

General Orders

FEBRUARY 2023



AUDIT REPORTS

AUDIT REPORTS DUE

Please send in your Audit Report for this past quarter. Remember, if the Department does not receive all 4 reports, your Post will not have voting rights at the State Convention.

LOYALTY DAY

LOYALTY DAY, MAY 1ST

Loyalty Day is on Monday May 1, 2023, and is the day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Please appoint a chairperson and forward that information to the Department office.

BUDDY POPPY

BUDDY POPPY

Post Commanders, please appoint a 2024 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward that information to the Department office. Reminder, all Poppy orders need to be in the office by April 28, 2023.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWED?

Have you paid your 2022-2023 Membership Dues yet? Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars may have expired December 31, 2022. All Officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the Annual Members. Let's get this state to 100% in membership!

District VOD/PP Winners

The District winners for Voice of Democracy:

District 1: Emily Knodel, Yankton, SD

District 4: Arriana Weston, Flandreau, SD

District 6: Grace Sargent, Pierre, SD

District 7: Jennifer Barnett, Wagner, SD

District 10: Danielle Valentine, Spearfish, SD

The District winners for Patriot's Pen:

District 1: Vera Loecker, Yankton, SD

District 4: Brooklyn Wilson, Madison, SD

District 6: Derek Johnson, Turton, SD

District 7: Killian Kummer, Parkston, SD

District 10: Leana Shumpert, Custer, SD

The Department winners will be announced on February 6, 2023, in the Moose Lodge at Pierre, SD at noon.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

STATE CONVENTION

The 2023 Department Convention will be held June 15th through the 18th 2023 in Mitchell, South Dakota at the 4-H Fairgrounds.

There are rooms booked at the Kelly Inn with a room rate for \$130 per night.

IRS FORM 990

Posts that have tax exemption status need to answer questions on pages 1, 2, and 3 of IRS Form 990. This **MUST** be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the fiscal year. Please forward a copy of this IRS Form 990 to the Department office for tracking.

Posts should have already sent in their Special Olympics donations. However, if you have not, please get that in as soon as possible. The Special Olympics Games are being held in May and the Department wants to present our Donation to them at such time.



COMMANDER / PRESIDENT RAFFLE

COMMANDER SPECIAL PROJECT

The Commander's Special Project is to donate money to Veterans Honored Interment & Veterans Cemetery Funds. Please consider donating to this special cause. You might win a rifle!!!

SEND ALL STUBS AND MONEY FOR THE COMMANDER'S RAFFLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE:

C/O Anna Arnold
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Proceeds to be applied to VFW & Auxillary
Dept. of SD 2023 Annual Raffle
No. 881

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

1 for \$20 Donation

**VFW & AUXILLARY 2023
DEPARTMENT OF SD
ANNUAL RAFFLE**

1st Prize: Henry "God Bless America" 22lr
2nd Prize: Tikka T3 Hunter - 308 Win
3rd Prize: Tristar Setter ST - 28 ga
Donation: 1 for \$20.00
Drawing to be held on June 16, 2023

Proceeds to be applied for Veterans Honored Interment & Veterans Cemetery Funds.
Need not be present to win.
* WINNER MUST LEGALLY REGISTER FOR GUN OR FORFEIT PRIZE *

No. 881

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance: Reminder, all unpaid members, lose all their VFW sponsored Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance. The amount depends on your membership status.



OFFICIAL:

Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Tom Hafner

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
FEBRUARY GENERAL ORDERS**

ATTENTION FEMALE VETERANS. A Stand Up for Women Veterans Retreat sponsored by Community Action for Veterans (CAV) is scheduled for March 11th in Sioux Falls. Contact PDC Barbara McKean for additional information. Districts and Posts are asked to reach out to their female Veterans.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will be hosting the Day of Service again this year. Contact the Department Adjutant for further details and advise Department if you have a Community Project or Mission already scheduled.

