

TOMORROW IS TODAY - NOW IS THE TIME

VFW, Department of South Dakota Line Officers



Row 1 - Surgeon, Sean Johnson; Sr. Vice Commander, Willie Page; State Commander, Dennis Sharp; Sr. Vice Commander, Rick Williamson; Judge Advocate, Danny Frisby-Griffin.

Row 2 - Chief of Staff, Gordon Paul; Chaplain, AJ Jerry Heggstad; Past State Commander, Mike Mullen; Quartermaster/Adjutant, Rick Barg; Inspector, Kenneth Payne.



VFW, Department of South Dakota District Commanders



Row 1 - District #1, Cody L. Mangold; District #4, Lyle L. Berg; District #7, Tom Hafner; District #8, Gary Knudson.

Row 2 - District #2, Thomas Anez; State Commander, Dennis Sharp; District #10, Roland Enninga. Not in picture - District #6, Pam Heiser.



VA Conducts Nation's Largest Analysis of Veteran Suicide

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has undertaken the most comprehensive analysis of Veteran suicide rates in the U.S., examining over 55 million Veteran records from 1979 to 2014 from every state in the nation. The effort extends VA's knowledge from the previous report issued in 2010, which examined three million Veteran records from 20 states were available. Based on the data from 2010, VA estimated the number of Veteran deaths by suicide averaged 22 per day. The current analysis indicates that in 2014, an average of 20 Veterans a day died from suicide.



**To our men and
women in uniform...**

past, present and future

**God bless you...
and thank you.**



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.

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Commander's Report Dennis Sharp



Comrades and Sisters:

First off, I want to thank the Brandon Post for inviting me to be part of their Loyalty Day Parade. It was a great parade.

It has been fast paced for a month or so with State Judging, District Meetings, Sr.Vice Commander training in Kansas City, MO and putting things together for the State Convention.

I am looking forward to being your Commander of the Department of South Dakota and thank you for your support. I will do my utmost to help the Department of South Dakota be recognized by the other Departments in the nation. Some of the programs that I hope we can all do are:

1. Posts to get more involved in Community Service Programs and Projects in their communities.
2. Student Veterans Association to make student veterans aware of what is available to them to further their education.
3. Membership in recruiting, retaining and mentoring new members. Encourage Life members to consider obtaining a

Legacy Life membership. The Post they belong to and the Department will benefit from this level of membership. There are three levels of Legacy Life membership: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

4. National Leader Project for this upcoming year is Mental Health Awareness. More information on this project will be available after the National Convention.

These are some of the programs, along with the other programs that the Department, requires will be our program projects for the year. I am asking for your help and assistance to promote these projects and programs. I am sure that we can get this done.

I will try to do my best and I will make some mistakes. I will try to answer your questions and concerns, and if I don't know, I will find out the answer.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Commander. Tomorrow is Today.

Dennis Sharp
Department Commander

Sr. Vice Commander's Report Rick Williamson



The State Convention is Deadwood is over, Mike's Year as our Commander has come to an end. Our membership year is nearing the end also. We done well for the year however we have once again seen a decline due to the sad fact that more of our WWII and Korean veterans are answering their final call. We unfortunately have not been able to recruit into our ranks our Veterans who have served and earned their right to stand among our organization. If you know of

a veteran who has served please let them know about us, or better yet let us know about them. We would love to welcome them home and to their local posts. As we end the current year the membership numbers are as follows:

District#1	95.23%	District#2	96.59%	District#4	93.39%
District#6	91.63%	District#7	94.74%	District#8	93.56%
District#10	98.07%	Department	95.51%	Total Members	9277

We have seen a decline in membership of 440 members from June 2015 to June 2016. Let's try to get back on track and try to make 2016-2017 a year of increase for membership. Thanks for all of your efforts during the last year, I know that Willy will be happy for your assistance in the next year.

I would like to Thank Commander Mike for all the leadership and guidance you have provided to not only myself, but to our great department. You have had a very successful year and covered many miles representing our Department. It has truly been my honor to serve as your Jr. Vice Commander and look forward to the advice that I know you will give to us as a Past Department Commander.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended the convention, with your continued support I was elected as your 2016-17 Sr. Vice Commander. I would like to assure you that I take the responsibility of this office seriously and will represent our Department to the best of my ability. I look forward to this year under the command of Dennis Sharp. I believe we have a great team in place and look forward to the challenges of the next year. Again Thank You for your continued trust and support, I am honored to call you all my VFW family.

In closing I would like to Congratulate Commander Dennis Sharp and President Karen Sharp on being elected to lead this great department for the next year. You both will do a great job; I really look forward to being part of your team.

God Bless
Rick Williamson
Sr. Vice Commander

Adjutant/Quartermaster's Report Rick W. Barg



We have completed another year of leadership in the VFW and we are continuing to be challenged with issues and concerns of serving our veterans and military service personnel.

This coming year we will face new challenges and I hope if you are an officer at the Post, District, Department or National level that you serve your fellow comrades at the highest level of Veterans of Foreign Wars standards. Please, Please, have your post pay the costs to send a Post officer to our leadership training in Pierre, on Saturday, September 26th, 2016 at our Fall Council and Commander's and President's

Homecoming. You will receive some very necessary information to make your 2016-2017 VFW Year a very year.

We will be sending out the new membership program and putting it on our website very soon. There will be changes in qualifying requirements to become a member of the All-State Teams. Please take the time to read the new membership program for the 2016-2017 after you receive it.

This year, 6 Posts were quota busters same as last year, if that trend continues to happen we are in big trouble. We hope you have started to make plans for this year's membership program so we can reach 100% in membership for 2016-2017. Our work is cut for us because over 300 comrades answered the last roll call. That's a lot of new and reinstates

that will be needed next year to replace them. Membership was terrible this year we all need to support our post membership program better than we did last year.

There were several state by-laws that were approved to be change by the Convention Floor and will be forward to National for approval. Once the results are back from National the new By-Laws will forward to the posts.

You can go to our website at www.sdvfw.org and get your reporting information for community service, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Hospital and Safety, General Orders and 2016-2017 Membership Book. Commander Dennis has some different programs this year to increase the number memberships you have in your post. Please take the time to review these programs in your membership book.

If you have a veteran or a recent military member with some financial problems, and want information on phone cards or overseas phone cafes and want to plan a coming home or deployment event please contact Dale Jensen our State National Veterans and Military Support Chairman. Dale will give you the necessary information you will need to help these veterans.

Well, I had planned to step down this year from by position as Adjutant/Quartermaster, but that didn't happen. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Department Headquarters. This position needs to be filled.

