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

Vol. 73 Issue 3



VFW National Council Member Darold Couch and National Chaplain, Peggy Haake for the Auxiliary were the National Representatives to the Department of South Dakota Legislative Conference, VOD/PP/Teacher's Awards Banquet and council meeting in Pierre, January 28-31, 2017



See Page 5 —Representatives

The 13th Annual Disabled Veterans Pheasant Hunt hosted by the Gettysburg VFW Post 8530.

By Tim Potts

“Paying it Forward” is a pretty common phrase and today the Gettysburg VFW Post 8530 decided that they wanted to “Pay It Back” by hosting the 13th Annual SD Veterans Pheasant Hunt. Five veterans that were Purple Heart recipients from across the United States were chosen to come to South Dakota for a five-day pheasant hunt. Most of the Veterans have never hunted pheasants, but were enthusiastic and ready for the experience. Hunting at the Potts Farm on Monday was successful with each Veteran shooting his limit of birds.

—PHEASANT HUNT continued on Page 6



Hunters include: Frank Ramirez (TX) and Stephen Blair (AK).
Front Row: Kenneth Wescott (AZ), Barney Hill (MO), Dan Bond (MI) and Rex Sproles (SC).

Ten Burger Kings in Sioux Falls worked to raise money for the VFW's “Unmet Needs” program to help veterans.

*see page 7 for additional pictures.



VFW Post participants: Watertown Post 750; Sioux Falls, Post 628; Huron Post 1776; Mitchell Post 2750 and Yankton Post 791.

Website: www.sdvfw.org



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.



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:

I hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving, joyous Christmas and all are looking forward to the New Year. The New Year has brought us some new changes in the Department. Rick Barg, Quartermaster/Adjutant for the past seventeen (17) years resigned his position as Quartermaster at the Fall Council. He retained his position as Adjutant until December 1, 2016. I want to thank Rick for his commitment, dedication and his hard work serving the Department of South Dakota during his time as Quartermaster/Adjutant for all those years. Thank you, Rick. Darwin Tolzin was elected Quartermaster at the Fall Council and has been working very diligently. Since then he was appointed Department Adjutant as of December 1, 2016 and is busy assuming those duties as well. I know that he will dedicate himself fully to do what is right for the Department. Thank you, Darwin for stepping up to the challenge.

I want to take this opportunity to thank VFW Post 8530 of Gettysburg for taking the reins to keep up the tradition of the annual Pheasant Hunt for Disabled Veterans that was started twelve years ago by Pat McGrath of Faulkton VFW Post 3179. Five Disabled Veterans this year from Alaska, Arizona, Michigan, South Carolina and Texas experienced Pheasant hunting as only South Dakota can provide. I commend Gettysburg Post 8530 for hosting the 13th annual Pheasant Hunt and making it both successful and enjoyable for the hunters. Thank you.

Thank you to VFW Post 1273 of Rapid City for inviting Auxiliary President Karen and myself to participate in their Veterans Day parade and program. We enjoyed it very much.

Here we are at the mid-point of our year 2016 – 2017. As of this writing,

our Department membership stands at 87.90%. The Department has not achieved 100% membership for many years. I know that there are many of you out there who are working hard to obtain that goal. If every one of us would get one new member, we would easily obtain that goal. When trying to recruit a new member or retaining member, ask them to consider a Life membership. Life membership can be done all at once or on an installment basis. Also recruit and mentor new members and retain current members.

As the New Year is upon us, I am looking forward to visiting the VA hospitals at Fort Meade and Hot Springs, and also the Veterans Home in Hot Springs in January. Also in January, will be the Legislative Conference. The big event that I am looking forward to is the National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, where the Auxiliary President and I will have the honor to escort our Department's Voice of Democracy winner to the podium where the National winner will be announced. It has been a long time waiting for this opportunity. My wife and I have been working with VOD students for 25 years and this has been our wish for many years.

Looking to the future, June will be the time to elect Department officers for the 2017-2018 year. Take the time to consider taking a Department office or a District chair.

