

General Orders

MARCH 2025



MEMBERSHIP QUOTA

MARCH MEMBERSHIP

All State and District Officers are asked to assist Posts in membership. If your Post has not had a membership team working, now is the time to help organize and join in on the recruiting of members.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

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Post Donations to the Special Olympics Fund are requested to help with the 2025 Special Olympics Program. Please be generous and donate to the Department Headquarters. Thank you to those Posts who have already donated.

STATE CONVENTION

JUNE 19-22, 2025

The 2024 Department Convention will be held June 7-9, 2024, in Spearfish, SD hosted by Post #5860.

To make reservations at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, please say you are with the VFW State Convention.



POST ELECTIONS

Attention is called to Section 217, page 72 & 73, Manual of Procedure, Nomination Election, Installation of Officers and Term of Office. Posts will conduct the Election of Officer in accordance with the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Post Officers shall be nominated by March and shall be elected in April. Nominations shall remain open until the Post is ready to vote.

Commander/President Raffle

The Commander Project for 2025 - 2026 is a raffle to support



PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY

MEMORIAL DAY

The Peace Officer Memorial Day will be held on Wednesday May 15th, 2025. The United States Flag shall be flown at half-mast until noon on this day.

Memorial Day is on Monday May 26th, 2025. Each Post shall properly observe commemorative dates as prescribed in the Ritual and Manual of Procedure. Please plan a suitable observance in your community. Place American Flags at the gravesites of departed Comrades of your Post and Veterans of your Community. Please report this event when finished on the State Dashboard.

Any Post, District, or member can submit information to the General Orders. Please send to the Department office NLT than the 25th of the month.

Registrations for State Convention coming soon! In the meantime, please reserve your rooms at the Ramkota in Pierre, SD from June 19-22, 2025. 920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD 57501 605-224-6877

Buddy Poppy: Post Commanders, Reminder, all Buddy Poppy orders need to be made by April 30, 2025, to count in All State Post ratings. Each Post must order at least 500 Legacy Poppies OR 500 Tin Tap Poppies.

SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District #1: April 27, 2025, at 1:00 pm - Yankton; SVC Christensen

District # 4: April 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm - Watertown; CMDR Collier

District # 6: April 13, 2025, at 1 pm - Redfield; SVC Christensen

District # 7: April 6, 2025, at 2 pm - Scotland; SVC Christensen

District # 10: April 13, 2025, at 1 pm - Spearfish; CMDR Collier



Installation of Officers: Attention is called to Section 217, page 73, The Post Commander-elect will select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander. Post officers shall be installed in their respective offices prior to the convening of the Department Convention, but shall not assume their duties until the Department Commander is installed. The installation may be conducted publicly at an open meeting.

Side note: On the 1st of June, if you have not submitted your Election Report, you will receive a letter from the Commander-In-Chief suspending your Post. At such time, the Department Commander will issue a follow-up letter and establish a committee to oversee Post business. All Post business must be overseen by the established Committee which includes any meetings, disposition of property, financial transactions, etc. PLEASE submit your Election Reports in a timely manner. March - Nominate, April - Elections, May - Installation, June - take office when Department Commander does.

National Citations: To qualify for the National Citations that are presented at the Department Convention, Posts must have reported projects in each of the following programs: Youth, Safety, Community Service and Citizenship Education (Americanism). This information needs to be reported on the State Dashboard for National by May 1, 2025, and submitted to Department SVC Christensen by April 15, 2025.

Sydney Reimers

Hello!

My name is Sydney Reimers, I am from Brandon Three Rivers Post #4726. I am a member of the VFW Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary in Brandon. I grew up in a military household with my dad being in the U.S. Marine Corps for 12 years and later being involved in the VFW in Brandon.