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 3

Jr. Vice Commander's Report Willie Page



As a member of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars we are starting a new year of striving to achieve the 100% in membership. As the new Department Membership Chairman, decreases in membership the last few years makes it scary getting started with this year. Each Post and District needs to put some work into their new membership program. Thank you everyone that sent in the Community Service Report. There were some

posts that did not send in any report at the end of the year. We are striving for one thing and that is Veterans helping Veterans. I would like to thank all members that supported me as your new State Jr. Vice Commander and I will do the best I can to get 100% in membership.

Willie Page
State Jr. Vice Commander
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State Judge Advocate's Report Danny Frisby-Griffin



It is stunning to me how fast this year has gone. We made steady progress throughout the year in getting the Hospital and Safety Reports but there definitely seemed to be a lack of interest in turning the required 4th quarter reports. We only had 19 of our 62 posts submit the last quarter. That means there are posts not being recognized for the work they have been doing. For 2015-2016 reporting period; we had 37% QTR 1; 47%

QTR 2, 45% Qtr 3 and 31% for QTR 4 (as of 5/31/2016). With the information provided during the course of the year, the Department has turned in some incredible final year numbers. Once again, we have proven that we are "Remembering Our Promise" as we serve those that served. Thank you for your support this year. If I can be of any assistance, feel free to contact me.

State Judge Advocate
Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin

State Surgeon's Report Sean Johnson



I wish to say thank you for electing me to the State Surgeons Post. I am excited to get to work. The first quarter has flown by fast. I will be collecting the Hospital and Safety Reports from your posts, please get them filled out and sent in as close to the end of the quarter as possible. I want you to help me achieve better numbers for Commander Sharp. Here are the numbers from last year. Let's make it our goal to increase in each area. I have full confidence in our state and our ability to accomplish this goal.

Flowers: \$4,472.13
Donations: \$ 16,843.02
Volunteers: 2,462
Patients Visited 8,031
Volunteer Hours 17,278
Miles 87,079
Blood Unit \$ 31,485
Cards \$ 2,342.11
Total \$465,947.66

If I can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sean Johnson, State Surgeon
seanjohnson@abe.midco.net

State Inspector Report Ken Payne



Comrades, It was nice to see so many in attendance at the State Convention in Deadwood. I want to thank Commander Mullen for appointing me Chief of Staff for last year. I thoroughly enjoyed it and want to welcome Gordon Paul to the position under Commander Sharp. I am the new State Inspector and am also taking care of publications and newsletters. I would like to thank Commander Sharp for this appointment and hope that I can fill Tom Sherman's shoes. If your Post has a newsletter please put me on the mailing list. This is the only way that you can get into

the running for the awards given on the state and national level. Post 7319 in Wagner won the national award in 2015, so don't think that it can't be done. Post Quartermasters can also send the quarterly audits to me so that I can file them.

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Ken Payne
State Inspector

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 2

We are starting a new VFW year and I hope you all join with the state officers and staff in supporting our new State Commander Dennis Sharp from Post #2038 in Pierre. Let's all get behind Dennis so he has a great VFW year.

Yours in Comradeship,
Rick W. Barg
Adjutant/Quartermaster

Dennis Sharp Acceptance Speech



Dennis Sharp taking the Oath of Office as State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota, by Past Commander-in-Chief, Edward Banas during the 86th Annual State Convention.

Thank you for your confidence and support in electing me as your State Commander for the Department of South Dakota.

It started five years ago, when then, State Commander Vern Hansen and others were trying to convince me to run for State Surgeon. It took them about 2 ½ months, before I committed to the challenge.

It has been a very challenging and learning experience to understand what the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Department of South Dakota is all about. **"No One Does More For Veterans."**

As I have worked my way through the chairs of your Department, I want to thank my peers and predecessors for their faith, encouragement and advice they have given me. Without your support, I would not be where I am now. **Thank you.** As this year rolls on, I may be calling on you again.

I will try to the best of my ability to represent and conduct the business and affairs of this office and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Department of South Dakota. I will be the first to say that I don't know it all, and I am sure that I will make some mistakes. If I don't know the answer, I will do my best to find the answer.

I want to thank my wife, Karen, for her faith and support through this endeavor. I want to thank our son, Andy and his wife Laurel, and granddaughter, Avery, my sisters, Diane Easthouse and Arlys Kleuss, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Arnold and Nita Gertonson for being here at this installation and ceremony. I wish four other people could be here, my father and mother, Roy and Marian Sharp and my father-in-law and mother-in-law, Karl and Lavern Gertonson.

Thank you all again for your faith, support and confidence in me as your State Commander.

"Tomorrow is Today."



Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

2016-2017

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VFW National Home for Children - June 2016

**Fund Raising for the National Home:**

This is important for the VFW National Home for Children to continue to function and grow in the way that would be expected. Many children depend on the home to provide a place to grow up, become educated and go out in life and become great citizens of the

United States. A reminder that the National Home does not receive any tax dollars, no government appropriations and no public funding for its existence. The best way to support the National Home is to become a Life Member at a cost of \$35.00. Another way is to buy a brick with your name on it. Of course, you can always just mail a check for your donation. You can also have a monthly donation by using your credit card. These are just a few ways to donate and there are many more. For help in deciding, just pull up the National Home web site and click on donate. Then decide which way you wish to help out. Give Now! vfnationalhome.org

Museum Project Update: Remodeling of the building started at the end of April, and it is hoped to be completed by fall. Work has begun on identifying and preparing new and improved exhibits. After the remodeling is completed, the new exhibits will be installed and that phase should be completed by March 2017. The process is slow, but they

are excited to show it off in early 2017. They are looking for any interesting artifacts or photographs relating to when South Dakota had a house. If you happen to have something of interest, that item can be donated or put on loan, let them know. The Donor or Loaner would be acknowledged in the exhibit.

Several new supporters of the National Home were recently interviewed. One of them was **Brandon Hadley**. His grandmother grew up at the Home and he is certain that her experiences at the Home helped to shape her into the amazing woman she is. His grandmother has recently become ill and Brandon has deepened his involvement with the Home to honor her.

Fortunately for the Home, Brandon's definition of family includes the extended family of VFW members and military families in general. He has strong feelings about their treatment.

First: He says it is normal for people to struggle with the aftermath of war and families must be cared for in a manner that doesn't stigmatize them.

Second: Healing from war is a family problem and families should be treated as a unit, as opposed to simply treating the veteran. To have a place that can help keep families together while they deal with the struggle of war is important to everyone.

—*NATL. HOME FOR CHILDREN, continued on page 11*

From the Secretary of South Dakota Veteran Affairs Offices, Larry Zimmerman

**Let us Never Forget Our Heroes**

Memorial Day stands as a solemn American tradition that honors the sacrifices of past generations. Memorial Day is a day we dedicate to those who fell in defense of the ideals, beliefs, and values we hold sacred.