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

Dennis Sharp
Department Commander

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Sr. Vice Commander's Report Rick Williamson



The holidays have come and gone, I hope you enjoyed the time you spent with family and friends as much as I did. Many of our programs are now completed and turned into the Department Chairperson's for judging and forwarding to the National competitions. I thank every one who makes these programs the success that they are for your Post, District, and the Department. There is a lot of effort into promoting, judging, and reporting these contests, again Thank You for all you do. As that January 1st deadline comes to an end, and you have completed your reports, submitted your winners, and put to rest the VOD, Patriot Pen, Public Servant, and Teacher programs we can now work on the next task at hand. Membership!!!! Members are the most important program we have, that is why we do it 365 days a year.

I have talked membership ever since I can remember and I will continue to do so. New members are out there, we need to find them, get them in our VFW, and retain them for the for the future of this organization. You can sign up 10 members this year, however if you don't make them feel welcome as a valuable member of our team, or get them as involved as they want to be they will not pay their dues the next year and will be gone. Your recruiting efforts are then in vain, the circle of recruiting continues. I hate to admit it but I will, I have talked to Veterans from Iraq or Afghanistan about becoming members and some of the responses that I have received are troubling to say the least. Here are a few of the responses that I have heard:

I was a member but nobody ever told me when our Post meeting were held so I didn't think they needed me, just my money..... *this may be the weakest recruiting effort I have seen*

I don't have enough time to belong..... *we need you as a member no matter how much or little time you have*

What is in it for me?..... *the friendships that you will make in

the VFW are worth far more than any amount of money it may cost. Knowledge of the VFW programs are a necessity for this one*

Nobody has ever asked me to join..... Where is the nearest Post and how much does it cost?..... Get their contact info, give them yours and find the nearest post ASAP, they are interested, get the local VFW to get them to commit.

This one is the most troubling of any response I have ever heard: *I was told by a local VFW member that we didn't serve in a real war, so therefore I will never join a service organization that doesn't recognize my service.....* WOW, was all I could think at this one, however I assured this individual that not very many VFW members were this ignorant. I apologized for someone's lack of intelligence and tried my very best to mend the fences that had been created. To the best of my knowledge this individual did become a member and I sure hope he is still a member. I will add that if you are a member who would say such a thing, you are part of the problem and are sure not part of our solution.

Now I will get off my membership soapbox and thank you for all you do for OUR VFW, I cherish every friendship that I have made within this great Dept. I look so forward to serving you as your Commander next year, should you chose to elect me. I will do my very best to represent our department and every member of it.

In closing I would like to personally Thank Rick Barg for all the years of service to the Department of South Dakota. Your dedication will never be forgotten, I will always call you a friend, and your professionalism will be appreciated as you continue to mentor Darwin as your replacement. Thank You, Rick, and please know that we are here for you as you enjoy your retirement. I would also welcome Darwin to his new position and look forward to our endeavors next year.

Rick Williamson
Sr. Vice Commander

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

Look for VFW/AUX pride WWW.sdvfw.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 it's 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 Seventeen. As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to dpsigns@alliancecom.net or vfwsd@aol.com

Quartermaster/Adjutant Report Darwin G. Tolzin



I am thrilled to be the part of a very "VFW Does More for Veterans" team and proud to be able to contribute, even though I am the new guy on the block. We as a "team" spend many hours on a daily basis trying to get more information out to our Veterans and get more Veterans interested in timely information. Timing is very important in anything involving issues as the quicker you get started the quicker you will see results. It seems that everything involves clock or calendar. We have a lot of information available, especially for the younger Veterans, and will help you get moving in the right direction. Just stop by.

I am finding out you do not replace an icon with 17 years of dedicated service the VFW. Rick has marched through the period of time with little effort and now he has an anchor to tow (me). The period of time to get up to speed on everything is probably a year as you have to march through all the phases of the job and that requires a lot of time and effort. Over the last several months Rick had to get tired of the "Rick, what did you say about this" as we moved forward. The job has several job satisfactions that are above and

beyond anything I thought it could be. It is a job that has a "cannot fail" label on it as everyone locally and at the National level are very supportive and extremely professional in everything they do. They never make you feel that you are imposing, even though you probably are.