Another reminder that our Council of Administration/Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 5 & 6, 2023 at the Moose Lodge in Ft. Pierre. Please submit your Registration Forms as soon as possible. Rooms are blocked off at the Ramkota in Pierre. Committee meetings were discussed in the January General Orders. Major events include the Legislative Mixer and the introduction of all District VOD, Patriots Pen, and Teachers Award selectees along with the announcement of the Department VOD and Patriots Pen Winners.

The Legislative Committee has several Bills that are of interest to Veterans to discuss. Contact Chair Barbara McKean for additional information. Also, if you have proposed Amendments to the Department Bylaws you wish discussed contact Chair Sean Johnson.

All SOLD Commander/President Raffle Tickets and monies are asked to be turned in to the Department Quartermaster during the COA/Legislative Conference.

As a Department we are at 95%+ in membership and need approximately 350 members to reach our Quota. Retaining our Unpaid and Expired members is a top priority. Activate your Post Recruiting/Retention Teams in an effort to Retain every Comrade.

I will continue to publish Posts who have met their Quota or are Quota Busters as they deserve recognition for their achievements. As of these General Orders we have fifteen Quota Buster Posts (Lemmon-113.04%, Marty-108.33%, Flandreau-107.69%, Parkston-105.95%, Brandon-105.10%, Chamberlain-103.57%, Quinn-103.03%, Belle Fourche-102.70%, Newell-102.22%, Gettysburg-101.72%, Mitchell-101.33%, Burke-101.26%, Wagner-100.79%, Custer-100.71% & Huron-100.64%) and two Posts who have reached their Quota (Beresford & Faith). Thank you for your outstanding efforts.

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
Commander

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



SD Legislative Committee Member General Order - February 2023

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Click Below for Legislative Calendar:

<https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/documents/236418.pdf>

Click Below for link to legislative bills:

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bills/68>

South Dakota BILLS

Week of January 16-20, 2023

SB 12 - Authorize the construction of a National Guard vehicle maintenance shop in Watertown, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

SB 13 - Authorize the construction of an addition to the BG Dean Mann Readiness Center in Sioux Falls, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

SB 14 - Revise the legal description for the construction of a National Guard Readiness Center in Sioux Falls, make an additional appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

SB 15 - Accept Uniformed Services ID as proof of veteran status to have veteran designation added to a state license or ID card.

SC 801 - Honoring the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Singing Legionnaires of American Legion Post 15 in Sioux Falls.

HB 1024 - Make an appropriation for the construction of a maintenance shop for the Wildland Fire Suppression Division in Hot Springs and to declare an emergency.

HB 1037 - Amend the eligibility for admission to the state veterans' home and repeal the residency requirement.

HB 1038 - Revise certain provisions pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs and residency in the State Veterans Home.

HB 1039 - Revise certain provisions regarding the payment of tuition for members of the South Dakota National Guard.

HB 1045 - Increase the basic salary schedule for county veterans' service officers.

HB 1046 - Provide free tuition at Board of Technical Education institutions for children or spouses of members of the South Dakota National Guard disabled or deceased in the line of duty.

HB 1047 - Revise certain provisions regarding military affairs.

HB 1048 - Repeal and make technical changes to provisions regarding the Board of Military Affairs.

HB 1049 - Revise the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2023.

HB 1051 - Require counties to hire veteran service officers in proportion to the number of veterans residing in the county.

HB 1052 - Change the eligibility requirements of a property tax relief program for disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

HB 1054 - Provide a stipend for the erection of a private headstone for a deceased veteran.

HB 1065 - Increase the maximum amount of dollars payable by the state to erect the headstone of a deceased veteran.

HC 8001 - Honoring E. Royce Williams for his life, achievement, and heroism as he is awarded the Navy Cross.

HCR 6003 - Encourage the Executive Board of the Legislature to authorize the interim legislative study of long-term care services for veterans regardless of disability ratings and to develop long-term care plans for VA-operated purchased and subsidized long-term care services.

The VFW National Legislative Priorities will be released approximately Feb 27, 2023. The 2023 Priority Goals are attached.



