771

Department Adjutant/Quartermaster (AQ) Position

Qualifications:

- Must be a Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) member in good standing or eligible for membership
- Very strong background in administrative work
- Strong Microsoft Office skills (MS, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat DC)
- Experienced with the use of Quick Books for financial management
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to juggle multiple projects with superb accuracy
- Strong sense of urgency and problem-solving skills
- Exceptional customer service skills
- Perform data entry and scan documents
- Prepare and modify documents including correspondence, reports, drafts, memos and emails
- Schedule and coordinate meetings, appointments and travel arrangements

Responsibilities but not limited to the following:

- Supervise duties of all Department staff and conduct annual employee performance evaluations
- Prepare all required documents for the Department for filing or distribution to Council of Administration (COA), Districts and/or Posts
- Coordinate all National Visits
- Support and plan all Department functions in conjunction with the Chairman(s)
- Prepare all documents for the Council of Administration meetings and Department Convention
- Attest to all official correspondence and reports for the Department
- Prepare all necessary reports as directed by the Department Commander and Council of Administration
- Electronically maintain the books and records to include a backup and have available for inspection and audit
- Maintain rosters of the Department Officers and Chairman, Districts and Posts to include meeting times, locations, membership data, and other required information
- Prepare and maintain the minutes for all Council of Administration meetings and Department Convention for corrections and approval in accordance with National Headquarters guidance and/or requirements
- Any other duties as required by the Department and National By-Laws
- Perform duties as directed by the Department Commander and/or Council of Administration.

Further Job duties are listed in the National By-Laws Sect 518, (a), (4) & (5).

**Weekly Social Media (Facebook) Highlight for
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of South Dakota
Complete & email to barbara.mckean@ujs.state.sd.us (605-630-0771).
Please attach a couple photos to go with the highlight**

We are featuring our members who have proudly worn the uniform of our country and continue that legacy of service in their communities today.

First/MI/Last Name: _____

Contact Info (Email & Phone #) _____

Post # & Name/Location: _____

Branch of Service: (how many years served) _____

Military Job: _____

Favorite Memory from Service:

Life after the Military:

Why you Joined the VFW:

Any Positions held in VFW:

Please attach a couple photos to go with the highlight

Post 8530 Decorated Veterans Hunt

Hello my fellow VFW members. My name is Butch Anderson, Life Member of Post 8530. I have been entrusted with the sales of the 2021 Raffle Tickets for a chance to win a Henry Goldenboy 17. The sales from these raffle tickets go towards helping finance our annual pheasant hunt for five Purple Heart Recipients randomly chosen from entries we've received from around the country.

Your time is valuable so I'll get to the point. We need your help selling raffle tickets to your members, friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and in my case fishing buddies. Tickets are \$10 each or \$100 for a book of 10. The drawing for the lucky winner takes place during the Veterans Day Program at the Gettysburg High School.

I would encourage you to visit our Facebook page @VFW Post 8530 Winston M. Toomey and take a few minutes to check out the information posted about past years hunts.

In conclusion, your help is needed. Please email me at ljbutchanderson@gmail.com with any questions you may have, or with your requests for books of raffle tickets to be sold or purchased. Please include your mailing address and we will mail the raffle tickets to you.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Butch Anderson

'Wish List" for Fort Meade VA Medical Center Donation and Volunteer Opportunities July 2021

The Fort Meade VA does not solicit for donations, nor do we allow the name of the VA to be used in solicitations through other organizations. However, for those organizations or individuals who inquire as to our needs, the following is a list you can use as a guide for our special needs, program support and/or equipment. None of these items are available through our normal budget. Please note **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE and become the property of the VA once donated. Please contact us prior to delivery of any large or out of the ordinary donation you or your organization plans to make to ensure we can accept it.**

Donations

WE CANNOT ACCEPT KNITTED/CROCHETED BLANKETS OR BAR SOAP
Currently unable to accept magazines, DVD's or books due to Covid-19.

Clothing: Excepting new items only (socks, men's underwear and T-shirts(L-3XEy)

- Disposable Razors
- Deodorant (no aerosol)
- Body wash
- Reading glasses
- Combs
- Lip balm
- Emory boards
- Large Shampoo or 2-1
- Fingernail clippers
- Denture cleanser
- Mouth wash (non-alcohol)
- Large Shaving Cream

Rapid City Clinic and Rapid City Vet Center

HUDVASH/Homeless Veterans Program

- Queen size sheet sets
- Towels
- Toilet paper

Hospice: Dark colored sheets twin size

Personal Care items

- Electric Razors for long term care (possible bigger project)
- Phone chargers for 113 Surgical unit that can be used for I-Phones, and Android
- New Men's shoes sizes 9-11.5
- Various sizes of female & male underwear
- Various sizes of T-shirts (Med- 2XL)
- Teddy Bear Voice recorder
- Weighted Blankets
- 13-inch portable DVD player or Best Buy gift card
- Bird Seed
- Old Dutch Puff Corn
- Little Debbie Snacks
- Individual bags of chips
- Large bags of Salt & Vinegar Chips

Monetary Donations

<Checks should be made out to Fort Meade VA. Special designation should be noted in memo line>

Please direct any questions regarding donations or volunteering to: Melody Wouden (605)720-7151

What Makes America Great?