Being involved with the VFW has rewards every day, and "Yes" some days are better than others. But overall, none that make you not want to come back tomorrow. We are a large number in members but still a very close and small community. Example: One of our past State Commander (Walt Joynt) just passed away and his nephew (Darryl) was my assistant softball coach in California for 15 years (small world.) Seems like no matter where you go you bump into acquaintances from the past that make your day special.

Darwin G. Tolzin
State Quartermaster/Adjutant

State Judge Advocate's Report Danny Frisby-Griffin



I've received 22 Community Service reports for the second quarter (36% as of 12/11/2017), the first half of the Department's reporting period. On November 29, 2016 the Department of SD reported the community service volunteer and donation information received from and for 32 individuals posts (52%) to National; total amount of monies of \$105,194.44 and total amount of hours of 10,452. Also, so far this year the Department has distributed 2,346 Flags, performed 218 Honor Guards, 125 Color Guards and provided 27 funeral lunches. Thank you for all you do!

We're continuing the updates to our website. In fact, each post now has a unique page that can be modified to capture your basic information. The Madison page is an example that you can use. Please send me your desired information and I'll update your page for you. If you're reading the *Overseas Veteran* online or looking to grab the forms, you should be able to just click on the following links (or

copy and past to browser) to get the information that you need. This is especially timely for our youth scholarship programs.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards: <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/YoungAmericanCreativePatrioticArtBrochureupdated201607FILLABLE.pdf>

Scout of the Year: <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf>

Forms: (Community Service Report has been updated): <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms>

Overseas Veteran: <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-overseas-newsletter>

Trustee Report of Audit Form: <http://www.sdvfw.org/Uploads/documents/27/TrusteesReportofAuditForm.pdf>

The 3rd Quarter reporting will end January 31 and are due February 10th. Please continue to submit your 1st and 2nd Quarter Community Service Reports as well as collecting your 3rd Quarter data. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. —Continued at bottom of right column

State Surgeon's Report Sean Johnson



It is so amazing to me how fast this year has gone. We made steady progress throughout the year in getting the Hospital and Safety Reports in, but there definitely seemed to be a lack of interest in turning the required 1st and 2nd quarters. That means there are posts not being recognized for the work they have been doing. For 2016-2017 reporting periods, 1st quarter 32 out of 62 (54%); 2nd quarter 23 out of 62 (38%).

With the information provided, our Department has turned out some tremendous numbers for the first half of the year. We still need to work on those, but we should strive to get better numbers on the second half to get better credit for posts, and the Department. We are meeting our Goal of Tomorrow is Today.

1ST HALF HOSPITAL REPORT

No. of Volunteers	Patients Visited	Total Hours	Total Miles	Blood Unit Totals	Cards	Flowers	Other Donations	Total Expenses
1215	3229	\$148,612.19	\$4,995.40	\$14,840.37	\$2,076.50	\$1,889.00	%10,968.00	\$230,706.22

Safety Report 1st Half	Money	Hours	Miles
	\$5,192.84	448	1327

Year To Date Safety Totals	Item	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	Item	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
	1. Hunter's Safety	5	4	6. Senior Safety	1	3
	2. Pedestrian Safety	2	1	7. Recreation Safety (Bike)	2	1
	3. Vehicle Safety	2	0	8. Highway Safety	0	1
	4. Drug Awareness	2	3	9. Other Projects	8	9
	5. Home Fire Safety	2	4		(53%)	(38%)

I want to encourage you to continue to help us get these reports in. We should get the credit we deserve for the excellent work we do. Thank you for your amazing support this year. If I can be of any assistance, feel free to contact me.