2023

PriorityGoalsBrochu

Our Legislative Conference is in Pierre, SD on Feb 5-6, 2022. We celebrate our Departments Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners and take them on a tour of the Capital Building and Governor's Mansion. We follow that with a luncheon and award presentation. We end this Conference with a Legislative Mixer with South Dakota's Politicians.

v/r,
Barbara McKean
National Legislative Representative - South Dakota

Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost - including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million veterans who are not currently enrolled in the VA.

The VA has submitted an interim final rule to the federal register to establish this authority

under section 201 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. The final policy, which takes effect on Jan. 17, will allow VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30-days of inpatient care and 90-days of outpatient care.
- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.
- Determine eligibility for other VA services and benefits.
- Refer eligible individuals for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergency suicide care.

Eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24-months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100- days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

Over the past year, VA has announced or continued several additional efforts to end Veteran suicide, including establishing 988 (then press 1) as a way for Veterans to quickly connect with caring, qualified crisis support 24/7; proposing a new rule that would reduce or eliminate copayments for Veterans at risk of suicide; conducting an ongoing public outreach effort on firearm suicide prevention and lethal means safety; and leveraging a national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign, "Don't Wait. Reach Out."



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

South Dakota

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VFW MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE FEBRUARY 2023

Department Commander Tom Hafner has issued a statewide challenge to all VFW Posts and Districts!

This month, we are focusing on Membership growth. Each Post or District will receive \$10.00 for every 1% increase in Membership for the month of February, up to \$50.00!!!

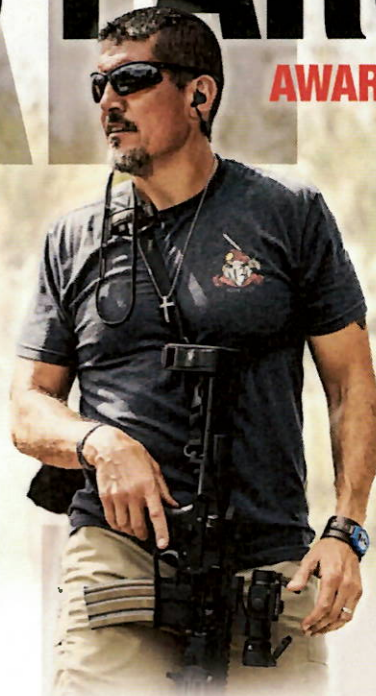
In order to qualify for this award, the Post or District must be able to show at least a 1% increase in total Membership numbers. That means getting out there and recruiting new members and retaining our existing ones!



TANTO

KRIS PARONTO

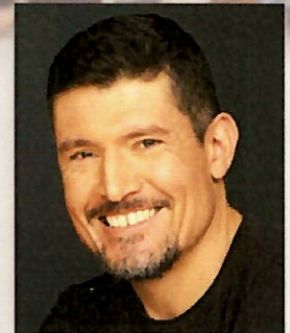
**AWARD WINNING AUTHOR
AND SPEAKER**



**FRIDAY
MARCH 3
2023**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5PM
EVENT STARTS AT 7PM**

**HELD AT: THE ALLIANCE,
1600 W. RUSSELL ST., SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104**



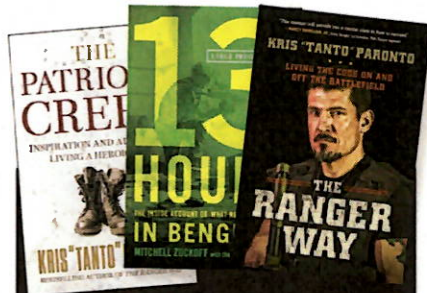
KRIS "TANTO" PARONTO

Inspiring Hero of the 2012 Benghazi Attack & Subject of the Book and Major Motion Picture, 13 Hours Kris Paronto—"Tanto" as he is affectionately known in security contracting circles—is a former Army Ranger from 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment and private security contractor who has deployed throughout South America, Central America, the Middle East and North Africa. He also worked with the U.S. Government's Global Response Staff conducting low profile security in high threat environments throughout the world.