My father, Luke Reimers was the previous post commander of Three Rivers VFW post from 2021-2023. I am a graduate of Brandon Valley High School, class of 2024. I graduated from Brandon Valley High School in 2024. During high school I was a member of the state powerlifting team in 2022,

President of the Best Buddies Program and a member of the track throwing team. I am currently working on getting my EMT certification and will be attending school for Firefighting & Paramedic training fall of 2025. I enjoy spending time volunteering and helping others. I currently Volunteer at the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, and at the Three Rivers VFW Post. I enjoy helping Veterans and those in need and am proud to continue helping Veterans just like my dad did and my mom continues to do. I am the proud daughter of an United States Marine and am honored to be able to work for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota and continue his legacy of supporting Veterans.



Sydney is pictured on the left. Welcome Sydney, the new assistant at the Department office working with Quartermaster & Adjutant, Anna Arnold

OFFICIAL:



Anna Arnold

Quartermaster / Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
VFW

BY ORDER OF:

Glynis Collier

Commander
Department of South Dakota
VFW



Hello Heroes,

February 2025 has been a busy month. I attended the Rapid City Stock Show for 3 days at the beginning of February and assisted District 10 with their Membership Drive. I'd like to thank D10CDR Griffiee, Spearfish Post CDR Bessler, SVC Christensen and State Surgeon Pyka for leading the way during this membership drive. We collected \$3400.00 in raffle ticket sales for the CDR/President Special Project.

I attended the Pierre Post 2038 Membership Drive at the Farm and Home Show February 22-23, 2025. Pierre gained one Life Member, received \$325.04 in Buddy Poppy donations and sold \$1300.00 worth of raffle tickets for the CDR/President Special Project. Thank you Post 2038 members for all of your hard work and support!!!!

District Commanders please contact your individual posts and ask them to send in their CDR/President raffle ticket stubs and money to ADJ/QM Arnold as soon as possible. Thank you!

The State Dashboard is in need of updates. District Commanders please contact your individual Post Commanders and Quartermasters and direct them to update their respective portions of the State Dashboard nlt than March 7, 2025. Also, please ensure all of your past due post and district audits are emailed or mailed to ADJ/QM Arnold by March 7, 2025. Thank you!

I attended the Department Inspection on February 24-25, 2025. I invited SVC Christensen to attend because he is our incoming state commander and requires situational awareness of all items that were inspected. It was a very positive experience! Thank you, ADJ/QM Arnold and Ms. Reimers, for all of hard work preparing our department for the inspection which resulted in a very positive outcome!

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

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

General Orders March 2025 - SVC Martin Christensen

During the month of February, I attended the American Legion mid-winter conference to work on future planning and coordinating VFW and American Legion conventions, so they do not overlap. I also made plans to attend Memorial Day services at the National Cemetery in Sturgis so we can plan the services hosted by the VFW at the National Cemetery in 2026. In addition, I put a proposal to have the mid-winter convention in Mitchell in 2029. I also helped plan and organize District 7 mid-winter meeting with Commander Dennis Pense and his staff. After attending the Legislative Conference, I have continued to work on the bills - especially HB 1076 and HB 1038.

Every Post and District should continue to work on membership. As of 25 February 2025, District 1 is at 95.18%. They need 115 members to reach 102%. District 4 is at 97.5%. They need 50 members to reach 102%. District 6 is at 102.7% - congratulations! District 7 is at 100.1%. They need 18 members to reach 102%. District 10 is at 97.75%. They need 84 members to reach 102%. They Department SD is at 97.83%. They need 291 to reach 102%. We have until June 30, 2025 to make 102%. Let me know if I can help your Posts and Districts with recruiting in any events you have planned. Mitchell will be working at the County Fair in March and May. We need to continue to work to support our commander and our membership chairman to make this a successful year.

Elections will be coming up in April for all Posts and Districts. Nominations should be opened for our leadership during our March meetings. I plan to visit Districts 1, 6 and 7 Spring meetings. Be sure to get your election reports turned in immediately after your election in April. They should go to the Dept SD and National VFW.

Loyalty Day is coming up in May. You should submit your committee chairman and your plans to Dept SD. Also in May, each Post should submit a plan to National VFW for a Day of Service around May 3. Also, you should have your mayor complete a proclamation for your Post.

