

DANNY FRISBY-GRIFFIN
SD STATE CDR
PROVIDING
TOP
COVER
2018-2019
PRES MARY KIRKVOLD

DANNY FRISBY-GRIFFIN
SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE COMMANDER
PROVIDING
TOP
COVER
2018
2019
RECRUITER

South Dakota
Overseas Veteran

Website: www.vfwsd.org
PROVIDING TOP COVER

April/May/June 2019

The Official Publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota

Vol. 75 Issue 4

“Providing Top Cover” is what air superiority fighters do. Ensuring the battlefield has freedom of movement and our forces don’t have to worry about an air attack. In this case, providing top cover so our current veterans, as well as future generations, have the tools, resources and benefits they so richly deserve and often require.

South Dakota Proud of Accomplishments in D.C.

National Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C. VOD Parade of VOD Winners



VOD Parade of Winner was held with Department VOD winner, Sierra Hillard from Spearfish High School. She was escorted by State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and State Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold. Sierra Hillard came 13th in the Nation, VERY PROUD OF HER! The Pat Pen winner was also from Spearfish and came in 20th in the Nation, again VERY PROUD OF HIM!

District 10 Sweeps the VOD /PP Scholarship Program



VOD and PP Winners, Sierra Hillard and Calister Grimsley displaying their first place plaques. Left to right, State Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold, VOD first place winner, Sierra Hillard, District 10 Auxiliary President, Regis Gillespie, PP first place winner, Calister Grimsley and State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin.

Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars Announces Final 2019 South Dakota VFW Youth Scholarship National Results

On March 4, 2019, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. proudly presented \$209,000 in scholarships and awards as it named the national winners of its annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen youth scholarship competitions. The winners were announced during the Parade of Winners ceremony at the 2019 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Together, the VFW’s Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen scholarship competitions have helped foster patriotism by challenging middle and high school students to examine our nation’s history, its democratic processes, and their roll in America’s future based on an annual theme.

More than 40,000 high school students addressed this year’s “Why My Vote Matters” theme, and last night Christine Troll was named the Voice of Democracy first place national winner where she received the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship award and delivered her winning essay. Troll, a senior, was sponsored by VFW Post 554 and its Auxiliary in Somerset, PA.

The Department of SD Voice of Democracy winner, Sierra Hillard, from Whitewood, S.D., was awarded the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship (CA). Our Patriot’s Pen winner, Calister Grimsley, from Spearfish, S.D., was awarded the \$1,000 Charlie H. Adamson, Jr. Memorial Award & Joseph A. Scerra Memorial (Dept. of Massachusetts) Award (combined). Both Sierra and Joseph were sponsored by VFW Post 5860 and its Auxiliary in Spearfish, SD.

See page 10 for winning essays.

— YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP NATIONAL RESULTS, continued on pg. 9

VA Partners with DHS

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) recently announced its partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to bolster veteran suicide prevention initiatives.

VA and DHS, the third largest federal employer of veterans in the U.S., with veterans representing approximately 20 percent of its workforce, share the goals of improving veterans’ health and well-being and increasing veterans’ access to mental health services and support where needed.

The two agencies will work together to spread awareness of mental health and VA suicide prevention resources among DHS veteran employees and to explore innovative ways to enroll DHS-employed veterans in VA care. These opportunities include highlighting VA programs and resources in DHS newsletters or emails, or leveraging the nationwide network of VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators to encourage outreach to local and regional DHS offices.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, we are extremely proud to be working with DHS to prevent veteran suicide,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Our two agencies are committed to ensuring that veterans receive the care they need, and this landmark partnership will allow

— VA PARTNERS WITH DHS, continued on pg. 9



Learn more about the VFW’s programs and services at www.vfwsd.org



VFW at a Glance

Origins: In 1899, the American Veterans of Foreign Service (Columbus, Ohio) and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines (Denver, Colo.) were organized to secure rights and benefits for veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. VFW was chartered by Congress in 1936.

Membership Eligibility: Those serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in a foreign war or overseas operation recognized by a campaign medal, in Korea after June 30, 1949, and recipients of hostile-fire or imminent danger pay. Veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and other smaller expeditionary campaigns, as well as occupation duty, qualify.

(1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Dick Pickering, Editor
EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letter column and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies.

We ask that you keep your articles brief. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of South Dakota or the National Organization.

South Dakota Overseas Veteran
USPS 503-160

Periodical postage paid at Sioux Falls and additional mailing office (ISS No. 7462859)

Send changes of address to:
Overseas Veteran
5009 W. 12th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
POSTMASTER:
to *Overseas Veteran*
at Publisher's Office:
5009 W. 12th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Official Publication of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars
Published: Jan./Feb/March, April/May/June, July/Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov/Dec
at American Publishing LLC
Greendale, WI 53129
Jenny DeBack, President

Send news copy by the 1st prior to each publishing Month:

Dick Pickering, Editor
404 Dogwood
Brandon, SD 57005
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Ken Payne, Department Publications Chairman
38486 252nd St.
Plankinton, SD 57368

Commander's Report

Danny Frisby-Griffin



Greeting Comrades,

Spring is just around the corner but I can't see it with all the snow we've gotten this winter. We also get to spring forward with our clocks. This is a great reminder to not only change the batteries in your smoke detectors but reach out to all your veterans to ensure they survived the winter and all the snow. There are a lot of activities coming up we need to get ready for including the process

of electing our next leaders at all levels across the Department of SD VFW. Please encourage new members to come to meetings, events, luncheons, coffee or whatever it takes to get them involved directly helping our veterans and communities.

We sent out emails to all District Commanders, District Membership Captains and Department Line Officers emphasizing membership. However, we need each of you to be a part of our membership team! We are falling further and further behind the goals set by the Commander-in-Chief. We cannot do this alone, it takes a team to provide top cover!

As of 2/27/2019, we are sitting at 90.01%. This is well below the goal of 92% by 12/31/2018. So, here is what we need everyone to help with. Please contact your Post Commander, Post Membership Captain or Quartermaster for the names, addresses, phone number or email of every unpaid member in your post. We need to get in contact with these members and have them come in and pay their dues because the next milestone is

97% by 3/31/2019. They can either drop it off at the Post or Department Headquarters, mail it in or go to vfw.org and hit the RENEW button on top of the page.

We are 909 members short of 100% and have 705 unpaid members between our posts and the Department at large! All of you that said you were behind us this year, well we're calling in the chip! We're asking each of you to help us, help the department, and ultimately, help the National organization to achieve 100%-Plus for the first time since 1992! Can we count on you?

I'll be visiting with our Commander-in-Chief while in DC during the National Legislative Session and VOD/PP Awards Program the first week of March. We had a very exhaustive discussion in February concerning membership and I fully expect the conversation on what and how we are doing to be discussed in more detail since we're currently in 51st place out of 52 departments. Thank you for all you do for veterans and their families every day!

The latest 89th Convention schedule, ads form, poppy display and registration information were included in the March General Orders. The latest information can always be found our **new** website; <http://www.vfwsd.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=63286>.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
Danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

Sr. Vice Commander's Report

Sean Johnson



Year End Report

Hello Comrades It is quickly approaching the end of the year and many things will be happening in at a fast pace to wrap it up. But we still have many things to do and accomplish. We have Community books to put together, we have Loyalty day programs and reports due. We also have Special Olympics coming up.

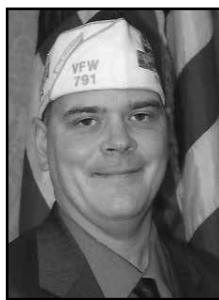
We have many programs that come up this time of

the year. I believe in the posts and each one of you please help your posts accomplish these tasks.

I need each of you to dig deep and help with recruiting the last members to reach 100% **I also Need Comrades to help recruit at Sturgis Bike Rally in August You can stay the whole time or just a couple of days however you want we just need the help recruiting. If you can help call Ken Moss 605-580-7799 or Sean Johnson 605 228 1636.** I hope to see you at the State Convention we can all catch up there look forward to it!

Jr. Vice Commander's Report

Cody Mangold



Greetings Comrades,

This will be my last time writing to you as the Jr. Vice Commander as the year has almost come to an end. All year we have been talking about membership and we will continue to talk about membership for years to come. Why is membership so important in the VFW? Without the members in the VFW we would not have the care we do at the VA, have the East side Veterans Cemetery coming to light, and most importantly a voice both

in Washington, DC, and in Pierre, SD. All of these things matter because without our joined voices we would not be able to receive these things. Unfortunately, these things come down to the numbers. The more numbers we have the more voices we have. I encourage all of you to continue to work on membership this year, and also next year. This year it has been very difficult, but I know you all have been doing your best to continue to recruit great individuals such as yourself to this great organization. This year has definitely been a learning experience. Going to the Jr. Vice Commander training in Kansas City, the Big 10 Convention in St.