Paronto was part of the CIA annex security team that responded to the terrorist attack on the U.S. Special Mission in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, helping to save over 20 lives while fighting off terrorists for over 13 hours. Paronto's story is told in the book 13 Hours, written by Mitchell Zuckoff and his five surviving annex security team members, and in the 2016 major motion picture of the same name.

Crucible of Crisis: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Sharing lessons learned from the attacks in Benghazi and other deployments in some of the most hostile environments around the world, retired US Army Ranger Kris Paronto provides insight on how to persevere, lead, stay focused, and make strategic decisions in the midst of chaos and severe trials. From the combat field to business environment, Kris shares why effective collaboration, preparation, accountability and training of the mind and body puts us in a better position to turn adversity into opportunity and establish a "Never Quit!" mentality.



**PRE-SIGNED BOOKS
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE:**

- 13 Hours
- The Patriots Creed
- The Ranger Way

** Limited quantities available*

*Scan the code
to purchase
your ticket
today!*



TICKETS:

GENERAL SEATING: \$25 | RANGER PACK: \$50
**(RANGER PACK INCLUDES FLOOR SEAT, CHOICE
OF ONE BOOK PLUS MEET & GREET WITH KRIS)**
LIMITED MEET & GREET SEATS AVAILABLE!

Support Today's Veterans and Military

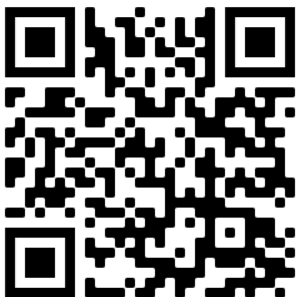
Please contact or visit your congressional representatives and stress that these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 118th Congress. These priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. To find your congressional representatives, visit vfw.org/ActionCorps.

Play a Role in the Process

Engage and help us ensure that these priority goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts:

- Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps
- Text "VFW" to 50457*
- Scan QR Code below

*Messaging and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Reply HELP and STOP to unsubscribe.



View the VFW's [privacy policy](#) and [terms of use](#).

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



Delivering the promise to our veterans, service members, and their families.



2023 PRIORITY GOALS



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Tel: 202.543.2239

VFW
National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Tel: 816.756.3390

www.vfw.org

Budget

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Properly implement comprehensive toxic exposure legislation.
- Review and assess military toxic exposures, and ensure health care and benefits are provided to all toxic-exposed veterans.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Reinstate pre-decisional review authority for claims representatives prior to final rating decisions.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.
- Crack down on predatory claims providers.
- Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits for survivors.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation.

Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, Congress, VA, DOD, and DOL must:

- Require oversight of transition assistance program pathways, timely attendance, and connections to community transition resources.
- Ensure equal access to pre-discharge claims assistance across the services.
- Mandate the inclusion of accredited representatives in transition assistance briefings.
- Expand transition services for spouses.
- Ensure parity of VA and DOD education programs with other federal programs.
- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, child care stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Enhance outreach and counseling to veterans eligible for the Veteran Readiness and Employment program.
- Expand small business and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.
- Expand preferences and tax incentives for hiring veterans and military spouses.
- Fund and track outcomes for career-focused training programs.
- Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.

Health Care

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA, and DOD must:

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide to zero.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Expand geriatric extended care services, nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.
- Improve VA's prescribing and deprescribing practices.
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.

- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Ensure Affordable Care Act parity and access for VA and TRICARE users.

Military Quality of Life

To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force, Congress and DOD must:

- Eliminate sexual assault and harassment from the military.
- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life and support programs.
- Eliminate forced arbitration clauses in contracts for service members.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Ensure military family members are gainfully employed.
- Eliminate food insecurity in the military.
- Establish the Armed Forces University.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve component service members.

National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA

To fully support service members, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world, Congress and DOD must:

- Preserve the all-volunteer force.
- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission.