

General Orders

FEBRUARY 2025



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 Thursday, May 1, 2025, 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 2026 Buddy Poppy Chairperson and forward that information to the Department office. Reminder, all Poppy orders need to be in the office by April 28, 2025.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWED?

Have you paid your 2024-2025 Membership Dues yet? Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars may have expired December 31, 2024. All Officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the Annual Members. Let's get this state to 102% in membership!

Department VOD/PP Winners

VOD Winners

- 5th place: Tucker Wrage, District 4, Madison #2638
- 4th place: Thomas Long, District 10, Belle Fourche #3312
- 3rd place: Fallon Rich, District 7, Scotland #2966
- 2nd place: Audrina Klimisch, District 1, Elk Point #915
- 1st place: Evelyn Ernst, District 6, Eureka #5126

PP Winners

- 5th place: Brayden Woods, District 7, Winner #4674
- 4th place: Ciera Stevens, District 6, Huron #1776
- 3rd place: Hadley Walker, District 10, Custer #3442
- 2nd place: Case Hulscher, District 4, Watertown #750
- 1st place: Rozlyn Adamson, District 1, Yankton #791

The VOD / PP Winners were announced at our Legislative Conference in Pierre on January 13th, 2025.

The Teacher Winners are:

Elementary: Shalena Zeller, District 1, Brandon, Post #4726

Middle School: Rachel Halsey District 6, Huron, Post #1776

High School: Alex Toupal, District 1, Yankton, Post #791

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

STATE CONVENTION

The 2025 Department Convention will be held June 19th through the 22nd 2025 in Pierre, South Dakota at the Ramota. Please call 605-224-6877 to start making reservations.

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 T*A*P*S, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. This is a national organization for all those grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one.

Please send in all stubs and money to the Department as soon as possible.

<https://www.taps.org/>

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

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.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold
Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Glynis Collier
Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



Hello Heroes,

January hosted our Legislative Conference in Pierre, SD. We had a very successful legislative mixture and welcomed NCM Bobby Tettleton from Idaho. An AAR will be presented to the membership in the near future. NCM Tettleton sent his comments for our AAR. I will publish them.

We continue to do well regarding membership. Way to Go Team.

The Rapid City Stock Show is happening now! We could use some help at our booth.

We have an upcoming National Inspection this month. I will be in Sioux Falls for the duration.

I will be attending the National Legislative Conference March 2-6, 2025.

Please welcome Sidney Reimers as our new assistant in the State Office. Her job description was written as an “executive assistant”. I’m not sure why. Our ADJ/QM is an “Administrative” position NOT an “Executive” position. Executives normally have 18 years of formal education and receive six figure salaries. I will work on having that corrected.

As always, I am honored and humbled to be working with you ALL as your Commander this year. I am always available to talk to if you need a supportive and understanding ear.

“One Team, One Fight!”

Very Respectfully,
//Original Signed//
Glynis Collier
State Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
dakpatriot@gmail.com
803-466-7031

February 2025 – General Orders – Sr Vice Commander, Martin Christensen

During the month of January:

1. I attended the Legislative Conference in Pierre. I helped review the budget for the Department. I assisted in looking for a financial way to hire an assistant to the Adjutant for the Department of South Dakota. I then helped support a motion to hire an assistant for the Department during the COA meeting. I set up an organized a meetig on Monday during the conference to have our Jr Vice present on membership and the Department Service Officers present current information on benefits and answer questions. I assisted with the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen families and in delivering the winners essays. I also visited with many legislative representatives – especially for the support of HB-1038. I supported the Senate Bills associated with Ellsworth AFB.
2. Conducted raffles at County Fair in Mitchell for the Commander and an M-1 Garand for Post 2750. During the raffle sales, we recruited 5 new Lifetime Memberships.
3. I visited Sioux Falls Post 628, Watertown Post 750 and Brookings Post 2118.

4. I assisted District 7 Commander - Dennis Pense, Adjutant for District 7 – Merrit Stegmeier, and the District 7 Quartermaster for District 7 – Jay VandenHoek to complete dashboard requirements and preplanned the upcoming District 7 meetings. Mid-winter meeting is February 16 at 2pm in Armour SD, Spring meeting is April 6 at 2pm in Scotland SD.
5. Assisted with recruiting and fundraising at the Rapid City Stock Show.
6. I'm working on preparing for the next command year by finalizing coins, pins, shirts and coordinating with next year's Department of SD Auxiliary President.
7. Completed installing addition Museum Cabinets and completed basement renovation for VFW Post 2750 in Mitchell.

During the month of February:

1. I plan to attend the American Legion Mid-winter Conference 14-16 February in Oacoma. I will coordinate plans for Memorial Day 2025 and 2026 at the National Cemetery by Sturgis. I will make a presentation to organize and plan the Mid-Winter conference in Mitchell SD.
2. I will attend the VFW District 7 Meeting 16 April 2025 at 2pm at the Community Center in Armour SD. We've invited our Department Quartermaster/Adjutant and Department Service Officers to present on benefits.
3. I will be preparing for the Sr Vice training session in Kansas City during the month of April.
4. I will make arrangements to visit the Yankton and Aberdeen Posts.

February General Orders

What a nice break from winter we are having. I hope everyone is well and healthy

The goal of the Department is to get to 102% again this year. That is also the number needed to be eligible for both All-State and All-National. We are currently 4th in the nation for membership at 97.06% (current as of 1 Feb). I want to thank everyone for continuing to push hard on membership.

I briefed membership at the Legislative Conference. The big thing that we are missing at every level in the state is corporate sponsorship. There are many entities out there that donate lots of money to non-profit organizations and we are not taking advantage of that. At a local level, we need to be working with local businesses to sponsor a meal or event and then give them time to speak to our veterans. Community partnership will help our organization grow. It will also help reduce the costs of events. This is something every post should consider.

Thank you again for all your efforts this year.

Rick Vanden Hoek

Junior Vice Commander

General Orders

State Judge Advocate

There are 2 main books for how we conduct business. Those are:

1) VFW Congressional Charter Bylaws & Manual of Procedure Ritual

2) Roberts Rules of Order

You don't need to memorize manuals but you need to be able to find the information that you need.

Be ethical and have the integrity to do the right thing.

Dale Greenfield

State Judge Advocate

Comrades,

It was great to see everyone in Pierre last month for the Legislative Conference. Keep in mind that we all need to keep track of what our state is trying to do and take away when it comes to our Veterans and military members. Ensure you contact your representatives, so they know our Veteran voice. Currently we have recruiting going on at the Stock Show in Rapid City.

Kat Pyka

Department Surgeon

Rushmore Post 1273

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

In January, several conditions were added to the PACT Act with two different effective dates. As of January 2nd, 2025, the conditions of urinary bladder, ureter and related genitourinary cancers took effect. As of January 10th, 2025, the conditions of acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas and myelodysplastic syndromes and myelofibrosis will be effective. The following veterans will be eligible for these conditions based on time and location of service.

- **GULF WAR VETERANS:** Veterans who served in Somalia or the Southwest Asia theater of operations (which includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations) during the Persian Gulf War on or after August 2nd, 1990.
- **Post-9/11 Veterans:** Veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Uzbekistan and the airspace above these locations during the Gulf War on or after September 11, 2001. This includes Veterans who served at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) base in Uzbekistan after September 11, 2001.

As with previous PACT Act conditions, you need to have a current diagnosis of the condition and show that it is a persistent, on-going issue. If you already have a claim going for any of these conditions, you need to let the claim go through the process. There are several possibilities of effective dates if you do get a grant on a current claim. It could be granted as of the date of claim. It could be granted as of the date of diagnosis if later than claim date. Lastly it could be

granted as of the date that it became effective as a presumptive in the PACT Act. Get with a VSO to go over the decision to ensure the correct date was used. If you were previously denied any of these conditions, see a Veterans Service Officer and file a supplemental claim with the new evidence as the PACT Act update. If you file a supplemental claim on the previously denied condition, the effective date will NOT go back to the original file date. The earliest it would go back is to the date the condition was added to the PACT Act.

We are still seeing people trying to request increases on conditions that are already at their max percentage. You can file on your own but I highly suggest you see your Veteran Service Officer first so they can go over your conditions and see what may be eligible for increases and see what should be left alone. Remember, a condition can just as easily be reduced as it can be increased. You can also contact myself or DJ if you have any questions.

Remember to reach out to our fellow Veterans and see how they are doing. Everybody should have a battle buddy and no one should fight alone.

Respectfully,

David Huntimer

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