As a nation we need to remember these heroes and their sacrifice. We must remember what they did, why they did it, and appreciate what it means to us personally and as a nation.

America has been blessed as no other country in the history of the world. The sacrifices of our armed forces have given us the security and freedom in which to grow and flourish as a nation.

Remembering those sacrifices and what they have meant to our nation is the duty of the living.

That is why the ritual decorating of graves after the Civil War became so widespread so quickly. And with each successive generation came more wars. Hundreds of thousands more young American lives were lost on the battlefields and the concept of Memorial Day became a tradition renewed by each generation's sacrifice.

Let us all enjoy the lives we lead because of the generations of young Americans who gave their lives so that all of us could live in freedom and prosperity. Let us continue to educate our children about the price paid for their freedom.

Our greatest duty to the men and women who have died in service to our country is to never, ever forget what they have done for each of us – and what they have done for us as a nation. They led colorful, vivid, and passionate lives and we owe it to them and their families to honor and pay tribute to their sacrifice.



Jr. Vice Commander Rick Williamson and State Commander Mike Mullen during the Convention Quartermaster training session.



Veterans and Military Support

Unmet Needs under the Veterans and Military Support Program continues to provide financial aid in the form of a grant of up to \$5,000 to service members who run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity. Over \$2.5 million in grants have been provided to struggling families since 2004.

All applications are individually reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

All the following eligibility criteria must be met for the grant to be considered:

- The service member has served Active Duty, other than training, within the past six years prior to applying.
- The hardship must be due to one of the following:
 - Deployment
 - Military pay issue
 - Military illness or injury
- The applicant must be the service member or an eligible dependent listed under DEERS.

Expenses eligible for consideration of payment:

- Household expenses – mortgage, rent, repair, insurance.
- Vehicle expenses – payments, insurance, repairs (major repairs for vehicles over ten years old will not be considered)
- Utilities
- Food and clothing
- Children's clothing, deapers, formula, school or child-care expenses
- Medical bills, prescriptions & eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only

Expenses ineligible for consideration for payment:

- Credit cards, military charge cards, or retail store credit cards
- Personal, student or payday loans
- Cable, Internet and secondary phone
- Cosmetic or investigational medical procedures and expenses
- Taxes – property or otherwise
- College expenses
- Furniture rentals
- Any other expense not determined to be a basic life need

Payments will be made at the discretion of the approval committee. Payments are made directly creditors.

If this criteria is met, the service member should not have any problem having their grant approved, unless they are living way beyond their means.

Dale Jensen, Chairman

VA Black Hills Health Care System Update

By Teresa Forbes, Public Affairs Officer

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of the latest information about VA Black Hills Health Care System. On behalf of the hard working and caring employees at VA Black Hills I'm pleased to share the good news of our recent achievement of 5 Stars in Quality on the SAIL report for both Hot Springs and Fort Meade. This was an incredible benchmark to reach and we are committed to sustaining this high level of performance. Our team is involved in a number of important "MyVA" initiatives taking place across our health care system aimed at improving the Veteran's experience. The Veteran Preferential Treatment (VPT) program continues to rollout across our system of care. Under this approach, Veterans are asked to check out at our coordination station to meet with a VPT team member to better understand their next steps in care including scheduling appointments internally or through Choice.

There are still a number of questions and concerns about the Veterans Choice Program. There have been some notable improvements made including a recent change to authorize VA to enter into new provider agreements to allow us to schedule some appointments with community providers under the Choice program. Any Veteran experiencing difficulty with Veterans Choice should contact one of our Choice Champions for assistance by calling 605-347-2511 ext 7632 or 605-745-2000 ext 2253.

Within the past few months, VA Black Hills has filled several key clinical leadership roles. However, we are aggressively recruiting for physicians to address a critical staffing shortage, particularly in the areas of primary

care/PACT and in-patient in Hot Springs. Because you are among our best recruiters we are asking everyone to share the noble mission of VA in an effort to get quality providers to join our team.

On June 20, 2016 the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will close. After that time a final EIS will be compiled to be followed by a Record of Decision. This has been a long, but important process for our Veterans and our employees and we are looking forward to a decision on the reconfiguration of our healthcare system.

VA Black Hills is a proud commemorative partner in the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War remembrance. Along with our VA partners, we have been a part of two Welcome Home events. We look forward to additional ceremonies over the next few years to provide the proper welcome home that Vietnam Veterans deserve.

Right now we are in the process of moving into our new surgical suites at the Fort Meade campus. The addition will accommodate the latest technology and improve patient privacy and flow. On July 22nd, we hosted the public for tours and an open house and you're all invited.

Respectfully,

Ms. Teresa Forbes, Public Affairs Officer
VA Black Hills Health Care System
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<https://www.facebook.com/VABlackHills>

Action Alert: Improve, Don't Dismantle the VA Health Care System

Background: Politicians, pundits and politically-motivated organizations are using the national crisis in access to care at the Department of Veterans Affairs as justification to dismantle and privatize the VA health care system, with some even proposing that veterans be charged for their service-connected care. The VFW says no!

Veterans must not stand idle as politicians who never served or use the VA health care system dictate when and where veterans can receive care.

For almost 117 years, the VFW has worked tirelessly to identify issues veterans face when accessing their earned benefits, and has worked with Congress to ensure

a grateful nation fulfills her obligation to those who sacrificed to defend her. In the past two years alone, the VFW has collected direct feedback from more than 20,000 veterans regarding their experiences receiving VA and private sector health care. Their message is clear: "Improve, don't dismantle the VA health care system."

Take Action: Contact your Members of Congress and let them know that VA health care reform must be based on the needs and preferences of veterans, not political rhetoric.

Take Action! <http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/alert/?alertid=72925626>

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of South Dakota Award Winners

Community Service Books – FIRST PLACE & Outstanding Community Service Award – Brookings, George Dokken Post 2118.

Hospital Award - FIRST PLACE, Category I – Parkston, Hutchinson County Post 3298, Parkston; Category II – Britton, Marshall Post 3507; Category III – Mitchell, Corn Palace City Post 2750; Category IV – Brookings, George Dokken Post 2118; Category V – Yankton, Ernest Owyer Post 791; Category VI – Rapid City Rushmore Post 1273.

Safety Awards – FIRST PLACE. Category I – Vermillion, Clay Post 3061; Category II – Webster Post 4690; Category III – Mitchell, Corn Palace City Post 2750; Category IV – Custer, Kenneth Kuper Post 3442; Category V – Watertown Frank H. Adams Post 750; Category VI – Rapid City, Rushmore Post 1273.

Post Poppy Awards – Posts, Largest Percentage increase, Sioux Falls, John bliss Post 628, Aberdeen, C.C. Croal Post 17. District Competition – Highest percentage of Posts purchasing and Largest number increase in Poppies, District II.