Louis, and in May the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. I want to personally thank everyone for giving me this great opportunity, and honor through your trust. I have announced my candidacy for Sr. Vice Commander and would like to ask for your support in this next level. I know this year I have pushed membership, and sometimes I feel like I have pushed it through your throats, but I would also like to recognize the other great programs that the VFW has to offer. It is amazing to see that the VFW offers the Voice of Democracy, Teachers of the Year, Public Servants of the year, Scouts of the year, community service (and its projects), and hospital and safety. All of these make the VFW who we are as we recognize others for their efforts and we become involved in the communities to assist others. This is amazing and we should all be proud! Again I want to thank you all for this great honor of being the Jr. Vice Commander this last year, and I will continue to advocate for the great Veterans of the Foreign Wars.

Yours in Comradeship,
Cody Mangold
Jr. Vice Commander

NEWS & PUBLICATION, VFW –Post –Pride: by Editor Dick L. Pickering

Look for VFW/AUX pride www.vfwsd.org This quarterly South Dakota Overseas Veterans publication, District/Posts newsletters and you will see examples of the hard work and support that have made VFW Posts and its Auxiliary in communities for more than 117 years. Many programs/projects and services designed to help service members, veterans and their families, when you think of the voice for veterans – you think of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Everyday, we're on Capital Hill and out in communities across this state ensuring your voice is heard – that your story is being told. If you want to know what is being done, here's the chance to read about everything we've been busy working on. Deadline for the next issue of the SDOV is March First, Two thousand and Nineteen. As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to dickp.signs@gmail.com or vfwsd@aol.com



Membership

It's one thing, to conceive a good plan,
and another, to execute it.

State & District Membership Standings
2018-2019

District 1, 87.89%; District 4, 90.38% District 6, 91.73%
District 7, 93.19% District 10, 96.30%
Department Total: 90.95% - 823 to be Quota

State Judge Advocate's Report Barbara McKean



I want to encourage all veterans eligible for the VFW to try and attend your posts next monthly VFW meeting. If you've been on the fence about joining a post, now is the time to reach out and see what we are all about. The VFW as an organization is only as strong as our numbers represent! Every veteran matters - YOU matter! Now is the time to get involved, we need you!

There is so much happening in the State of South Dakota like the annual recruiting event at Sturgis, our new veteran's cemetery in Sioux Falls, our presence at the upcoming National meeting this year in Orlando, FL. Get out and visit your SD Veterans Home located in Hot Springs! South Dakota has three Veteran Cemeteries, Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, Fort Meade National Cemetery in Sturgis (closed burial space) and Hot Springs National Cemetery in Hot Springs (closed burial space). And so much more...

The project for the Sioux Falls Cemetery is under way, they are accepting donations for the project. You can donate at <http://www.sfvfw.org/>.

Support SD VFW Baseball! Season will be under way soon, get out and represent us in your local communities and at the games! Did you know there is a VFW Memorial Park and Chapel near Sturgis? It has 10 campsites with water, 30

and 50-amp electric service at each site. If interested, contact DD Couch 605-673-4661 to get your spot reserved during the rally only!

You can check out upcoming veteran events on the SD Department of Veterans Affairs at <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/upcomingevents>. In addition to events, there are links for resources available to veterans, benefits and so much more!

If for any reason, you're not happy with your town's post, reach out to your neighboring town's post. **Be the change you want to see happen!** Help your post grow and succeed! We can help. We want you to belong to a military support family, like the VFW can provide.

Spring is right around the corner. It is time to start getting ready for Loyalty Day, Memorial Day, VFW State Convention in Madison, July 4th, VFW Baseball, our VFW National Convention in Orlando. It is not too early to start planning activities for these events!

I also want to announce my intent to run for Jr. Vice Commander for next year! It has been my honor to serve you in the role of State Judge Advocate and if elected, I will continue to work hard for all veterans as your Jr. Vice Commander. If I can be of any assistance, please call or email me. Thanks!

Barbara McKean
State Judge Advocate

Quartermaster/Adjutant Report Darwin G. Tolzin



BLUE WATER VETERANS AND AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE

There are many of us in the South Dakota VFW that are holding on to hope that we will finally get satisfaction that we indeed were exposed to Agent Orange and should have restitution for health problems related. The bill is closer than ever now to getting passed and for sure has the total support of the

Commander-in-Chief BJ Lawrence.

Up to now these Blue Water Veterans, who did not set foot in Vietnam or serve aboard ships that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, must show on a factual basis that they were exposed to herbicides during military service to receive disability compensation for disease related to Agent Orange exposure. These claims are decided on a case-by-case basis. Veterans who stepped foot in Vietnam or served on its inland waterways anytime between these dates are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides

when claiming service connection for diseases related to Agent Orange.

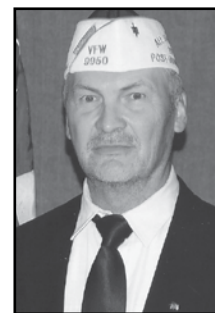
Exception: Blue Water Veterans with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma may be granted service-connection without showing inland waterway service or that they set foot in Vietnam. This is because VA also recognizes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as related to service in Vietnam or the **waters offshore of Vietnam** during the Vietnam Era.

We all know that, especially aircraft carriers, landed aircraft contaminated that were washed down and guess where the residue from the aircraft went. On to the deck and into the water. We walked on the deck and made all our water from the Gulf of Tonkin.

Surviving spouses, dependent children and dependent parents of Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and died as the result of diseases related to Agent Orange exposure may be eligible for survivors' benefits.

The passage of the bill will for sure be a victory for all those Veterans and probably 50 years overdue. We cannot thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their efforts at every level of management.

State Chaplain's Report Mike Boxa



Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

The final Qtr. of the year is upon us. What great Legislative Conference the Dept. completed. A thin crowd with weather and illness. The awards breakfast was fantastic and reminded me of some of those early morning Commander Call meetings in the Air Force.

The Sr. Vice (Sean) asked me to take the Chaplain position for the upcoming year. I said I would, in fashion of Past State Commander and Chaplain Jerry Heggstad, "for another year, I'll do the praying!"

We enter in the season of Spring. I get great joy in the newness of the time and the recollecting of the scriptures in my daily Bible reading. **Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.** My mother's pasture is bare, the hay field is low, and the grain field might have a sprout. All of a sudden, the heat kicks in and the Lord replenishes the earth with the melting snow, and the pasture grass shoots up, the alfalfa blooms, and the grain field climbs. Throughout the warmer working and waiting days, you try to take care of the land and not abuse it. The Lord takes care every time. I see the season the Lord created when things grow and rise.

It is astonishing how some want to disclaim the Saviour being risen. The disclaiming started 2000 years ago. **Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.** Did you notice the word **ERROR**. Oh dear, these error full people make 18 false accusations against an innocent man in the middle of the night, have some people carry out the death penalty, and then the last error is, you proclaim NO one can rise from the dead, (the sin of death.) I do know Nicodemus helped Joseph of Arimathea bury the Lord and took great care. Nicodemus tried his very best, it seems, to disassociate from these **ERRORFULL** people.

During this Resurrection season, and the season of spring when we notice things grow, reflect upon God's Word. The last few verses of **1 Corinthians 15, 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

Prayers Always - Warm Regards,
Mike Boxa



WHY JOIN THE VFW - VFW and its Auxiliary strives to do great things for deserving individuals - our veterans, their families, and their communities. From local grassroots ideas to national influences, we work everyday to make a difference. It's our strength as an organization. And, with each additional membership we only grow stronger. Every eligible veteran should consider becoming a member of this elite org. **Our Mission:** To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country. **Our Core Values:** Always put the interest of our members first. Treat donors as partners in our cause. Promote PATRIOTISM. Honor military service. Ensure the care of veterans and their families. Serve our communities. Promote a positive image of the VFW organization. Respect the diversity of veteran opinions.

National Council Member D.D. Couch



The National Legislative Report 2019, Washington, D.C. March 2-7

Arrivals started on March 1, 2019. Attendees from the South Dakota delegation were Department Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin from Madison, Department Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold from Sioux Falls, National Legislative Chairman Russel Dramstad from Huron, Department Adjutant/Quartermaster Darwin Tolzin and his wife Jean from Brookings, Department VOD/Pat Pen and Teachers Chairman Keith Blume from Custer and D.D. Couch National Council of Administration from Custer.

March 2, 2019 National Committee on Appeals and the Time and Place Committee meet with no appeals. The Time and Place Committee business was to bring to the National Council Meeting the Cities proposed for the National Convention in 2023 and 2024. Foundation dinner was held at 7:30 p.m.