This was the essay topic that was recently addressed by students from across the United States, as they responded to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Essay Contest for this year. The essay topic gave high school students the opportunity to express what they think about this question and our country. This year's topic provided lots of possibilities for student viewpoints. This was especially so in today's world with so much social and cultural conflict, the constant barrage of mean and uncaring comments, political distrust, words of hate and the lack of acceptance of others, as well as a lack of positive role models to follow. Their response to this essay question leads us to better see where the future lies for our young people.

You might wonder where this specific essay topic comes from. The topic is chosen by the National V.F.W. Commander. Each year the V.F.W. sponsors a national essay contest that involves writing a 3-5-minute essay about a very specific topic. The essay is judged on originality, content and delivery. Each year the contest begins with a local contest to determine who will move on to regional competition and then eventually on to state competition in Pierre. The regional winners are royally treated by the State V.F.W. organization with visits to the Capital, recognition by our state legislature and concluding with a special supper and a presentation of who will represent our state in Washington, D.C. in the national competition.

I served as a school counselor and prior to 1996, I was aware that there was a VFW essay contest and would routinely pass the information along to any interested high school student and tell them they should look into it if they wanted to. Unfortunately, at the time, that was about all my involvement produced. What I did not realize or understand at the time was the "little encouragement" from me produced and influenced "little involvement" by our students. As a result, only about three to four students ever participated. That was true up until my own daughter wrote her essay for the competition. The next thing I knew our daughter won the local contest, then the region and eventually the state competition. I have to admit that caused me to really sit up and take serious notice as to what I had been doing and not doing, as I saw how it positively affected her future opportunities.

Winning the state competition took her to Washington, D.C. for the national competition, along with the opportunity to meet our Congressional and Senatorial representatives, several famous athletes, entertainment celebrities, actors and authors. There were also winners from across the nation to meet and lots of college scholarship money awarded. I came back to Wagner with a completely different attitude about what opportunities really were available to our students, but had been overlooked, so it became important to change how it was approached. What had caused the lack of student participation before this date was my own ignorance. My ignorance and lack of interest helped to inadvertently deprive our students of the knowledge and importance that this essay contest actually involved.

What was learned and what changed? I realized our students were being short changed by this lack of understanding by myself and others and as a result I sought serious change in how we should approach this kind of opportunity in the future. Fortunately, the school administration agreed

this needed to be done as well. From that point on it was obvious a key player would be the high school English teachers who could use the national essay theme as one of their writing assignments during the year. After all, they wanted to help make their students better writers, so why not use the V.F.W. topic to write about. Not just for grading sake, but a chance to provide their students with the opportunity to also compete for a college scholarship as well. Creating opportunity beyond the grade book became an important issue and for good reason. At the very least, the essay topic provides a way for students to express their patriotic views about our country. Something that was rarely done and quite possibly long overdue in our student's educational growth. Changing the approach from a "no or low interest and encouragement" approach, to making it part of the writing process helped produce better outcomes and better citizens. Since this approach began, Wagner has increased the total number of students who have been able to move on to regional competition and is providing a valuable lesson in life for our students. Our high school students are getting the opportunity to really think about our country and what it represents. This is primarily thanks to the English teachers, who also came to realize the value of going beyond the grade book with their writing assignments

And now we arrive at "What Makes America Great" and what this year's topic produced. A total of 80 plus students participated, as the topic is part of the English class assignment and six students qualified for regional competition compared to only the one finalist we used to have years ago. Of the group of regional winners, one is chosen to move on to state competition and that proved to be a Wagner student this year. Increased numbers often equal increased chances for a winner. Increased knowledge and encouragement often equals increased participation, which is also a good lesson learned by students and educators alike.

And what does all of this have to do with the future as I stated in the beginning? From the entries from the Wagner essays, the vast majority of students repeatedly stated what made America great was "our diversity". As I look back over the past years, find myself somewhat surprised to hear students see diversity as what makes us great. To see that this was stated over and over again by so many different students in their essays make me wonder, why diversity? I do not remember this kind of thought ever being stated 40 years, 30 years, 20 years or even 10 years ago. What is different? What has changed? Maybe the answer to this does not really matter. Maybe what matters most is the fact that things have changed for the better. The reality is the world does not only look like the single person standing in front of the mirror. Maybe these students realize this and understand how it only makes us all better. For myself, seeing this stated makes me proud of our young people. It says their view of the world will only make them more successful and better prepared for tomorrow's world. This should be something we can all feel great about. Lots of parents must be doing a better job than they have been given credit for.

What makes America great? That is a great question for all of us to reflect on. What is your answer to this question? Is it different and why? Regardless, I believe we are leaving the future to a great group of people who will follow us. I can therefore say "our kids, our luck, lucky us and lucky Wagner"!