Loyalty Day Awards – FIRST PLACE, Category I – Gettysburg, Winston M. Toomey Post 8630; Category II – Burke Post 9950; Category III – Mitchell, Corn Palace City Post 2750; Pierce, Charles E. Thorne Post 2038; Category V – Yankton, Ernest Bowyer Post 791.

Publications Newsletter Contest – FIRST PLACE (five or more times per year) – Sioux Falls, John Bliss Post 628; (five or less times per year) – FIRST PLACE, Fort Sisseton Post 3342; SECOND PLACE, Wagner, Rollie Bucholz Post 7319; THIRD PLACE, Canton, Lincoln Post 3164.

First Quota Buster Post Category – Category I, Parkston, Hutchinson County Post 3298; Category II, Wagner, Rollie Bucholz Post 7319; Category III, Sturgis, Paha Sapa Post 2730; Brookings, George Dokken Post 2118; Custer, Kenneth Kuper Post 344.



Sarah Soldatke, VFW Post 628 Commander, receiving the membership recruiting pin from State Membership Chairman, Jr. Vice Commander Rick Williamson.



Signage in Deadwood Black Hills VFW Post 5969.

Special State Convention Highlights



Chaplain, Past State Commander Jerry Heggstad and Past State Commander, Donald Dahllin participating in the Memorial Service.



State Commander Mike M. Mullen accepting his Year in Review collage from Past Commander-in-Chief, Edward Banas.



Lyle Berg, District #4 Commander, recipient of the Service and Rehabilitation Award. (L-R): State Commander Mike M. Mullen and Lyle Berg, Webster VFW Post 4690.



Baker-Simpson Award was presented to Anthony S. Gonsor, the Outstanding Post Commander of the Year 2015-2016 and Captain of the All-State Team, Custer, VFW Post 3442. (L-R): Past Commander-in-Chief Edward S. Banas, Jr., Anthony S. Gonsor, and State Commander Mike M. Mullen.



Outstanding Post Quartermaster, (William J. Radigan) Award, presented to Jerry Seiner of Wagner VFW Post 7319. (L-R): Past Chief Commander-in-Chief Edward S. Banas, Jr., Jerry Seiner, Captain of the All-State Team, and State Commander Mike M. Mullen.



Past State Commander Mike Mullen pinning the new Commanders Pin on newly installed State Commander Dennis Sharp during the 86th Annual Convention hosted by Sturgis Post 2730 in Deadwood.

State Commander Mike Mullen accepting the Silver Level Certificate of Recognition, Veterans & Military Support Programs for the Department of South Dakota from Past Commander-in-Chief Edward S. Banas. Also receiving a certificate- District's #2 and #8 Posts - George Dokken Post 2118 Brookings; Black Hills Post 5969, Deadwood; Tomczak-Bartels Post 1776, Huron; Burke Post 9950, Rushmore; Post 1273, Rapid City.



All State Post Quartermasters Team



Jerry Steiner, Wagner VFW Post 7319; Edwin Serdlezky, Custer, VFW Post 3442; Dwight Griffiee, Sturgis VFW Post 2730; Barbara McKean, Parkston, VFW Post 3298; Darwin Tolzin, Brookings, VFW Post 2118.

Double Eagle Award

A prestigious 2016-2016 Award presented to Past State Commander Russel Dramstad of Huron, Tomczak-Bartels, VFW Post 1776, for his continuous support of all Veterans programs, Past National Council Member and National Legislative Committee member.



(L-R): National Past Commander-in-Chief, and Representative Edward S. Banas, recipient of the Double Eagle Award, Russel Dramstad, State Commander Mike M. Mullen.

All State Post Commanders Team



All State Post Commanders Team - Roland Ennings, Sturgis VFW Post 2730; Anthony Gonzer, custer VFW Post 3443; Bill Hoffman, Parkston, VFW Post 3298; Anton Krcil, Wagner, VFW Post 7319; not in picture, John Gael, Brookings, Post 2118.

Buddy Poppy Display Competition



God Bless America, entered by Winner Auxiliary #4674; it is under Category 3 Public Promotion. The wreath is, indeed, going on to National as well as the cross (also by Winner Auxiliary – Category Artistic & Decorative) that was used during the Memorial Service and a display by Gerry Dahlin – Category 1 Inspirational & Memorial.

Department of South Dakota Auxiliary Creative Art Contest Winner



(L-R): Eleanor's parents, Eleanor Moleterno, Sandi Moss, Creative Art Aux. Chairman; State Chaplain Jerry and Past State Auxiliary President Connie Heggestad; State Auxiliary President, Nancy Worth.

Eleanor *Moleterno*, recent Winner High School honor graduate, received first place in state competition in the VFW Auxiliary sponsored Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest for her pencil drawing titled "And...So I told My Buddy". She received a \$100.00 award from the SD State VFW Auxiliary at the state convention held in Deadwood. In addition, she also received the Connie (PDP) & Jerry Heggestad (PSC) award of \$100.00.

While at convention, it was announced that Eleanor's drawing placed 8th in the nation. She was among 48 entries in national completion. Eleanor will receive a \$500.00 scholarship to be used at a school of her choice. She has decided to go to SDSU in Brookings for her higher education. Her entry will be on display with the other winning art work at the national convention in Charlotte, NC in July. Her entry, along with the other 48 entries is online at <https://www.vfwauxiliary.org>

—See recipient's comments on page 11

Firefighter of the Year



Tim Behlings, Sponsored by the Custer, Kenneth Kuper VFW Post 3442.
(L-R): State Commander Mike Mullen; Sr. Vice Commander Dennis Sharp; Recipient Tim Behlings

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award



Mark Chamberlain, Sponsored by the Aberdeen C.C. Croal VFW 17.
(L-R): State Commander Mike Mullen; State Sr. Vice Commander Dennis Sharp; Recipient Mark Chamberlain

EMT, Emergency Medical Service of the Year



Amy Marsh, Sponsored by the Sioux Falls, John M. Bliss VFW Post 628.
(L-R): State Commander Mike Mullen; Sr. Vice Commander Dennis Sharp; Recipient Amy Marsh.

Outstanding Participation Certificate



Nelda Jorgenson receiving the Outstanding Participation Certificate as Auxiliary Americanism Chairman.

Boy Scout of the Year 2015-2016



Alexander Palecek, recipient of the Boy Scout of the Year Award 2015-2016, by State Commander Mike Mullen. Alexander was Sponsored by Yankton VFW Post 791 and Auxiliary.

—See recipient's comments on page 11



Past Chief of Staff Kenneth Payne turning over the equipment to the new Chief of Staff Gordon Paul.