March 3, 2019 started with the National Foundation Board Meeting at 9 a.m. Awards and Citations Committee meeting was held at 10 a.m. also the Time and Place Committee meet at 10 a.m. Life Member Committee meeting followed the Foundation Meeting. 11 a.m. the Student Veterans of America meet for an hour. At noon, the National VFW staff had their meeting. 5:30 p.m. the National Council had their workshop to iron out their priorities for the next day business session. 8:00 p.m. Commander in Chief had his Open House for all Department Commanders.

March 4, 2019 started with Student of American at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., also National Veteran Service Advisory Committee meet at 8:30 a.m. till done. 10 a.m. Budget and Finance Committee meeting gave knowledge that the budget so far this year looks to have extra money in the area of seven figures left again. At 1:00 p.m. all attendees were in session to go over the VFW Priority Issues to bring before their respective States Congressional Members. Priority Issues they were;

- A. Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, to include restoration of benefits for Blue Water Veterans, correct the presumptive disability compensation dates for Korean DMZ veterans, provide spina bifida benefits to the children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange in Thailand
- B. Veterans Health Care, to include aggressive oversight of the implementation of the VA Mission Act of 2018, suicide prevention outreach and education, research on medical cannabis, counseling and provider training for sexual assault assistance, remove the VA co-payment requirements for preventative medicine, Passage of the Deborah Sampson Act to improve health care for women veterans and expand eligibility for VA nursing homes for all veterans enrolled in VA health care systems.
- C. Burn Pits, to include passage of legislation to require VA to make much needed improvements to the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, provide veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan the care and benefits they need to cope with pulmonary health conditions that are associated with exposure to burn pits, passage of H.R. 663 or S. 191 the Burn Pit Accountability Act which would improve how DOD tracks, treats and prevents the harmful impact of burn pits, establish and properly fund independent research on the impact of burn pits.
- D. Concurrent Receipt, to include Passage of H.R. or S. 208 the Retired Pay Restoration Act which would enable disabled veterans retirees to concurrently receive the retirement pay and VA disability compensation they have earned and deserve without offset, Passage of H.R. 553 the Military Surviving Spouses Equality Act which would honor the sacrifices of our nations heroes by ensuring their survivors are able to maintain a modest quality of life without having to unjustly offset their benefits.
- E. Transition, to include reopen TAP in the community programs for veterans, provide grants for private organizations that specialize in transition, open pathways for veterans to connect with community and veteran organizations in their hometowns while still on active duty and conduct oversight to ensure that DOD is adhering to the timetables prescribed by law.

Monday at 2:30 p.m. the National Council of Administration meeting was held and started by ritual, all 63 council members were present and 17 past National Commanders were present. Military Order of the Cooties, Commander Emil Soltesz gave a shout out to attendees. Report on Budget and Finance was given by Chairman Tim Peters stating audit committee found no problems with finances. Time and Place committee presented their recommendations for National Convention to be 2023 Columbus, Ohio and National Convention in 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky motion was approved. Quartermaster General Debra Anderson that the National Council of Administration at its August 2018 meeting asked for a complete wage and salary report by an independent firm to see if the VFW is comparable to other corporations our size. The report came back that the VFW is very comparable to others of our size, no action taken. One red flag was the current per diem is low for travel of approved members by the National Organization. Motion to adopt the federal government per diem rates by the National VFW was approved. Retirement plan for National employees was gone through, no action. Committee on Awards and Citations Chairman Gary Kurpius reported on all votes if the National Council, they were approved by the Council. Reports by National Adjutant General Kevin Jones and Executive Director of the Washington Office were presented. The National Veteran Service

Advisory Board was given with no action. Old business yielded some discussion with no action along with new business. Went back to old business with topics by Quartermaster General Debra Anderson on 1099 rules, travel policy and NCA expense form, Motion to combine the disaster relief and emergency fund was approved. Good of the Order brought some discussion on how well the information is flowing to all levels of the organization. Closing remarks by Jr.



Left to right, Russell Dramstead, Keith Blume, Senator Mike Rounds, Danny Frisby-Griffin, D.D. Couch and Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Tolzin.

Vice Commander Hal Roeschm Sr. Vice Commander Doc Schmitz and National Commander B.J. Lawrence, closing by ritual.

6:00 p.m. the VOD Parade of Winner was held with Department VOD winner Sierra Hillard from Spearfish High School. She was escorted by State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and State Auxiliary President Mark Kirkvold. Sierra Hillard came 13th in the Nation, very proud of her!! The Pat Pen winner was also from Spearfish and came in 20th in the Nation, also very proud of him!!

Tuesday, March 5, sent us to Capitol Hill to first meet with Senator Mike Rounds at 9:00 a.m. We had a very good report from him on all aspects of Veterans affairs he himself works on everyday. He is a GREAT ADVOCATE FOR VETERANS IN SOUTH DAKOTA! We were with him for about 45 minutes. Our delegation then went to the VFW National Office Building in D.C. for a tour. Our tour lasted around an hour and a half, with very good input from our delegation. There are 75 employees in the D.C. office with the major part being Veteran Service! Our next meeting was at 2:30 p.m. with Senator John Thune. Senator Thune was very attentive to the topic we presented. He has been a very good veteran advocate for years. We were with him for about 45 minutes.

Wednesday, March 6, started at 10 a.m. with the VFW Commander in Chief's testimony at Dirksen Senate Building Room G50. The testimony is before the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee, which Senator Round is a part of. There were over 500 VFW/Auxiliary members from across our 50 states, Europe and Pacific areas in attendance. Each and every priority goal was in the testimony and very well presented by VFW Commander in Chief B.J. Lawrence. Once the testimony was finished, there were questions asked by each representative member of the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee. Very well presented and very well received. The Joint Veterans Affairs Committee is the most bipartisan committee in the National Committee.



Left to right, Darwin Tolzin, Russell Dramstead, Senator John Thune, Danny Frisby-Griffin, Mrs. Tolzin, Keith Blume and Darold Couch.

3:30 p.m. we met with Representative Dustin (Dusty) Johnson. We were able to introduce what the VFW Priority issues going forward are and he was very receptive to all issues. He was very interested in the VFW coming on an annual basis to D.C. with the VFW Priority Issues. Dusty has a lot of energy and do believe he will be a great asset for South Dakota in the future.

5:30 p.m. was the Legislative Reception at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. Finger food and refreshments were served. The program consisted of the 2019 News Media Award presentation went to Leo Shane of Military Times Duty Editor for the endless information presented in Military Times of the many issues confronted by active duty, veterans and their families on a daily basis. The 2019 Congressional Award went to Senator Johnny Isakson, R-GA. Ranking member of the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee. His acceptance was a very humbling story of two different friends and their deaths to America's causes.

That ended the Conference for 2019. There was great success with South Dakota's Congressional Members again this year. It is very refreshing to be heard when presenting the Priority Goals of the VFW!

Yours in Comradeship,

Darold D. Couch

National Council of Administration 2015-19



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**WE SUPPORT
OUR VETERANS**

Veterans Affairs Secretary



Greetings,

I look forward to traveling across South Dakota and meeting all of you.

As you know, I was recently appointed Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs by Governor Noem. My first two months in office have been focused on legislative session, the State Veterans Home and the State Veterans Cemetery.

The Department monitored many pieces of legislation, but only introduced three bills this session –

- House Bill 1007, revised certain provisions regarding the exemptions from the twelve-month residency requirement for university students;
- House Bill 1206 made an appropriation to continue the veteran's bonus program; and
- Senate Bill 155 authorized two additional nursing beds for the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

We are thankful all these bills received great support from our legislators.

Prior to my recent appointment, I served as the military and veterans service representative for Congresswoman Noem and served full-time in the South Dakota National Guard. During my 39 years of service in the Guard, I deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In April I will begin traveling across the state and meeting with hundreds of partners we work with to enhance the lives of our veterans and their families. Hopefully our paths will cross.

The Department continues to work with the National Cemetery Administration and numerous colleagues to ensure our state veterans cemetery project meets all timelines and milestones in working toward its completion.

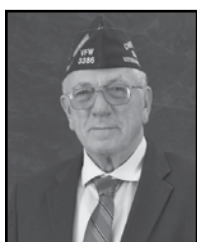
We are in the process of securing data that outlines where transportation is not available for veterans for hospital and clinic appointments. Moving forward, we will work with national, regional, state, county and local partners to see what resources are available to fill voids that are identified.

At the State Veterans Home, we continue to work to grow our wait list for the Home and our efforts to recruit and retain staff, a challenge that is nation-wide.

Please always remember, no matter where or when our veterans have served, they've always served with distinction. Service to country is a bridge over which more than 38 million Americans have passed during time of war. It was built on courage, dedication and patriotism—keystones in our American way of life. America's Veterans have earned and deserve our respect and appreciation for their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families. And so, we have the duty and obligation to meet the responsibilities and challenges of providing veterans the very best care and service possible. For us it's more than a duty; it's a privilege.