Sean Johnson
State Surgeon seanjohnson@abe.midco.net

National Council Member



Commander Sharp,

I arrived at the State Soldier Home Cottage for lunch with Secretary McDonald about 10:30am on Nov. 30, 2016 with lunch at 11:00am. The Congressional groups from S.D., WY and Neb. Were in attendance, along with VFW, American Legion, DAV and PVA. It was a short lunch and questions with a positive

environment towards the Hot Springs VA Health Care system. Time was short to get to the Mueller Center for the Town Hall. The crowd was packed in the Center. There were some people with posters out front of the Center on Save the VA. Secretary McDonald read each sign and acknowledged each person. McDonald was announced to the crowd and he instantly asked for questions from the crowd. There were many different approaches on why the Hot Springs VA should be saved. McDonald said there has been no decision yet on the future of the Hot Springs Campus. The decision will have the best interest for Veterans and the Tax Payers. He will read all the information given to him and use all information for his decision. There will be another meeting with the Secretary from the 3 states congressional groups and the Save the VA again in D.C. early this month for their final words. The Secretary said a decision will be coming forth soon after that meeting. He also mentioned that this has been long overdue for a decision.

Thank you!
DD Couch, NCM

State/District Commander's Membership Sailing Plan Stay on board toward 100% Plus



District	New	Reins	Percentage
1	7	2	91.36
2	19	6	92.37
4	7	4	88.18
6	1	19	94.33
7	8	2	87.81
8	2	0	90.36
10	10	7	92.79
99	4	5	67.78
State	58	45	90.99

We are on Subscription Dues. Have you paid yours?
Buy a Life Membership

—Judge Advocate Report continued

I hope your experience was as good as our visit with the 100 3rd graders at Madison Elementary School. Four of us had an opportunity to share our stories and teach flag etiquette, customs and respect.

Reminder: please keep an eye on our at risk veterans during the holiday season and "dark ages" for episodes of depression and increased risk of suicide.

Thank you again for your support.

Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
Department of South Dakota Judge Advocate
Danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

VA's Center for Women Veterans has partnered with the Veteran Artist Program

As 2016 is quickly drawing to an end, we share a few items of possible interest:

VA's Center for Women Veterans has partnered with the Veteran Artist Program to empower women Veterans to tell their stories and provide a way for others to connect with their experiences. They will showcase art by 10 women Veterans at 10 VA medical centers in March 2017, to coincide with Women's History Month. This is also a significant milestone for women Veterans as it is the 100th anniversary of the women serving in the regular U.S. military with full military rank and equal pay. Interested in participating? The call for submissions is now open; however, the deadline is December 31st. For more information, go to <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/33337/va-center-veteran-artist-program-to-highlight-women>

Important Information About Choice: The Choice Program has changed, and we are better able to support Veterans using provider agreements. Veterans must opt into Choice to take advantage of this. Please encourage Veterans who need care in the community to opt into Choice. With changes in the program, we now have much more control and can pull back consults if Choice does not address them in five days. Our staff can then schedule using a provider agreement – but only if the Veteran has opted into Choice. Brian (Scott) Harvill is the Sioux Falls VA Choice Champion. He can be reached at 605-336-3230, Ext. 6576. If Scott is not available, you may contact Josue Torres at 605-336-3230, Ext. 6071.

myVA311 – What is it?

A new, national, toll free number 1-844-MyVA311 that Veterans and their families can call to get routed to the right place at VA more efficiently.

- Veterans and family members can call this # to locate a VA medical center, benefits office, national cemetery, or for general information about housing, health care, employment, education, and/or finances.
- This is the # to call when you don't know what # to call.
- Veterans can still directly call any previously used #'s.
- The current VA phone numbers will remain in service.
- If Veterans do not know what# to call, they can dial 1-844-MyVA311 and follow instructions to be routed to their desired location.
- The new national toll-free phone number will route callers to the major VA contact centers, e.g., Veterans Crisis Line, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, National Cemetery, Veterans Affairs Regional Office, etc.).

Veteran ID Cards – What Your Options Are Now and in the Future

(info from <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/27178/clarification-the-ebenefits-alternative-to-the-va-id-card-veteran-proof-of-service-letter/> and provided by Veterans Benefits Administration):

On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015. This act allows Veterans to apply for an identification card directly from VA. The VA ID card will allow Veterans to demonstrate proof of service for discounts at private restaurants and businesses. **Please note: This ID card is different from a Veterans Health Identification card or a DoD Uniformed Services or retiree ID card. This means the VA ID cards cannot be used as proof of eligibility for any federal benefits and does not grant access to military installations. When available, Veterans will be able to request an ID card from VA for a fee. It's estimated VA will be able to implement the program in 2017. The cost of each card has not yet been determined.**