(L-R): State Auxiliary President, Nancy Worth; Sandy Van Kekerix; National Representative Jan Owens

FIRST PLACE
Membership Category #4
(226-Over)
Winner Auxiliary Post 4674

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Dept. of South Dakota



Our State Auxiliary President Karen Sharp's theme this year is:

NOW IS THE TIME

Family - Support, Serve, Honor & Respect

Auxiliary State President's Report

Karen Sharp



I wish to thank everyone for his or her support in electing me as SD VFW Auxiliary President for 2016-2017. It is indeed an honor, and I hope to do you proud and make this coming year a banner year for the SD Auxiliary.

My theme is: NOW IS THE TIME with a tagline of Family: Support, Serve, Honor and

Respect. It is time for Auxiliary family members to

renew and refresh our support and service to all veterans and active military with honor and respect. My priority goal this year is to achieve a minimum of 100% Plus One in membership — NOW IS THE TIME. In addition to other monetary awards for membership, 100% Plus One will mean a \$1,000 award to the Department, which will be a tremendous help in carrying out our obligations and programs.

I'm looking forward to the National Convention in Charlotte, NC.

I'm available to everyone to offer assistance and help answer questions, so do not hesitate to contact me.



Auxiliary Sr. Vice President's Report

Carrie Alm



Here we go again! Another exciting year ahead of us full of opportunities to support our veterans and their families! I look forward to assisting everyone with their goals as individuals, auxiliaries, districts and our Department. By the time you will be reading this, we will have return from National Convention in Charlotte, NC

full of new ideas and information to share with you at our 2nd Annual VFW Auxiliary Retreat in Grenville, SD. We will be meeting at the Roost Resort from August 18-21, 2016. Arrival time on Thursday the 18th at 12 noon. (Please, no early arrivals). Departure will be Sunday the 21st mid-morning. Come for some of it, come for all of it, we would just love to have you join us when you can. Contact me to reserve your spot or

with any questions you may have at 605-517-0287. All member are welcome to come to this retreat, you don't have to be an officer to attend. This year it is even co-ed due to our new membership! (We do have separate sleeping arrangements though!)

Let's get rolling on membership again. The Department has sent out dues announcements already, so no need to wait to get going. Start calling those unpaid members now so that we have a good jump on our membership this year. (Questions regarding membership and treasurer's duties can and will be answered at the Retreat – another good reason to try and join us!)

The 2016-2017 Program Book is available online and has all the programs and goals laid out for everyone to read. I would encourage everyone to take a glance at it, but definitely if you are a program chairman they should offer you good information about your program. Also, make sure to watch for bulletins from Department Chairman in General Orders that will assist you with

planning and keeping up with your year's activities.

Our youth really are our future. Whether they are the future of our military or the future of our Auxiliaries, they are who we need to rely on for future success. Please keep them in mind when organizing activities that would be good learning experiences for them and also when needing some volunteerism help. The only way they grow up learning true patriotism is by being a part of it in their formative years. I have been shown this over and over by the positive response we have from you in my local auxiliary.

I look forward to our year ahead and continuing to positively support our Veterans and their families. I am here to assist you with any questions you may have. Please call me at 605-517-0287.

Loyally,
Carrie Alm
Department Senior Vice President

Auxiliary Jr. Vice President's Report

Mary Kirkvold



Membership Ambassador for this year is, Leona Mc Dermatt, she is from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

National will be sending out the new Membership dues cards in July. It would be nice if everyone would pay their dues, when they receive their notice. National will be discussing

raising Life Membership dues. The break down is in the May issue of VFW Auxiliary.

For example, if you are age 31-35, currently the amount is, \$190.00, after January 1, 2017, the amount will be \$300.00. If you are thinking of going Life, I would suggest you do so before January 1st. As you know, as of August 21, 2015, men are able to join our Auxiliary, the same criteria as when we joined. You've read this before, however, I would like to bring it up again. Must be a citizen of the United States or a United States National, and at least 16 years of age.

Those eligible are:
Husband/Wife

Widower/Widow
Grandfather/Grandmother
Grandson/Granddaughter
Son/Daughter
Brother/Sister
Step-Siblings/Step Parents/Step-Children

We are fortunate that at our VFW Post the public are welcome. In other states or communities, you must be a member to enter or have a member sign you in.

Mary Kirkvold
Department Membership Chairman 2016-2017



Winner VFW Auxiliary #4674 held a "Spring Fling" party to honor their 50 plus year members. Ten ladies were present out of 24 current members. They were presented with a corsage, a special auxiliary pin and certificate. Also recognized were new members and Life members, which included three male members.



Pictured (with years of membership). (Back row, L-R): Betty English, 57 years; Joan Brunkow, 56 years; Clarine Black, 58 years; Dorothy Berger, 54 years; Norma Storms, 58 years and Connie Steinke, 50 years. (Front row, L-R): Adeline Vavra, 52 years; Margaret Legge, 52 years; Longevity Queen is Marian Jorgensen and Violet Kaiser, 50 years.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY Department of South Dakota Officers - 2016-2017

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**District 10 –
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Dept. of South Dakota Auxiliary Line Officers – Row 1 - Carol Gross, Treasurer; Carrie Alm, Sr. Vice Pres.; Karen Sharp, State President; Mary Kirkvold, Jr. Vice Pres.; Jan Endes, Chief-of-Staff/Extension; Row 2 – Nancy Worth, Past State Pres.; Donita Mullinix, Conductress; Nancy Chester, Secretary. Not in picture, Wanda Mix, Guard.



Auxiliary District Presidents – Row 1 - Dist #1, Cindy Williamson; Dist #2, Lois Ladegaard; State President, Karen Sharp; Dist #4, Sharon Wellnitz; Dist #6, Sheryl Ruckman; Row 2 - Dist #10 Nancy Worth; Dist #8, Connie Heggstad; Dist #7, Leanne Payne

Karen Sharp, SD VFW Auxiliary President Acceptance Speech

Good morning — VFW Past Natl. Commander Edward Banas, VFW Aux. Natl. Secretary/Treasurer Jan Owen, Commander Dennis, VFW Officers, VFW Aux. Officers and all VFW and Aux. members in attendance and a special thank you to our family for being here with Dennis and I for this day.

Thank you for your support in electing me as SD VFW Aux. President for 2016-2017. It has been some time in coming, but as Commander Dennis said, “Tomorrow Is Today,” and “Now Is The Time”

for Auxiliary members, as family, to renew and refresh our support and service to all veterans, active military, and their families with honor and respect. My priority goal for this year is to achieve a minimum of 100% Plus 1 membership, which will make the Auxiliary stronger, better and more active. With males now being able to join the Auxiliary, we have an opportunity unlike any before...so “Now Is The Time.” When we get new members, we need to listen to their wants and needs, or we’ll lose them. We also cannot forget our present members. Their

knowledge and mentorship are of a value that cannot be measured. We need to promote the auxiliary with enthusiasm and pride, so we can grow and better support and serve our veterans and active military and have a great time doing it.