Greg Whitlock, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

National Chief of Staff of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Appointed



Jerry W. Herker was appointed National Chief of Staff of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 25, 2018, at the 119th VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

He served in the United States Air Force from March 1963 to June 1990, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. In recognition of his service, he received the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one silver oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal, among others.

Jerry joined the VFW in 1997 at Post 3386 in Airway Heights, Wash., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served as Commander at the Post, District and Department levels, and most recently served as the Post Chaplain from 2015 to 2018. On the national level, he served on the Council of Administration from 2012 to 2016.

He worked for GSA Fleet Management as a fleet service representative from 1990 to 2006. He is now retired.

He is a life member of Disabled American Veterans and a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Jerry and his wife, Pati, reside in Medical Lake, Wash.

National Chief of Staff to attend Department Convention

Commander-in-Chief Vincent B. J. Lawrence has designated Jerry Herker, National Chief of Staff, to represent the national organization at your Department Convention, June 13-16, 2019, in Madison, South Dakota.

VOD /PP /Teacher of the Year Summary

VOD Program, Participation and Summary - 31 Posts, 29 Auxiliaries, Students, 1036, 53 advanced. Post Awards - \$4,140.00, District Awards - \$2,722.00, Department - \$1,050.00, Total - \$7,912.00. Expenses: Posts - \$1,040.00, Districts - \$280.00, Department - \$3,297.00, Total - \$4,617.00. Grand Total - \$12,529.00.

Patriot's Pen Program, Participation and Summary - 29 Posts, 28 Auxiliaries, Students - 1841, 85 advanced. Post Awards - \$4,773.00, District Awards - \$1,956.00, Department - \$500.00, Total - \$7,223.00. Expenses: Posts - \$1,149.00, Districts - \$393.00, Department - \$2,429.00. Total - \$3,971.00. Grand Total - \$11,194.00.

Teachers of the Year Program - 9 Posts, 9 Auxiliaries, 16 Participating Schools. Expenses: Posts - \$850.00, Department - \$300.00, Other expenses - \$1,207.00. Total \$1,507.00. Grand Total - \$2,367.00

Keith Blume
State Chairman

South Dakota Patriot's Pen Awards Program

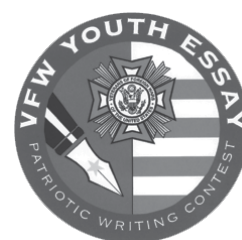
First Place Award is the "Glen McFarland" Award and is sponsored by the family in his memory. Glenn was a dedicated volunteer of the VFW programs and held the position of Chief of Staff in 1998-99. The recipient of this award received a \$250.00 cash award and a specially designed plaque and more presented by the VFW Department of South Dakota and it's Auxiliary. This year's recipient of this award is Calister Gimsely of Spearfish, sponsored by the Spearfish VFW Post 5860 and its Auxiliary, District 10. See Page 11 for his first place essay.

Second Place Award is the "Daryl & Loretta" Award. Daryl and Loretta were very dedicate to the Patriot's Pen Program in supporting patriotism to our youth. Under the continued support and leadership of Past State Commander Daryl and his wife, Loretta, this program has grown to a higher level as it is today. The recipient of this award is Luke Gapp, Vermillion, Sponsored by Vermillion VFW Post 3061 and it's Auxiliary, received \$100.00 cash award and a specially designed plaque and more by the VFW Department of South Dakota and it's Auxiliary.

Third Place Award is a \$50.00 cash award and a specially designed plaque and more by the VFW Department of South Dakota. This year's winner is Benjamin B. Gough, Aberdeen, Sponsored by the Aberdeen VFW Post 17, and it's Auxiliary.

A special thanks goes out to Ted "Frog" Kroger for his annual generous donation of \$1,500.00 to the VOD/PP programs. With these funds, the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary are able to assist our districts with funds for the cost of bringing their District winners to the perspective award presentations.

2019-2020 Themes



Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen theme:
"What Makes America Great"

New Director at Sioux Falls Vet Center

Heather Bailey has been named the director of the Sioux Falls Vet Center.

Heather was born and raised in South Dakota, obtained her BS in Psychology from South Dakota State University and MSW from the University of South Dakota. She completed both an undergraduate and graduate internship with the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center and worked as a full time social worker at the VA Medical Center for four years in the Mental Health Service Line in various roles as part of the Homeless Team.

Prior to working at the VA Medical Center, Heather worked for ten years at a local non-profit agency providing therapy and other outpatient mental health services to individuals with developmental disabilities, severe mental illness and addictions.

Heather's father served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam and she has many other relatives and friends who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Military.

She is proud to be supporting the Vet Center's mission: We are the people in VA who welcome home war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment counseling in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their community.

Heather's contact information is as follows: heather.bailey@va.gov and 605-330-4552.



Highlights Around South Dakota VFW



2018-19 Student Essay & Teacher of the Year Awards



State Competition District Winners

VOD/PP/Teachers of the Year District Winners 2018/2019 Award Placement, Top Three



Patriot's Pen: District 1, Second Place - Luke Gapp, Sponsored by Vermillion VFW Post 3061; District 4, Madelynn Storm, Sponsored by Watertown VFW Post 750; District 6, Third Place - Benjamin Gough, Sponsored by Aberdeen VFW Post 17; District 7, Jack Anderson, Sponsored by Winner VFW Post 4674; District 10, First Place - Calister Grinsley, Sponsored by Spearfish VFW Post 5860.



Voice of Democracy: District 1, Henry Heilberger, Sponsored by Brandon VFW Post 4726; District 4, Third Place - Sara Hemmingson, Sponsored by Webster VFW Post 4690; District 6, Allyson Boomsma, Sponsored by Huron VFW Post 1776; District 7, Second Place - Rose Eitermiller, Sponsored by Wagner VFW Post 7319; District 10, First Place - Sierra Hillard, Sponsored by Spearfish VFW Post 5860.



Attention Teachers!

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2018-2019 (<https://www.nassp.org/news-and-resources/nassp-approved-student-programs?SSO=true>). We thank all of America's teachers and youth leaders for the time, effort and commitment they invest in our young people each year. We have a number of ways in which to assist you in helping ensure your students get a head start on their future.

Teacher of the Year: Jill Haberman, Scotland School K-5, Sponsored by Scotland VFW Post 2966; Michelle Storms, Winner Middle School, 6-8, Sponsored by Winner VFW Post 4674; John Vogel, Aberdeen Central High School, 9-12, Sponsored by Aberdeen VFW Post 17.



Thank You Note from VOD 1st Place Winner

The Voice of Democracy program is an incredible opportunity for high school students. I enjoyed every minute of the process, from my local post level to Nationals in Washington, D.C. At Nationals, I met other students from diverse backgrounds and made new friends along the way. Beyond the action-packed trip to Washington, D.C., the scholarships and new computer were incredibly generous. Returning from Nationals, I have an expanded appreciation for the history of our country and the veterans who have fought for our freedom. Thank you, VFW for giving students the opportunity. I will treasure the experience as I head off to the US Air Force Academy in June.

– Sierra Hillard

VOD first place winner, Sierra Hillard and South Dakota Governor, Kristi Noem.



Sierra Hillard, South Dakota State "First Place Winner" for VOD Scholarship Award Program on stage for a photo with National Auxiliary President Sandi Kriebel and National VFW Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence.



Row 1 - State Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold, National Auxiliary Representative, Carla Jean Martinez from the Department of Utah; State VOD Winner Sierra S. Hillard, State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin. Row 2 - State VOD/PP/Teachers of the Year Chairman Keith Blume; National Council Member, SD/Representative for the Legislative Conference, Darold D. Couch; State Chaplain/Scholarships/District 4 President Wanda Mix.



Sierra S. Hillard, State first place VOD Winner and announcing of an Appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin, past graduate of WEST POINT Academy.

Highlights Around South Dakota VFW



Complete Tour and Cookies of the South Dakota Governor's Mansion with Governor Kristi Noem, Center, State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and State Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold.



Auxiliary Annual Silent Auction, Chairman Gerri Dahlin, Sandy Meisenhelmer stated there was 68 items to bid on, totaling \$1,247.00. The live auction netted \$475.00. Collected funds are used to finance the Convention projects.



National Representative Darold D. Couch, State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin, Chairman Keith Blume, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, State Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold, National Auxiliary Representative Carla Jean Martinez, State Auxiliary Chaplain Wanda Mix, during the Governor's Mansion Tour. This was very much appreciated by all, during the busy schedule of the Governor.