I helped coordinate with Anna and Glynis to complete our first Department inspection on Feb 25, 2025. We passed the inspection with some minor general recommendations. We should congratulate Anna who did most of the prep work for a successful inspection.

I will be attending the Sr Vice training in Kansas City April 10-13, 2025. I'm also continuing to plan for my command year. I have selected my coins, pins and shirts and am planning for the Dept Convention in June 2026. I'm also looking forward to planning our Fall Conference and Legislative Conference for 2026. I look forward to your support for the upcoming Command Year.

I will be working with Glynis on her committee to plan her State Convention and our transition for next year.

I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention June 19-22, 2025.

V/R

Martin Christensen, Dept SD Sr Vice Commander

General Orders March 2025

Junior Vice Commander

Another month has come and gone. We have 4 months left to continue to recruit. We have slipped a bit to number 6 with 97.93%. We need 284 more members to get to 102%. Only 2 departments have reached 102% at this time. We are doing well but need to keep recruiting.

With the weather warming, it is time to start thinking about a Day of Service. This is a requirement to be an All-American Post. I hope that all posts are looking at what they can do for their community. It is a good team building event and a way to get recognition in the community. Community support keeps our posts going.

Please keep an eye out for any Action Alerts from the VFW. There is some critical legislation going through at the national level and an administration that wants to make cuts. Cuts should not be made on the backs of veterans. We need to use our voices to ensure our Representative and Senators hear what we need.

Rick Vanden Hoek

Junior Vice Commander

General Orders

State Judge Advocate

In reference to a question that I received about bylaw changes:

The Department of SD bylaws have the process that bylaw amendments are accomplished see below:

It would be nice to have the bylaw change request before Fall Council or Legislative Workshop so the bylaw committee can discuss.

Congressional Charter

Sec. 502 - Bylaws.

The Department Convention may adopt or amend Bylaws governing the Department as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure, provided such Bylaws do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Manual of Procedure

Sec. 502 - Bylaws.

Copies of Bylaws, including amendments, adopted by a Department shall be forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, through channels. No Bylaws or amendments adopted by a Department shall become effective until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief or their designee for compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Department of South Dakota Bylaws

ARTICLE 18 AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. These Bylaws may be Amended at any regular session of the Department Convention by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, providing a thirty-day (30) notice to the Department is given from those listed in Section 2 of this Article so the Department can give a twenty-day (20) notice, including the subject, of the proposed Amendment has been given to the Posts in the call for the meeting. No Amendments shall be effective until the same has been forwarded through channels and approved by the Commander-in-Chief.

SECTION 2. Amendments to the Department Bylaws may be proposed by any member in good standing, any member of the Council of Administration, the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee or any District or Post chartered by the Department of South Dakota provided the proposal meets the notice requirements outlined in Section 1 of this Article.

SECTION 3. Wherever these Bylaws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with the present or any future National Bylaws, the latter shall prevail and be binding upon this Department as though written herein.

Dale Greenfield

State Judge Advocate

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

What a roller coaster month both in weather and in government. Let's hope the warm weather is on the way and clearer guidance comes on Veteran's concerns.

Let's touch on the first topic that everyone is concerned about. The current word from the White House is that Veteran's Benefits will not be touched. What they are looking at is the Federal workforce. Currently they are saying that essential positions within the VA system are not affected. Some positions that were previously remote tele-work are being told that they will have to come back to working within an office. There are some stipulations that some may still work from home. So, the big take-away is that no one really has a solid answer yet of what is going to happen for sure or how it will look when the time comes. Again, at this time there is **NO PLAN TO CUT VETERANS BENEFIT PAYMENTS**.

There are several bills going through the State Legislature, that have already been brought up, that can affect some benefits of Veteran's within our state. I am not telling you which way to support but I will say make sure you make an informed decision and read through the bills in full.