I will be available whenever to answer any questions or concerns or I’ll get them answered, and I, with your help, will strive to make this coming year the best it can be for the South Dakota VFW and Auxiliary.

NOW IS THE TIME –
so let’s get to it! Thank you.



State Auxiliary President Karen Sharp being escorted to the alter during the Installation by her son Andy Sharp and brother Arnold Gertonson. Both are Life members of the Pierre Post 2038 Auxiliary. Auxiliary National Representative Jan Owens, Secretary/Treasurer and Past National President commented that this has to be the first nationally. This is kind’da Special stated Karen.

TGR Award

The T.G.R. Award is recognized for members that show continuous leadership and dedication to the organization. This is the first time this award has been presented to the Auxiliary membership. The award is named after former mentors of the VFW: Merton Tice, Ray Gallagher and William Radigan.



(L-R): Angela Ross, Ginger Koster, Ardeth Hunt and Jackie Dale for 34 continuous years as floor work during all Auxiliary meetings.

50-Year Pin



Department President, Nancy Worth (far right) assists with pinning the 50 year membership pin on Marion Jorgensen (2nd from right) at the Spring Fling hosted by the Winner VFW Auxiliary #4674. On the left, Connie Assman, auxiliary member looks on. Second from left is Sandy Van Kekerix, Auxiliary President #4674 who will pin a corsage on Mrs. Jorgensen, a 66 year member.

State President Worth, along with State Commander Mike Mullen and Sr. Vice President Karen Sharp, were guests at the Event.

2016 PDP State Convention Dinner



Front Row (L-R): Sharon Reidinger Mitchell, Jan Owen, Natl. Rep. Nancy Chester, Jan Endes and Neta Peterka.
Middle Row: Janice Vreim, Emma King, Nelda Jorgenson, Nancy Worth (current State President), Jan Walker, Joyce Schat, Pat Cerny.
Back Row: Vicki Williams, Imogene Ellis, Nancy Fickbohm, Mildred Ratigan, Carol Gross, Connie Seymour, Connie Heggstad, Vickie Rosse, Gloria Fortin, Mary Hammond and Clara Wiedemer.

AUXILIARY ACHIEVEMENTS

State Convention 2016-17

Outstanding Presidents, Membership – FIRST PLACE Category #1 10-50, Clarice, Alcester; Category #2 51-110, Myrna Bell, Miblack; Category #3, III-225, Wanda Mix, Brookings; Category #4, 226+, Sandy Van Kekerix. Membership Awards to: Elk Point, Canton; Freeman; Sioux Falls; Brookings; Madison; Brandon; Milbank; Goodwin; Scotland; Plankinton; Winner: Burge: Belle Fourche; Custer; Deadwood; Quinn.

Membership – Greatest Numerical increase, Winner with +11; Greatest iPercent increase, Goodwin, 113%; District with Greatest Percent, District #2 with 110.0%. Auxiliary with most new Mail Members, Custer, with 8 members. Posts for greatest percentages – 10-110, Goodwin, with 113.79%, Patti Mitchell; 111+, Winner, 103.04% Sandra Van Kekerix. Most Numerical Gain, Winner

Veterans and Family Support Certificates – Brookings; Canton; Beresford; Deadwood; Rapid City; Custer; Pierre; Sioux Falls; Goodwin

Awards for Buddy Poppy drives – First Place, Belle Fourche; Second Place, Goodwin; Third Place, Plankinton

Past Presidents Awards – Best Overall Program, Aberdeen, Nelda Jorgenson; best Promotion of Unmet Needs, Faulkton, Beverly Hanson; Best Overall Promotion by membership group, 10-50, Goodwin, Patti Mitchell; 51-110, Milbank, Murna Bell; 111-225, Brookings, Mary Wilberg; 225+ Kathy Riedy; Buddy

Poppy distribution, Belle Fourche

Americanism, Overall Patriotism Promotion, 10-50, Eureka, Connie Jung; 51-110, Beresford, Marion Neworth; 111-225, Aberdeen, Sheryl Ruckman and 2nd, Spearfish, Carol Hess 225+ Winner, Jan Endes.

Best Promotion of Patriotism specializing in Youth program – Beresford. Overall, 10-50, Belle Fourche, Pat Ruzecka; 51-100, Plankinton, Donna Shafer; 111-225, Brookings, Jan Olson; 226+, Pierre, Deb Fahey.

Hospital – Best Event sponsoring for hospitalized veterans. Winner, Connie Heggstad; Suicide Awareness, Winner, Connie Heggstad; Nursing Home, Winner, Connie Heggstad. Best Overall – 10-50, Eureka; 51-110, Britton; 111-225, Faulkton, 226+, Winner

Scholarships – Department winners: 1st Place, Winner; 2nd Place, Madison; 3rd Place, Brookings. Best Promotion of VOD and PP program – 10-50, Lemmon, Sharon Crevier; 51-110, Canton, Sharon Mitchell; 111-225, Redfield, Mildred Ratigan; 225+, Pierre, Eileen Kramer. Creative Art Program – 10-50, None qualified; 51-110, Beresford, Bernadine Field; 110-225, None Qualified; 226+ Winner, Rosemary Connot. Award for entry in Young American Creative Art Program – Winner, Rosemary Connot; Brookings, Lois Ladegaard; Custer, Zoe Yellin; Madison, Imogene Ellis. Report from District #4, Gloria Fortin; District #10, Kay Rypinski. Best Promotion of the VOD and PP – Madison, Imogene Ellis. Continuing Education

Scholarship and Young American Creative Art Contest – Brookings, Lois Ladegaard.

Legislative. Most members communicating with legislators on Veterans issues – Rapid City. Most members subscribing to Check Point – Brookings. Best promotion of Legislative Goals – 1st Place, Rapid City, 2nd Place, Yankton. Best for members community with legislators – 1st Place, Brookings; 2nd Place, Custer. Best Overall, Rapid City, Sandy Moss

Youth – Best promotions, Scotland, 6 citations; Brookings, having great photos of projects; Winner, for the great write ups. Best Youth Program – 10-50, Eureka; 51-110, Scotland; 111-225, Brookings; 226+ Winner

Publicity – informing their auxiliary or revitalizing their auxiliary- Brookings. National Keepsake Award who assists in revitalizing her auxiliary and who uses the Healthy Auxiliary materials – Brookings, Lois Ladegaard

Buddy Poppy Apparel Parade – 1st Place, Beresford; 2nd Place, Goodwin, 3rd Place, Faulton; 4th Place, Sioux Falls. Public Promotion to Korean War by Gerri Dahlin; Artistic and Decorative, Connie Heggstad; Inspirational and Memorial to Cross, Connie Heggstad; Program most advertised, Belle Fourche

National Awards – Veterans & Family Support, Patti Mitchell; Americanism, Nelda Jorgenson; Hospital, Lianne Payne; Legislative, Tammy Chase; Scholarship, Sandi Moss; Youth, Mary Kirvold

Pictured left to right:

State Commander Mike Mullen,
Speaker Christine Bestgen,
State Auxiliary President Nancy Worth



Local News Paper Fund Raiser Auction
Auction of paper, signed by head table was by auctioneer Jr. Vice Commander Rick Williamson for \$249.00. Monies collected for sales the paper was \$411.00. Sioux Falls VFW Post always matches up to \$500.00 for a total of 1151.00 to be presented to the "Honor and Remember" Foundation, to Ms. Christine Bestgen, for assisting with purchase of additional banners.