The Department Chairman for the Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home for Children conducted a new contest for the Auxiliary this year, which was held in Pierre during Legislative Session in February. The rules were explained in every General Order since National Convention 2018 that there would be a Buddy Poppy Poem Contest. Rules were: you had to be a South Dakota VFW member. It had to be at least 50 words long and not more than 150 words. As a result, 16 poems were received throughout the state of South Dakota. They were judged by a retired school teacher in Sioux Falls. Pictured is first place winner Deb Fahey of Pierre, Department Auxiliary Poppy Chairman, Gerri Dahlin of Beresford, and second place winner, Pam Gillespie of Canton. Read the winning poems on page 9.



Special Project Quilt Raffle Winner

Ms. Kim Mertz of Bismarck, displaying the quilt she won of the Commanders Special Project Raffle. See page 11 for more information.



Past State Commanders pictured left to right, Gary Knudson, Russell Dramstead, Donald Dahlin, Mike Mullen, Ted "Frog" Kroger, William Barlow, Arnold Heggstad, Darold Couch, Rick Williamson. Dick Pickering taking the picture.



District 10 Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary members presented wreaths. Eugene Embrey and Barbara Embrey (Post & Auxiliary 3312), Nancy Worth (Auxiliary 2730), Kay Rypinski and Leroy Cekalla (District 10 Auxiliary Sr. Vice President and VFW District Commander), Beth Hendricks and Dave Van Cleave (Auxiliary President & Post Jr. Vice Commander 1273).



State Auxiliary President, Mary Kirkvold, National Representative Carla Jean Martinez, National Hospital Ambassador/National Council Member, Vickie Rosse, during the Legislative Conference Banquet in Ft. Pierre.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Dept. of South Dakota

Auxiliary Home: We are the nation's oldest veterans' service organization auxiliary. For more than 100 years, we have been serving veterans, the military and their families in countless ways.



*Millions of hours, millions of dollars and millions of tributes
This is Who We Are*



VFW Auxiliary members are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat. Through our National Programs, we assist the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. With more than 4,000 Auxiliaries, there is likely one in your area working to improve the lives of America's uncommon heroes.

Auxiliary State President's Report

Mary Kirkvold



I was elected South Dakota Department President of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at the State Convention in Sioux Falls, June of 2018.

A Life Member of John M Bliss Post 628. I joined under the eligibility of my Dad who served in the U. S. Army in WW11.

Since joining I have served in several capacities. In 2009-2010 I was President of our Auxiliary, I was awarded

Outstanding President and Captain of 54 Auxiliaries, at the State Convention in Custer. I served as President of District 2 for 2 years, Then I was elected as Department Guard.

I am VAVS Rep. for Royal C. Johnson VA Hospital here in Sioux Falls. The first Thursday of each month I take goodies and quarters up to play Bingo with the Veterans.

I am a Life Member of the VFW National Children's Home, as well as a Member of Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary (MOCA).

I am blessed with a Daughter and 2 Sons. 7 Grandchildren, and 1 Great Granddaughter.

I would like to thank my Department Auxiliary for having the confidence in me to elect me for Department President.

I have enjoyed the traveling I've done. My most Memorable I must say is Gettysburg, in Pennsylvania and Washington D. C. However, I am looking forward this week to go to Midwinter Conference in Tucson Arizona, and get out of this COLD WEATHER. We definitely have a Great Nation!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mary Kirkvold
SD Dept. President

Auxiliary Sr. Vice President's Report

Sandi Moss



Happy Spring!! I pray we are well into spring/summer when you read this. Winter held on forever!! State Convention will be here shortly. Working with Commander Danny and President Mary has been a pleasure. I know that our Auxiliaries and Posts have done well this year and will be winning lots of honors. Commander Danny's leadership has

been **'Providing Top Cover'**, and President Mary has had all of us taking **'Hats Off to Veterans!'**. Our attitudes at this time should be excellent and ready to finish this year off with honors!!

Our Legislative Conference in Pierre was excellent as were our Voice of Democracy Winner and our Patriot's Pen

winner. They both placed well in National competition. The program for our coming year will be really great. The titles for both of the competitions are the same!! It will be wonderful to hear the ideas of these two age groups. The theme for 2019-2020 is **"What Makes America Great?"**

I want to say "Thank You" to all of the Auxiliaries, individuals and Districts that donated funds for our new State Banner. President Mary put me in charge of raising money for our State Banner. Our Treasurer ordered the Banner. We should have our new Banner for the State Convention in Madison. Please plan on attending State Convention. It is the time to honor our Brothers and Sisters who have been working our programs all year. We still have time to bring in more members, it is never too late. No one does more for Veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary! New members help revitalize us and keep

us strong so that we can keep all of our programs going at full strength.

It has been my pleasure to be Senior Vice President for this wonderful organization this year. I am running for State President at the State Convention in June, it is the final step as a Line Officer for the State Auxiliary. If I am elected I am looking forward to the challenge of working with all my Brothers and Sisters, continuing our great work, doing more for Veterans than anyone else!! See you in June!

Thank You for all you do to help our Veterans and their families. God Bless the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary and God Bless the United States of America.

Loyally,
Sandi Moss
Senior Vice President 2018-2019

Auxiliary Jr. Vice President & Membership/Leadership Chairman's Report

Donita Mullinix



Snow snow go away, I've had enough of winter days. Soon, the National Mid-year Conference in AZ will be here, and those of you going will have a nice break from the cold. I wish you all a safe and fun trip, and please bring back some warm weather.

Our Auxiliary year is 3/4ths over. We still have time to collect member's dues that have lapsed. Remind them that even though they are still a member, they are not a member in good standing. We need

their help and we need their membership. It is so vital in supporting our Veterans. Our Veterans need to know we are behind them 100%. Even though we are on the Auxiliary side of this organization, our numbers count. Our numbers added to the VFW numbers shows Congress that we mean business when it comes to fighting for Veteran's rights. We want the Congressional Representatives to listen to what we have to say when the VFW goes to Capitol Hill to state our concerns. Now is the time, to contact those lapsed members. Have your Auxiliary do a calling tree, each member call one or two people, or suggest an Angel Gift. An Angel gift is where your Auxiliary helps someone in need to pay their dues. There is

still time for recruiting new members. Our 3rd quarter goal is 55 new or reinstated members by April 30. I know, if we all work toward getting one new member, we will make it.

Year-end reports will be due soon, so look them over to make sure you have done all that is required. If you've missed something, you still have a little time to get it done. I would like to Thank You for all your hard work and Thank you for all you do for our Veterans.

Loyally,
Donita Mullinix
Jr. Vice President, Membership Chairman



VFW Auxiliary-
Department of
South Dakota
@DeptofSDVFWAux

**UNWAVERING
SUPPORT FOR
UNCOMMON HEROES**

Ready to Join the VFW and its Auxiliary?

Contact any member or stop by your local Post for additional information or visit us on the web at www.vfwsd.org

Buddy Poppy Poem Contest First Place Poem

The Buddy Poppy

by Deb Fahey

To honor the dead by helping the living
This affirmative maxim signifies giving
The Buddy Poppy emblem is a small red flower
Symbolizing bloodshed at the darkest hour
Assembled by veterans for comrades in need
Contributions for poppies are a benefit indeed
In providing the essential assistance and above
To active military, needy veterans, and their families with love
Whilst they continue to spill blood for our freedom each day
The little red flower, our Buddy Poppy, will stay!

Buddy Poppy Poem Contest Second Place Poem

Display Proudly A Buddy Poppy Flower

By District #1 President, Pamela D. Gillespie

I will proudly thank those brave men and women
all standing as one, to service our country,
on land, in the air and at sea.
For freedom they fought, for liberty they died
to give freedom to others, remember with pride.
Remember our living veterans,
Remember our fallen veterans,
from every war every day,
So wear a buddy poppy flower
along life's way.

VFW and Working with the Media

South Dakota's VFW Posts are among the best in the country when it comes to community service and assisting our veterans, but how are you getting that word out? Do people in your community KNOW who you are...And not confuse you with other organizations? We don't always like to 'toot our own horn.' However, by spreading the word about WHAT we do and WHO we serve, we bring the opportunity to serve even more.

Auxiliary Department of South Dakota 2018-2019

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VA marks Suicide Prevention Month in September with 'Be There' campaign

Initiative urges communities to support at-risk Veterans through simple actions

WASHINGTON — To mark Suicide Prevention Month this September, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is shining a light on effective ways to prevent Veteran suicide with its Be There campaign.

The campaign highlights the risk factors and warning signs for suicide, provides information about VA mental health and suicide prevention resources, and helps individuals and organizations start the conversation around Veteran mental health in their communities.

"In our various communities, everyone is in a position to make a difference for a Veteran who may be at risk for suicide," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, who recorded a video about VA's strategies to prevent Veteran suicide. "A common misconception is that you need special training to talk safely about suicide risk or show concern for someone who is in distress. One simple act of kindness could help save a life. I encourage everyone this September, and beyond, to take the first step in acting as that support system."