In the meantime, Veterans who would like an ID card that displays their military service don't have to wait. There are several other options:

- Access and print a free Veterans ID card through the joint VA/DoD web portal, eBenefits. This paper ID card serves as proof of honorable service in the Uniformed Services, as defined in laws about the DoD.
- Your driver's license or state ID card can carry a Veteran designation. This option is currently available in 49 states. Veterans wanting more info should contact their state dept. of motor vehicles or state dept. of Veterans Affairs at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.
- Veterans enrolled in VA health care can obtain a free Veterans Health ID card (VHIC). Stop by Eligibility if you are enrolled and do not have the newer VA ID card.
- Veterans who have retired can receive an ID card from DoD.

Wishing you the beauty and goodness of the holiday season. Thank you for the myriad of ways you partner with VA to help Veterans.

Shirley Redmond
Public Affairs Officer
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System
605-333-6889

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



Happy New Year everyone! We wish you a terrific 2017 filled with happiness and good fortune.

Brad Paisley once said, "Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one."

Let's ensure that our 2017 book is not left blank! Let's write a good one!

Our 2016 book was full of projects, accomplishments and stories. During 2016 we honored over 1,000 Korean War Veterans, we helped Vietnam War Veterans celebrate the tenth anniversary of the dedication of their memorial, participated in numerous welcome home and outreach events, and opened the doors to a new state-of-the-art veteran's home. We partnered with the Department of the Military to create South Dakota Joining Forces; an initiative to grow community support for veterans, service members and their families. We improved veteran's preference status, provided numerous training programs for our county and tribal veteran's service officers, assisted incarcerated veterans, served on committees for Veterans Courts and increased the number of nursing home beds at the State Veterans Home. In addition, our staff worked closely with veterans to secure over \$170 million in compensation and pension benefits for veterans.

Each year we set new priorities to reflect the needs of all generations of veterans. As always, we encourage veterans to contact

their local County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer to determine eligibility of benefits.

How many of you buy books, gadgets or tools only to let them sit on the shelf - never to be used? Of course you don't! But according to our records, only 2,300 veterans in South Dakota are using their GI Bill benefits and the On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship program. The result for those not using the benefit is that 36 months of education they have paid for is sitting on the shelf unused. That education benefit is part of what veterans earned for their service so why not collect it and use it? Why not add a chapter to your book?

As a veteran you have shown you have the talents to get things done under difficult circumstances. Build on that by picking up the right tools and improving what you have. Veterans from the Vietnam Era, Post 9/11 and Gulf War Era should give our team a call and visit with them about education benefits, free tuition and housing allowances. Call 605-773-3269.

We truly enjoy interacting with veterans, service members and their families throughout our great state. We have tremendous partners at federal, state and local levels who work tirelessly to ensure great outcomes. We are all here to work with our veterans.

Let's make sure our 2017 book has numerous pages and is a best seller. Keep the book open and continue to add chapters to your journal.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Dept. of Veterans Affairs

VFW National Home for Children



For so many of the children and families at the VFW National Home for children, your support has been the answer to their prayers. You've not only helped struggling families overcome great challenges and recover from the wounds of war, but you've also helped our 80-acre campus remain a living memorial to America's veterans. On behalf of everyone at the National Home and our families, we wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas.

The National Home Christmas Wish List remains the same:

- Wonderful donations throughout the campus;
- A trip in a horse drawn wagon through the beautiful winter forest to choose and cut the perfect tree;
- A "Santa Shop" experience where children can pick out gifts for others and feel the joy

of giving without financial pressures;

- A surprise visit from Santa, riding in our own red fire truck loaded down with presents for everyone;
- Delicious holiday meals together with all the trimmings;
- Your generosity during their time of sacrifice will make these lovely things a lasting memory for the children.

The National Home's services have evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veteran families. Through the Helpline and the programs on-campus they are able to help families and children through times of crisis, both on the National Home campus and in their own communities nationwide.

For more information visit the VFW National Home for Children website: www.vfwnationalhome.org Or you may call 1-800-424-8360.