Gold Star Family Christine Bestgen

She explained a Gold Star Family is a family who has lost a loved one in Active Duty Military Service to our country. They are selling Hostas as a fund raiser to purchase "Honor and Remember Flags" to Gold Star Families in South Dakota and Wyoming. For more information on their fund raisers and on Honor and Remember, visit honorandremember.org or email sdgoldstarmother@gmail.com



Head table at the Gold Star Mother Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Dept. of South Dakota "Recognition Luncheon" 2016. (L-R): Mary Kirvold; Emogene Ellis; Jan Endes; Auxiliary National Representative, Jan Owns; State President, Nancy Worth and Carrie Alm.



State Sr. Vice Commander, Dennis Sharp, accepting a Patrick Statue copy by Lee Leuning and Sherri Treay from Steve Dietz. "Patrick" statue is being made available to all Posts and Auxiliaries as a fund raiser. Additional information will be made available through the Department General Orders.



"...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.

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

Sturgis, VFW Post 2730

Daane, Robert D., USA, National Guard, Life
Colton, Al,

Brookings, VFW Post 2118

Kleinsasser, Jerome E., WWII, USN, Life

Wagner, VFW Post 7319

Bures, Vernon, Korea, USA

Yankton, VFW Post 791

Skalbers, Leland, WWII, USN, Life
Arneson, Frank, Korea USA
Albrecht, Arnold, WWII, USA, Life
McNeely, Arion, Korea, USA, Life
Moore, Robert, WWII, USN, Life
Giggee, Arthur, WWII, USA, Life
Gibson, Frank, Vietnam, USA
Alexander, Eugene, WWII, USA, Life
Schaeffer, Marvin, WWII, USA, Life
McDonald, Doyle, Vietnam, USA
Sommer, Alvin, Korea, USA, Life

Basham, Paul, WWI, USN, Life

Huron, VFW Post 1776

Bertsch, Wilbert, WWII, USA
Sevesind, Leo, NUSA., Korea
Gamber, LeRoy L., Korea, USA
Nordby, Earl, D., Korea, USA

Watertown, VFW Post 791

Pischke, Julian, Korea, USA
Kruthoff, Marvin B., Korea, USA
Lambert, Roland M., Vietnam, USA, Life,
Present Post Cmdr
Allen, David A., Berlin Occup. USAF, Life
Barthel, Frank J., WWII, USA, Life
Noem, Leroy M., Korea, USA, Life
Lang, Eugene C., WWII, USMC, Life

Alcester, VFW Post 6149

Johnson, Mahlon, USA, Life
Hendricks, Robert J., WWII, USA, Life

Rapid City, VFW Post 1273

Syverson, Phil, WWII, USMC, Life
Baker, Harold, WWII/Korea, USA, Life
Jackson, Melvin, WWII, USN, Life
Burgess, Barry, Korea, USAAF, Life
Gillen, Joseph, WWII, Life
Klundt, Wayne, Vietnam, USA,

Madison, VFW Post 2638

Stanford, Gene, WWII, USA, Life
Fallang, Dwane, WWII, USN, Life
Olson, Orville, WWII, USA, Life

Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628

Dietz, Gary, Vietnam, USMC
Herron, James, Vietnam, USA, Life
Hybertson, Harris, Korea, USA
Lingo, Frank, WWII, Life
Hoffman, Donald, Korea, USAF, Life
Knox, John, Vietnam, USMC, Life

Sorreyn, Leo, Korea, USA, Life

Rensch, Kenneth, Korea, USA
Jenson, Donald, Korea, Life
Kidd, Alvin, Korea, USA, Life
Past Post Cmdr
Peterson, Russell, WWII, USA
Van Regenmorter, Peter, WWII, USA, Life
Holler, Dwayne, Korea, USA, Life
Lewis, John R., WWII, USN
Gabrielson, Dwane, Korea, USA
Juckley, Leo, WWII, USN, Life
Fonder, Laurence "Wayne", Vietnam, USA
McElroy, Roy, Korea, USAF, Life
Grapevine, Richard, Korea, USA
Haugen, Raymond, WWII, USA, Life
Wilcox, Dewane, Vietnam, USAF
Callison, WWII, USN, Life
Ehrisman, Ronald, WWII, USA, Life
Eastwood, Edward, WWII, USA,

Snyder, Matt, WWII, USAAF, Life

Sand, Harold, WWII, USA, Life
Teply, Roy, WWII/Korea, USMC, Life
Johnson, Howard, WWII/Korea, USN, Life

Cootie Corner

The following have been elected or appointed
as Officers of the MOC Grand of South Dakota
for the year 2016-17

Grand Commander

Dale Stribral
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C: 605-661-9878

Grand Sr. Vice

Ken Moss
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Grand Jr. Vice

Cody Mangold
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Grand Quartermaster

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Grand Chaplain

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Grand Judge Advocate

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Grand Surgeon

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Grand Historian

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Grand Chief of Staff

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Grand Inspector

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Grand Hospital, Chairman

Rich Kupfer
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Grand Membership Chairman

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Grand Blood Chairman

Rich Kupfer
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Yankton, SD 57078
C: 605-760-9037



Most current New Member of the M.O.C.
Glynis Collier, paid her Life membership dues during the 86th annual VFW
Convention in Deadwood, SD. Glynis is the Post Quartermaster of Pierre VFW Post 2038.

Office of Gov. Dennis Daugaard

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www.sd.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Contact: Tony Venhuizen or Kelsey Pritchard at 605-773-3212

Lt. Governor Visits Electric Boat Facility To Discuss Plans For USS South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. – Lt. Gov. Matt Michels today visited the Connecticut facility where the USS South Dakota SSN 790 will be built. At the facility, Michels toured the recently commissioned USS Illinois and met with the ship commander, the chief of the boat and the ship manager who is overseeing construction of the USS South Dakota.