Talking with a Veteran about mental health or suicide risk may be challenging, but VA encourages community leaders, colleagues, family and friends to simply "Be There" by sharing messages of support that can help show a Veteran you care. VA has also collaborated with community partners and is asking individuals across the country this month to share resources with Veterans in their lives via the BeThereForVeterans.com webpage.

Veterans in crisis or having thoughts of suicide — and those who know a Veteran in crisis — can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text to 838255.

Cootie Corner



Greetings you Lousy Cooties,

This will be my last time writing you all as the Grand Commander as I will be hanging my hat up this year. My 2 years have been very lousy getting to know as many Cooties as I could. All 3 of the Pup Tents have been busy this year doing their hospital work, and getting to know as many Veterans as possible.

The best part of being a Cootie is seeing the smile on the Veterans face when you come to see them and spend a little bit of time talking to them. Even if you're not a Cootie I encourage you to get out and talk to some Veterans in the nursing homes, hospitals, and those that don't really get out. They do enjoy the time. The Grand Scratch is coming up on us very quickly and it will be May 10th and 11th at the Yankton Post. The registration forms will be sent out to the Pup Tents with all of the details. If you do not receive a copy please let me know and I will get you one. Thank you for this opportunity this past 2 years.

Keep 'em smiling in Beds of White,
Cody Mangold Commander Grand
605-770-1030
cody.mangold@hotmail.com
1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066

— YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP NATIONAL RESULTS, continued from pg. 1

"Raising today's youth to be patriotic, civically minded Americans is vital to ensuring a prosperous future for our nation," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "The VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions help mold today's students into the strong and great leaders we'll need tomorrow. We believe the nearly \$3 million presented in national and local scholarships and awards this year will help open doors to a bright, promising future for these young people and America."

In addition to taking home a college scholarship, all 53 Voice of Democracy state winners were surprised to learn they would also take home a new laptop, courtesy of Dell. Dell representatives Kelsy Parks, senior strategic account manager and Aron Waisman, senior manager of business development were on hand to present the laptops.

Also present at the ceremony was 2019 Patriot's Pen first place winner Daniel Rodriguez. Sponsored by VFW Post 2066 in Nogales, Ariz. Rodriguez received the all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., where he accepted a \$5,000 award and delivered his winning essay on this year's theme, "Why I Honor the American Flag."

— VA PARTNERS WITH DHS, continued from pg. 1

us to leverage the strengths of both organizations to reach more veterans and save more lives."

Talking with a Veteran about mental health or suicide risk may be challenging, but VA encourages community leaders, colleagues, family and friends to simply "Be There" by sharing messages of support that can help show a Veteran you care. VA has also collaborated with community partners and is asking individuals across the country this month to share resources with Veterans in their lives via the Bethereforveterans.com webpage.

Veterans in crisis or having thoughts of suicide — and those who know a Veteran in crisis — can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat or text to 838255.

MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 27, 2019



Voice of Democracy Winning Essay “Why My Vote Matters”

By Sierra Hillard



State VOD 1st Place Winner, Sierra S. Hillard presenting her winning VOD Essay during Legislative Conference VOD Program Banquet in Ft. Pierre.

Why my vote matters. Why does my vote matter? A few years ago, I might have said one vote cast into the sea of political voices will not change the outcome. However, after gaining the right to vote on my 18th birthday, I realize that voting holds more power than a simple fill in the bubble form. Voting has the power to shape a nation.

My vote matters because collectively, we place individuals in positions of prominence, power and responsibility. My grandmother always said, “Never waste your vote. Pick a party that has the potential to win.” Her opinion clearly outlines the current political mentality of the United States. We are encultured to pick between two parties. Are you a Democrat or a Republican? Historically, the United States or America was not built upon the foundation of powerful political parties. George Washington, James Monroe, and several other founding fathers discussed the possible negative effects of established political parties. They were concerned that people might vote for the most powerful party and not the ideals the group promoted.

Two-hundred-years ago, the fifth president of the United States began his first national tour. James Monroe, a Democrat-Republican, won the presidency by a large majority against his Federalist opponent, Rufus King. The Federalist Party was growing weak since its creation forty years earlier, and Monroe’s tour intended to dissolve the party altogether. He was not just seeking to remove the Federalist Party from politics, but to completely eliminate all political affiliations. Monroe succeeded and for the next twenty years the United States did not have political parties.

Now, I am not suggesting the elimination of Democratic and Republican parties. I am purely suggesting that if we look to our past when considering our future, it is important to realize a vote should not be cast solely for a party. Instead, we should vote for individuals. Individuals who will decide when we go to war, what battles are worth fighting and when we declare peace.

In a one-hundred-year period, our country saw five political parties rise and three parties fall: the Federalists, the Anti-Federalists, the Whigs, the Democrats and the Republicans. The remaining two parties continue to struggle for power and dominance while great leaders from each party come and go. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan, two of our most popular presidents, made long-lasting progress for our nation. FDR rebuilt the U.S. after the Great Depression and led us through World War II. Ronald Reagan played a significant role in ending the Cold War, with the courage to say, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down the wall!” We remember strong leaders for their actions at pivotal moments because what stands today might not stand tomorrow. The only constant is our ability as individuals to take a hands-on interest in our nation and its future.

In the news and social media, our nation is bombarded with political strife and intrigue. We read headlines on how our nation is heading toward disaster, how politicians are not doing their job, and how our veterans do not receive adequate support upon returning home from service. We talk about the mistakes of elected officials. We debate the status of our nation. We complain and we rant. Yet, only 50% of eligible Americans voted in the last five presidential elections.

Why does my vote matter? It matters because it is my chance to take action. My vote can elect a county commissioner, who will organize a local parade when our soldiers return home. My vote can elect a state senator, who will provide funding and support to the National Guard. My vote can elect a president, who will not let our soldiers die in vain.

We vote candidates into office who we believe will change things for the better. We can support new ideas and vote on referendums. When we make the effort to cast our vote, we are not idling, waiting for a specific party or group to take action. We are fulfilling the ideal that our founding fathers established two centuries ago. We are a nation for the people, and by the people. My vote is my voice. Your vote is your voice. Collectively, we shape our nation with one simple act. We are changing the nation, not just for ourselves, but for future generations.

Patriot’s Pen Winning Essay “Why I Honor the American Flag”

By Calister Grimsley



State Patriot’s Pen 1st Place Winner, Calister Grimsley presenting his winning PP Essay during the Legislative Conference PP Program Banquet in Ft. Pierre.

In the midst of war and darkness, when you or your loved ones are afraid, when America is in a time of suffering and hardship, in all times good or bad, you look to the top of the flagpole and you see the American flag standing proud. This flag comforts, provides encouragement, gives strength and unification. This flag is the American flag and for countless generations it has been there for us. So why do we respect our flag?

I respect it as the most important symbol of the greatest country in the history of mankind. The flag has served as a symbol of our freedom and our individuality. It also call out a message to all of us, for our country, and for our freedom, and for our rights that allow each citizen to live a life of dignity. It honors those like my brother who is a veteran of the Afghanistan war, and is still involved in the military. When I see our flag, I think of selfless people who have risked their lives and sacrificed so much for our country and for each of us.

The flag also reminds me of America’s strength and unity. Our country has been through many trials and tribulations, whether it be war, natural disasters, or other major catastrophes, and the flag has stood tall through it all. Abraham Lincoln once said, “Standing as I do, with my hand upon this staff, and under the folds of the American flag, I ask you to stand by me so long as I stand by it.” He knew that the flag was a source of great strength to us all.

In fact, our flag is so special that we fly it, store it, and retire it in special ways. We even have a specific way to fold it. The folding ceremony includes 13 folds, one for each original 13 colonies, each having a special significance.

The next time you see the flag, remember those who sacrifice their lives. Respect it as a symbol and remembrance of those selfless people. Whether it be at a parade, baseball game, on the street, or at a ceremony, take a moment to think about everyone who stood by the flag, and who died for it.

Medical Centers of the VA South Dakota Health Care Network

VA Black Hills Health Care System Hot Springs Campus

500 N. Fifth Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747
(605) 745-2000
Toll Free: 1-800-764-5370
www.blackhills.va.gov

VA Black Hills Health Care System Fort Meade Campus

113 Comanche Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741
(605) 347-2511
Toll Free: 1-800-743-1070
www.blackhills.va.gov

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

2501 W. 22nd Street
PO Box 5046
Sioux Falls, SD 57717
(605) 336-3230
Toll Free: 1-800-316-8387

*Remember comrades, the more comrades we can get involved, the easier the job becomes. So please don't ask, “What does the VFW do for me?”
Ask, “What can I do to help the VFW and my fellow veterans?”
If you keep passing the load off to someone else,
pretty soon that someone else isn't going to be there. He or she will have passed away. So please do help, it feels good.*

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

“...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion...”