There have been a lot of questions on education benefits that go along with the changes in MGIB, Post 9/11 Bill and Chapter 35 benefits. The best answer to give you is to apply for the benefit. If you have passed your education benefit to your dependents, have them apply. Even if you believe that you have used all your benefit that is available, you may now have additional benefits available to you. They will then send an eligibility letter stating whether you have eligible benefit left. These two sites will be helpful in explaining some of the changes.

[Impact of Rudisill Supreme Court Decision on Veterans' Education Benefits - Education and Training](#)

[Impact of Rudisill Supreme Court Decision on Veterans' Education Benefits - Education and Training](#)

The VA will be doing away with My HealtheVet and ID.me. They will be going to VA.gov. This site will be a one stop site. You will be able to make and track appointments, refill prescriptions, get your disability and benefit letters and track any claims along with other options. You will need to set up an initial log-in if you have not done so yet. The below link will help.

[VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs](#)

Claims are continuing to be filed at high volumes. Current wait times on claims can be up to a year and a half. The best way to shorten this time and get a positive claim back quicker is documentation. Make sure you have all your supporting documents, statements, and medical records ready to go with the claim. Even if statements are not required, they can really help get a positive claim with a higher rating. A big one, is make sure that your condition that you are requesting is diagnosed in your medical records.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself, DJ, or your local County/Tribal VSO.

Respectfully,

David Huntimer

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VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement Centenarian Recognition Program



CDCE

VA Center for
Development & Civic
Engagement



Frequently Asked Questions



Q. What is the CDCE Centenarian Recognition Program?

A) This is a special initiative to honor American Heroes, our Veterans who are turning 100.

Q. How did this program begin?

A) Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie began this project in November 2020 and Secretary McDonough has continued the program.

Q. Who can nominate a Veteran to be recognized?

A) Anyone can nominate a VA enrolled Veteran through your local CDCE office.

Q. What is provided to the Veteran?

A) Secretary letter and coin.

Q. How long does the process take from start to finish?

A) Approximately 4 weeks from your requested date.



Requested Information



The following information must be e-mailed to CDCE to place your request:

- **Veteran's Name:** Jane Q. Smith
- **DOB:** 5/28/23
- **Address:** 111 Veterans Way, Anytown, GA 11111
- **Phone Number:** (000)000-0000
- **Military Branch:** Navy
- **Military Occupational Specialty (MOS):** Diesel Mechanic
- **Years of Service:** 3
- **Period of Service:** February 1943 to June 1946 / World War II
- **Next three upcoming appointments:** August 1, 2023, August 12, 2023, November 15, 2023

Interesting Facts:

Jane Q. Smith spent most of her time in pacific aboard the USS Enterprise. She was awarded the Purple Heart. She continues to give back as a VA volunteer.

- **Facility Point of Contact, Name, Phone Number and Address (This is where the letter/coin will be mailed and must be a physical address)**

HELP DESK

for

ID.me Account Assistance

March 10, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. AND 1:30 p.m.

Sioux Falls VA Auditorium

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System is hosting a HELP Desk for Veterans needing assistance with the ID.me changes.

Requirements:

- Email address **NOT** used with another person's ID.me account
- **MUST** have access to the Email provided at the event
- Smart Phone
 - Must be a U.S. number NOT international, U.S. territories, or Google Voice
- 2 forms of identification (driver's license, social security card, or VA ID)



Help Desk

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg, or perhaps another sort of inner steel—the soul's alloy forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking. What is a vet?

A vet is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

A vet is the barron loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th Parallel.

A vet is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

A vet is the POW who went away one person

and came back another—or didn't come back at all.

A vet is the drill instructor who has never seen combat-but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account punks and gang members into marines, airmen, sailors, soldiers and coast guardsmen and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

A vet is the parade-riding Legionnaire who

battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

A vet is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket-palsied now and aggravatingly slow-who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

A vet is an ordinary and yet extraordinary human being, a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country

and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

A vet is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say, "Thank You." That's all most people need and, in most cases, it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU."

THANK YOU

pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

A vet is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

A vet is the three anonymous heroes in the Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the

The Authorship of this article is attributed to Marine Corps Chaplain Father Dennis Edward O'Brian.