“The USS South Dakota BB-57 was the most decorated warship of World War II. With the construction of the SSN 790, we’re moving the history of the USS South Dakota forward to protect our nation,” said Lt. Gov. Michels.

General Dynamics Electric Boat is building the multi-mission nuclear powered Virginia class submarine which will support a crew of 130 sailors. The company has been building submarines since 1899 when it assembled the U.S. Navy’s first commissioned undersea warship, the USS Holland.

Construction for the USS South Dakota will begin in 2016. The submarine is expected to be complete in August of 2018.

ALEXANDER PALACEK COMMENTS, from page 7

SD VFW Scout of the Year

Alexander Palecek was nominated from VFW Post 791 Yankton, SD as Scout of the Year. He has exemplified the name “Scout” by his continued participation and dedication to the program. He has been in Scouting for 11 years and obtained his Eagle Scout in November of 2015. His Eagle Scout Project was a project at First United Methodist Church, his church, which he started on March 28, 2015 and completed it in October of 2015. He led a team to clean out debris, build a 4-foot retaining wall and then sodded with new dirt. He also added mulch, weed mat and rocks because it was a weedy nightmare. It was a huge undertaking, but he did it.

During all of this he continued to contribute to the community as well. He co-teaches 4th and 5th grade Sunday School; elected Official to the Conference Council on Youth Ministries for the Dakotas; packs Mercy Meals; Yankton Area Banquet; Christmas Angel Tree and summer Mission Trips. In addition, he is on the Science Olympiad Team; Debate; Math Team; Pre-College at Brown University; Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders; Student Council; Acapella Choir; Recycling Club and Tutoring. He was also the Troop’s first Webmaster and expanded the Troops online presence with social media and has helped many parents with their access on their smart phones.

All of his Letters of Recommendation stated how courteous, kind, honest and dependable he is. He is not only an outstanding student, but also an Extraordinary Leader through his works and by example.

ELEANOR MOLETERNO COMMENTS, from page 7

Creative Art Contest Winner

I want to begin by saying “thank you” to our brave veterans and express my appreciation to them for their service. Their sacrifices for the freedom of our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, and friends must never be forgotten. I would like to thank the Winner American Legion Auxiliary Post #169, as well as the South Dakota VFW Auxiliary for this Young American Creative Patriotic Art Award.

As I said in the essay that accompanied my submitted piece, it is important to remember that military service is not all suffering and sacrifice. While these things must always remain prominent in our hearts and minds, there is also another important side of our soldiers’ experience that I wanted to emphasize: the bond of brotherhood that develops over time between our servicemen (and women). This bond is a source of joy and is the basis for the lifelong camaraderie that comes from doing one’s duty for our country. This bond between brothers is the essence of my piece, and my hope is that everyone who views my composition will sense that. It is a bond that forms between two follow veterans that transcends age, rank, or theatre of service; it is truly a wonderful thing when two patriots can sit down together, reminisce, and enjoy that wonderful story that almost inevitably includes that familiar line, “And...So I told My Buddy.”



—NATL. HOME FOR CHILDREN, from page 4

Third: Brandon also believes that the brotherhood developed during wartime should extend to our families. If veterans do not stand up to support one another’s families, then he feels we have really let our battle buddies down.

Such concerns about the family of veterans are no surprise considering his own family’s commitment to service. Brandon served in Iraq and is a member of VFW Post 1089. His great-grandfather was a WW I veteran, his grandfather was a WW II veteran, and his father served in the U.S. Army.

Verne H. Hansen, Chairman
VFW National Home for Children
VFW Department of South Dakota

PAST VFW DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS



STATE FAIR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED to drive the golf carts. Not just on Veterans Day, but for the entire week. Start at 8am until noon, noon to 3pm and 3pm until we are done. (25 carts—three shifts—five days) In need of a lot of volunteers. Fair entry is free as long as your name is posted, etc. If interested, please contact Bev Freng, Coordinator at: email: dickorbevfreng@santel.net or call (605) 352-5997 and leave a message.

VFW
at work

Bookmark this site!

www.vfw.org/vfwatwork

Read inspiring stories of how VFW Posts and Auxiliaries across the country are helping our defenders and our communities.

Overseas Veteran Option

At this year's Department Convention held in Deadwood it was voted to have the Overseas Veteran to be posted on the State VFW website. Those members who would like to continue to receive it by mail may still do so.

You must complete the following form and send it to Department Headquarters by May 15, 2017. If we have not received your information by May 15, 2017 you will no longer receive the Overseas Veteran by mail.

Please complete this form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Mail to: South Dakota VFW Headquarters
3601 S. Minnesota Ave.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

State Website: www.sdvfw.org Deadline Date: May 15, 2017

DEADLINE

For the next issue (Oct. 2016) of the *South Dakota Overseas Veteran*, the deadline is Sept. 1, 2016.

Please submit your articles by that date. Send to: Editor Dick L. Pickering, 404 Dogwood Street, Brandon, SD 57005. Or email them to:

dpsigns@alliancecom.net

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

<p>John M. Bliss Post #628 9 am-10 pm, Mon.-Thurs. 9 am-2 am Fri. & Sat. Lunch served 11 am-1:30 pm, M-Fri Dinner specials every Fri. & Sat., 5-8 pm</p> <p>Book your wedding reception with us! Call 605-338-9421 Follow us on Facebook at VFW Post 628 www.vfw628.com <i>Serving the Sioux Empire since 1921</i></p>	<p>Brookings George Dokken Post #2118</p> <p>Bingo: Mon., Thurs. 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 style="text-align: center;">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. <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 style="text-align: center;">Meeting Night 2nd Tuesday</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 Post #2638 510 S. Washington Ave. Madison, SD 57042 256-6771</p> <p>Open Mon.-Thur. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fri-Sat 11 am to Closing 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. EVERYBODY WELCOME</p>
<p>Sturgis Veterans' Club 868 Main Street Sturgis, SD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">605-347-4682</p> <p>Open Mon. - Fri. 4:00 PM to close Sat. noon to closing Short orders & dinners available VFW Post #2730 & Auxiliary AL Post #33 & Auxiliary DAY 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 style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">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 donation 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: Jerry and Connie Heggstad; Bruce Howell; Donald and Gerri Dahlin VFW Post 9950-Burke; Verne and Norma Hansen; Mike Mullen and Nancy Worth; Tom and Becky Hafner; Jacqueline L. Simonsen; Jonathan Thorburn; VFW Post 1776-Huron; Russel Dramstad; Rick and Marva Barg; Henry Whitney, and Darwin G. Tessier; Gary and Lois Knudson; Mike Boxa; Earl and Betty Boxa. In the Silver category, Lyle L. Berg; Dick Pickering.