TAPS
may their souls rest in peace.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

COMRADES, IN DEATH AS IN LIFE, WE SALUTE YOU!

Newell, VFW Post 5807
Schalesky Weslie V., Pacific, USN Seabee, Life

Watertown, VFW Post 750
Mc Cabe Joseph B., Korea, USA Life; Gauger Myron, Life

Rapid City, VFW 1273
Baker Ronald I., Jr. Vietnam USA Life; Jansen Harold, WWII, USN, Life; Moore James E., Vietnam USA, Life; Aplan James O., Korea, USA, Life; Gillett James E., WWII/Korea, USN, Life; Bohn Wesley D., Korea, USA

Bersford, VFW Post 2975
Klostergaard Marlin W., WWII, USA, Life; Merriman Donald R., WWII USAF, Life; Kittelson Buell, WWII, USA, Life; Nygaard Evert P., WWII, USA, Life; Shurbeck Fred E., WWII, USN, Life; Mohr Percy D., Korea, USA, Life; Neuroth Leo J., Korea, USAF, Life; Morren Dick, WWII, USAF, Life; Bovill Glen C., WWII, USA, Life; Sundstrom Sam, WWII, USA, Life

Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Announces 2019 South Dakota VFW Youth Baseball State Tournaments Host Locations

Sioux Falls (January 30, 2019) – Department of SD VFW Baseball Chairman, Danny Frisby-Griffin, released the host sites for the 2019 SD VFW State Tournament Season. During the 4 weeks of the season, approximately 9 July to 4 August, teams and players will participate in 16 regional and 8 state tournaments across the 4 age divisions and 2 classes.

At the Annual SD VFW Baseball Meeting held on January 20, 2019 (the third Sunday) at 10 AM in Madison, the Department revealed the following host locations for the 60th anniversary year:

Class A

Class A 16U: **8/2-4/2019: Dakota Valley** (Regions should be completed by 7/26)

Class A 14U: **7/19-21/2019: Madison** (Regions should be completed by 7/11)

Class A 12U: **7/12-14/2019: Webster**

Class A 10U: **7/12-14/2019: Webster**

Class B

Class B 16U: **8/2-4/2019: Garretson** (Regions should be completed by 7/26)

Class B 14U: **7/19-21/2019: Elkton** (Regions should be completed by 7/11)

Class B 12U: **7/12-14/2019: Hayti/Hazel/Bryant/Lake Norden**

Class B 10U: **7/12-14/2019: Castlewood/Estelline**

SD VFW Baseball continues to improve and innovate since we changed web platforms, transitioned to pitch count and added the Game Changer app to help manage baseball games and tournaments. This year the 2019 SD VFW Baseball Rules update hopes to simplify the bat rule making it easier for officials, coaches, players and parents. The 2019 SD VFW Baseball Rules as discussed and approved at this year's annual meeting have been posted to the website. The Department of SD VFW Baseball is one of only 3 Departments across the nation that continues the tradition of providing youth VFW baseball across their state.

The Department of SD VFW and VFW Baseball would like to congratulate all host locations and are looking forward to another great summer of SD Baseball! Let's play some baseball!!!!

Future tournament dates:

2020 Tournament Dates

Class A and B 10U and 12U: **7/10-12/2020**

Class A and B 14U: **7/17-19/2020** (Regions should be completed by 7/9)

Class A and B 16U: **7/31-8/2/2020** (Regions should be completed by 7/24)

2021 Tournament Dates

Class A and B 10U and 12U: **7/16-18/2021**

Class A and B 14U: **7/23-25/2021** (Regions should be completed by 7/15)

Class A and B 16U: **8/6-8/2021** (Regions should be completed by 7/30)

2022 Tournament Dates

Class A and B 10U and 12U: **7/15-17/2022**

Class A and B 14U: **7/22-24/2022** (Regions should be completed by 7/14)

Class A and B 16U: **8/5-7/2022** (Regions should be completed by 7/29)

2023 Tournament Dates

Class A and B 10U and 12U: **7/14-16/2023**

Class A and B 14U: **7/21-23/2023** (Regions should be completed by 7/13)

Class A and B 16U: **8/4-6/2023** (Regions should be completed by 7/28)

U.S.S. South Dakota Submarine Dedication

"It's a time for celebration. I mean, how often do you get a boat named after your state?"

After months of anticipation, the U.S.S. South Dakota went to sea. This is the first and only submarine to be named after the state. South Dakota State University thought this moment needed to be seen by students and the community.

"The association between Dakota State and something like the U.S.S. South Dakota is the technological link. The fact that this boat is a floating computer," says Dean Dick Hanson of the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Science.

Students, faculty and local veteran groups watched the ceremony at Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Science. With the U.S.S. South Dakota, technology is the main focus and that's what the students learn on a daily basis. The submarine is a prime example of how computer and cyber science students can use their knowledge outside of the classroom.

Hanson explains, "The U.S.S. South Dakota Submarine is a technological marvel and that's kind of what we do here too. Cyber security, communications and digital kinds of work. This submarine is the latest iteration of all the advance technology that's out there."

For students, this is a learning opportunity and a chance to recognize the military and veterans. Veterans hope the students are inspired by the ceremony and have a new respect for their state.

"It's important to continue that tradition of pride, service, patriotism and being honored to go out there to serve and give back to the rest of the citizens of South Dakota," says VFW Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin.

There are 132 crew members aboard the ship. Representing South Dakota at the ceremony in Groton, Connecticut were Senator Mike Rounds, Congressman Dusty Johnson and Governor Kristi Noem.

Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Special Project Quilt Raffle Results

Sioux Falls (March 11, 2019) – When Danny Frisby-Griffin was elected as Commander of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) last June, he already had a fund raiser in place thanks to Father DeWayne Kayser of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Madison SD. As a thank you to the VFW for the donation of chairs, Father Kayser, with the help of Nancy Falor, crafted a patriotic quilt to use as a raffle fundraiser.

Per capita, South Dakota has more veterans/service members than any other state in the United States. The next big project for Veterans of South Dakota is the SD State Veterans Cemetery which will be located just north of Sioux Falls. The VFW, through the South Dakota Veterans Council, worked passionately to help make that project happen and that is where the quilt raffle funds will go.

The SD State Veterans Cemetery will service 42,500 veterans in eastern South Dakota, northwest Iowa and southwest Minnesota.

The raffle drawing was held on Monday January 28, 2019 when the VFW members from all over South Dakota met in Pierre for our Legislative meeting.

Thank you, everyone, we raised over \$1000 during our 2019 Special Project Raffle.

Below is a note from our winner, Kim Mertz of Bismarck:

"What an amazing surprise to open your packet with the BEAUTIFUL quilt inside!

Words cannot describe how humbled and honored I am to have received it - and how much I LOVE it!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

Kim

Re-Introducing the Veterans of Foreign Wars

I would like to take this time to reintroduce you to the *Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)*, the largest and oldest Congressionally Chartered Combat Veterans Organization in the world. And we need your help.

In the past twelve months, we have testified on Capitol Hill 27 times fighting for you and your fellow veterans. Our Veteran Service Officers have helped you and **109,000** Veterans recover **\$8.3 billion dollars** in Veteran benefits. The VFW has held and promoted two major scholarship programs totaling **\$3 million dollars**.

Do you still want to serve? Our current members are still serving today in their communities. Here are the results of their service in their communities. There have been **10.3 million hours** contributed by VFW members annually and VFW members have donated **\$46.9 million dollars** to local community service projects.

These are just a few of the many programs and benefits made possible with membership in the VFW. This is not possible without your enrollment in the VFW. We need you to join our ranks once again, for without your help, these programs for our Veterans would

not be possible.

Are you attending or planning to attend an institution of higher education? If so, the VFW along with "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" has awarded **\$5.7 million dollars** in scholarships to more than 1,287 Veterans and Service Members since January 2014. Go to the National or the Department of SD VFW websites to get more information on what the VFW has done. You can also follow the Department on Facebook.

As the Veteran population ages, we are continually losing members. If we are going to persistently fight for Veterans rights on the State and Federal levels, your membership in the VFW is required. Numbers do count, and we cannot do this without you.

Are you into youth baseball? The Department of South Dakota VFW is one of only three Departments nationwide to run VFW Baseball Programs for four age divisions and two class levels. We offer sponsorship opportunities that help our unique Department of SD VFW Baseball Grant, Community of the Year, Friends of SD VFW Baseball and our Veterans Donations Programs. Check us out at <https://www.sdvfwbasketball.com>



South Dakota Overseas Veteran quarterly publication

At the June 2016 Department State Convention held in Deadwood, SD, it was voted to have the South Dakota Overseas Veteran publication to be posted, reviewed/downloaded on the WEBSITE: www.vfwsd.org Please advise and assist all members of this change.