Written by: Dana Sanderson, Retired Professional School Counselor for 41 years



Dear Comrades:

We hope that this letter finds you well. My name is Don Kranz. I have the honor of serving on a committee of dedicated individuals in our community who have come together with a common goal to establish a Sioux Falls Area Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Veterans Memorial Park 1021 West Baily Street Sioux Falls.

Gold Star Families are those who have sacrificed a Loved One for our freedom in the Armed Forces of the United States. In our nation's history, there has been little done on a national scale to honor and recognize these families and their Loved Ones who have given so much for our way of life. This motivated WWII Medal of Honor recipient, Woody Williams and his foundation to create the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument program.

The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument program is a national effort designed to provide a place of permanence for Gold Star Families and the general public to gather in honor and recognition of the sacrifices which have been made for our freedom and to ensure that we never forget. This program is currently active in all 50 states and one U.S. territory with 86 monuments installed and an additional 74 monuments in progress. The impact of this program helps to raise public awareness, promote community, and most importantly support Gold Star Families and the legacy of their Loved Ones.

We invite you to be a part of helping us provide a permanent point of service and support to Gold Star Families within this community. The ground breaking will be on September 26th 2021 at 2:00pm. Please support our efforts to honor, recognize, and serve Gold Star Families and the legacy of their Loved Ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Use the QR code to visit our website to follow our project and to contribute to this cause we hold close to our hearts.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Kranz".

Don Kranz Commander
Sioux Falls Area Veterans Council
1600 West Russel Street
Sioux Falls SD 57104



****<https://woodywilliams.org/monuments/Sioux-falls-sd.html>****

OUR MISSION



THE WOODY WILLIAMS FOUNDATION is a charitable 501c3 nonprofit organization that pursues the vision of Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams to establish Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments (GSFMM) in communities throughout the country, sponsor Gold Star Family outreach programs, provide Living Legacy scholarships to eligible Gold Star Children, and to advocate for educational benefits for all Gold Star Family members.

The impact of the Foundation's work helps to raise public awareness about Gold Star Families' enduring sacrifice and the ultimate sacrifice made by their Loved One. The Foundation wishes to educate the community about these sacrifices, reminding us all that freedom has not been and is not free.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To honor, recognize, and serve Gold Star Families and the legacy of their Loved Ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This mission is pursued through three focused programs; Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, Outreach, and Education.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Initially the Foundation's goal was to establish a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in founder Woody Williams' home state of West Virginia. Once that monument was complete, a new mission became clear to Woody and those at the Woody Williams Foundation to establish these monuments in as many communities as possible in all 50 states and US territories.

The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument provides a place of permanence for Gold Star Families to gather and utilize in honor and remembrance of their Loved Ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the US Military. They are intended to achieve the following goals: demonstrate to Gold Star Families that their community cares for them and appreciates their sacrifice while also honoring the ultimate sacrifice paid by their Loved Ones; establish and



strengthen local Gold Star Family communities; and educate the general public about Gold Star Families' enduring sacrifices and the ultimate sacrifice made by their Loved Ones. As of April 2021, there are 79 GSFMMs which have been established with an additional 80 GSFMMs In-Progress spanning a footprint of 50 States and Guam.

These Monuments are a two-sided tribute made of black granite. One side bears the words: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom. The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice. At the center of this tribute is a silhouette of the Loved One who paid ultimate sacrifice in the name of Freedom.

OUTREACH

After the dedication of each monument the foundation is focused on keeping each local Gold Star Family community engaged through sponsoring and hosting outreach programs and events. Events include memorial events, 5K runs & walks, motorcycle rides from monument to monument, riverboat gatherings, school speeches, as well as events like the Gold Star Family Day at the Ball Park. These events provide opportunities for Gold Star Families to come together, honor their Loved Ones, and build a system of support while

also raising public awareness about Gold Star Families and their enduring sacrifice.

In addition to hosting and sponsoring public events, the Foundation has begun to explore and engage in additional efforts to serve and support Gold Star Families through direct outreach. Through strategic partnerships with fellow nonprofits, charitable foundations, and corporate partners, these efforts provide a range of services including everything from home improvement for those Gold Star Families in need, to therapy animal placement among Gold Star Families who can benefit from that support.

EDUCATION

Another initiative of the Woody Williams Foundation is to honor the fallen by helping their children pay for their education through the awarding of Gold Star Living Legacy scholarships. Our scholarships are provided to an underserved group who are not be eligible for the Fry Scholarship and/or DEA (Dependents Educational Assistance). Our Gold Star Living Legacy Scholarships award amount is needs-based with a maximum award amount of \$5,000 per academic year.

In addition to scholarships, the Woody Williams Foundation works to advocate for educational benefits for all Gold Star Family members. This is accomplished by working with nonprofit partners and educational institutions as well as federal and state governments.



OUR NEED: Now more than ever, we need your help. With your support, we can ensure our mission and Woody's vision is shared across the country with all Americans. Support our ongoing mission by donating at www.WoodyWilliams.org/donation-opportunities.html
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SCAN ME



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★ Contact@WoodyWilliams.org ★

SCAN ME