WELCOME TO THE SD VFW/AUXILIARY

The South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars has a rich tradition of serving veterans, military families and their local communities. We invite you to explore website www.vfwsd.org to learn more about our organization.



Honoring Four Chaplains

Four First Lieutenants became friends while training at the Army Chaplains School – all were assigned to the USAT Dorchester and represented a different faith. They were: Dr. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish Rabbi; Rev. George L. Fox, Methodist Minister; Rev. Clark V. Poling, Reformed Church in America Minister; and Father John P. Washington, Roman Catholic Priest.

On January 25, 1943, the Dorchester, a converted civilian liner, steamed through 34-degree North Atlantic water toward the Army Command Base in Greenland, with 902 aboard. The German U-Boat 223 discovered the Dorchester at 12:55 am on February 3rd and fired a torpedo that knocked out communications and power.

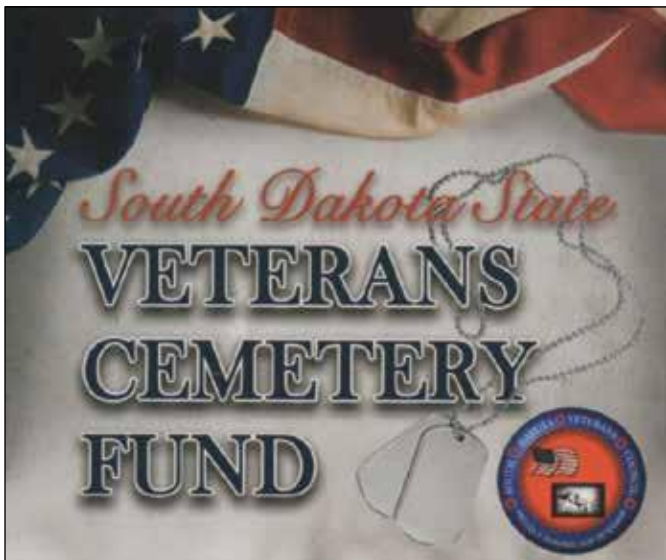
Soldiers were trapped below deck and panic set in. Men scrambled to get off the sinking vessel while the Chaplains tried to organize an orderly evacuation. The Chaplains passed out life jackets and helps others into lifeboats. However, there

were't enough life jackets for all, so the Chaplains removed their own and gave them to the men.

As the Dorchester sank, the Chaplains locked arms on the rising bow, praying for the others. Survivors in the water heard them singing hymns in Hebrew, Latin and English.

U.S. Coast Guard cutters, Escanaba and Comanche, rescued most of the 230 survivors. A majority of the 672 who perished dies from Hypothermia in the frigid water. One survivor recalled seeing the Chaplains in their final act as "the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of Heaven."

Today, around the world, the first Sunday of February is recognized as Four Chaplains Day. Honoring these brave and selfless veterans each year is hosted by VA Black Hills at a facility in Sturgis, SD. Wreath presentations are conducted by area Veterans Service Organizations in recognition of the Chaplains sacrifice.



The South Dakota Community Foundation has partnered with the South Dakota Veterans Council to establish the "South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery Fund." Your donation will be added to the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery Fund. These funds will be invested in perpetuity and earnings of interest and dividends will be available annually to support the State Veterans Cemetery.

Department of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars are encouraging all Veterans and non-Veterans to participate in helping finance the South Dakota Community Foundations by forwarding a generous donation. Make your gift (Ear marked for the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery Fund) and mail it to the VFW Department of South Dakota at 5009 West 12th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 57106.

1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Press 1 for Veterans
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we too, have been there. Since 1899, the VFW has been the nation's leading veterans service organization in the fight to better the lives of all those who've worn the uniform of the United States military. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us. Stand strong with the other 1.4 million members of the VFW as together, we continue to fight for all that's good **FOR VETERANS.**

DEADLINE
For the next issue (July 2019) of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran, the deadline is June 1, 2019.
Please submit your articles to me by that date.
Send to: Editor Dick L. Pickering
404 Dogwood Street
Brandon, SD 57005.
Or email them to:
dickp.signs@gmail.com

Dept. Post Advertisers - Please mention you read their ad POST SCHEDULES

<p>John M. Bliss Post #628 Open to the Public Mon-Sat: 0900 a.m. to close www.vfw628.org</p> <p>Book your wedding reception with us! Call 605-338-9421 Follow us on Facebook at VFW Post 628 <i>Serving the Sioux Empire since 1921</i></p>	<p>Brookings George Dokken Post #2118</p> <p>Bingo: Mon., Wed. and Fri. Lounge: Bingo nights & Sat. Hall: Available for rental</p> <p>520 Main Avenue 605-692-6771</p>
<p>C.C. CROAL POST #17 ABERDEEN, SD</p> <p>Post/Auxiliary Meetings Second Thursday – 7:30 PM Room for Parties All Occasions M-S Hours: 2 PM - 2 AM</p>	<p>Black Hills Post 5969 Deadwood</p> <p>Wednesday: Hamburger Night Friday: Dinners</p> <p>Lounge & Gaming</p>
<p>FRANK H. ADAMS POST #750 808 South Broadway Watertown, SD</p> <p>Open Monday thru Friday 2:00 p.m. till 2:00 a.m.; Saturday 12:00 till 2:00 a.m. All Veterans and visiting members welcome</p> <p>Post Meeting Nite 3rd Wed. Aux. Meeting Nite 2nd Wed.</p>	<p>THREE RIVERS POST #4726 BRANDON, SD (The most eastern Post in SD)</p> <p>Interstate 90, Exit 406 Post Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>Welcome Veterans & Friends to Our Freedom Grill and Bar Lounge.</i></p>
<p>Ernest Bowyer Post No. 791 209 Cedar St. Yankton, SD (605) 665-3562</p> <p>Open 3 p.m. Sun. thru Sat. All Veterans and Visiting Members Welcome</p> <p>Meeting Night 2nd Tuesday</p>	<p>Rollie Bucholz Post 7319 Wagner, SD 57380 PHONE: 342-9804</p> <p>Open Daily: Mon.-Sat. at 5:00</p> <p>All Veterans & Guests Welcome Short Orders served during week. Saturday evening special dinners served</p> <p>Post Meeting - 3rd Tues. Auxiliary Meeting - 2nd Tues.</p> <p>Bingo every Wed. night</p>
<p>Rushmore - Post #1273 420 Main St., Rapid City, SD 57701 PHONE: 342-9804</p> <p>Meeting Nights MOC/MOCA Pup Tent 17 – First Thursday VFW & Auxiliary – Second Thursday Joint Meeting – Fifth Thursday of any Month With Five Thursdays</p> <p>Hours of Operation Sunday-Friday – 11:00 am to Closing Saturday – 10:00 am to Closing Sunday – Closed Monday-Friday Daily Lunches 11:30 am - 2:00 pm Saturday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers or Chicken Strips and Fries Monday Night Family Dinner Starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Friday Night Fish Fry Starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Ronald Westby VFW Post #2638 510 S. Washington Ave. Madison, SD 57042 (605) 256-6771</p> <p>Open Mon.-Thur. 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fri-Sat 12 pm to 10 p.m.-ish Sun. 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Meeting Nights: VFW 2nd Tuesday - 6 p.m. Auxiliary 2nd Monday - 5:15 p.m. Brunch 2nd Sunday 10 am - 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>EVERYBODY WELCOME</p>
<p>Sturgis Veterans' Club 868 Main Street Sturgis, SD</p> <p>605-347-4682</p> <p>Open Mon. - Fri. 4:00 PM to close Sat. noon to closing Short orders & dinners available</p> <p>VFW Post #2730 & Auxiliary AL Post #33 & Auxiliary DAV Chapter 11 & Auxiliary</p>	<p>Kenneth Kuper Post #3442 721 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Custer, SD 605-673-4262</p> <p>Lounge Opens 2pm</p> <p>Post & Auxiliary Meetings Third Thursday - 7pm</p> <p>Visit us on your trip to the Hills</p>

Valued Supporters of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran Publication

The VFW Department of South Dakota has implemented a new program to assist in the cost of the *Overseas Veteran* publication by providing the opportunity for individuals to show their support of the award-winning South Dakota Overseas Veteran paper. Your name will appear in each of the four issues as a valuable supporter under the category of your donation.

The donations are categorized as follows: Bronze, \$10.00 per year; Silver, \$20.00 per year; and Gold, \$30.00 per year.

The following supporters are **Gold category**: Jonathan Thornburn, Mike Mullen, Kenny & Nelda Jorgenson, Robert Folkerts, VFW Post 9950, Commander Roland Holub and Bette and Norman Thompson. **Silver category**: Verne & Norma Hansen, John Wightman **Bronze category**: Dick Pickering.