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

VFW National HQ Gets New Leadership

Along with the election of the VFW's first Desert Storm veteran as national commander came the appointment of a new adjutant general and the election of the VFW's first woman as quartermaster general. Debra Anderson, who is also a Desert Storm veteran, held previous positions as assistant quartermaster general and director of Human Resources and Investment Coordinator prior to her election to quartermaster general. Bob Wallace is the VFW's new adjutant general, as well as the executive director of the VFW Washington Office. He served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam and is the recipient of three Purple Hearts. He was also the VFW national commander from 1991 to 1992. Learn more at: <http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2016-Articles/New-Adjutant-and-Quartermaster-Generals-Named-at-VFW-National-Convention/>.



Peggy Haake

*National Chaplain
2016-2017*

Peggy Haake of Kahului, Hawaii, was elected National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 103rd National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on July 27, 2016.

She is now in the third of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2019-2020.

Peggy is a Life Member of Wilbert Wah Hu Tom Auxiliary 3850, which she joined on the eligibility of her husband, Richard, who served in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1970-71. Since joining, she has served the organization in many capacities, including Auxiliary and State President, National Council Member and Western Conference Chairman for the Youth Activities program. She is a Life Member of VFW National Home, Camp Trotter in Michigan, the DAV and the VFW Veteran's Village in Florida.

Peggy retired after 34 years with the Bank of Hawaii and is currently an instructor for AARP's Driver Safety Program. In her spare time she enjoys bowling and volunteer work.



Darold D. Couch
Member, National Council Administration
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



Darold D. Couch was elected to a four-year term on the VFW's National Council of Administration in 2015, presenting the Department of South Dakota.

Mr. Couch served in the United States Army from 1970-1971. During that time he served in Vietnam. In recognition of his service, he received the Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with Bronze Star.

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1984 at Post 3442 in Custer, S.D., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership.

Mr. Couch is currently self-employed.

He is a Life Member of the American Legion, VFW National Home, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans and the 1st/14th Artillery Association.



Medical School Association Praises VA's New National Veteran Health Equity Report

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), representing medical schools nationwide, is recognizing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiatives to advance equity in health care through VA's new National Veteran Health Equity Report. The National Veteran Health Equity Report advances understanding of the many factors to be considered when treating Veterans. The report can be used as a tool to set treatment goals for vulnerable Veterans in order to reduce health care disparities they experience. Clinicians in VA and in the private sector are already using the report to understand and better address health issues among diverse patient populations.

Medical School Association Praises VA's New National Veteran Health Equity Report

U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-SD) and Mike Rounds (R-SD), a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD) issued the following statements regarding the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) final environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Black Hills Health Care System and the veterans facility in Hot Springs, South Dakota. Any decision on whether or not to close the Hot Springs facility based on the results of the VA's EIS will be determined by VA Secretary Robert McDonald.

"My primary concern, as it has been since the VA released its initial proposal, remains what is best for serving the needs of South Dakota veterans," said Thune. "It is disappointing that the VA has continued to pursue a pre-determined outcome despite significant opposition from our veterans, who have sought the care they have selflessly earned in Hot Springs for over 100 years. Secretary McDonald has given his word to visit the campus before a final decision is made, and I remain committed to

supporting an outcome that best serves all of our veterans."

"I do have concerns about the final EIS released by the VA this morning," said Rounds. While we continue to conduct a thorough review of the EIS, we will also continue working closely with all stakeholders and the VA to make certain any final decision is in the best interest of South Dakota veterans and the Hot Springs community."

We have a responsibility, not only to serve our veterans, but to listen to them," said Noem. South Dakota's veterans have made clear how important it is to them that services at the Hot Springs VA Hospital continue. Still, this administration has incrementally depleted the services offered and pushed forward a seemingly pre-determined plan to close the facility altogether. Now is not the time to close the doors and tell our veterans to find help elsewhere. This is a special place, which is why I'm once again renewing my call to Secretary McDonald to visit Hot Springs before any final decisions are made."

92nd Legislative Session

The 92nd Session of the South Dakota Legislature convened at approximately 12:00 on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, with Governor Dugaards State of the State Address.

This year's session is scheduled for 38 days, with the main run concluding March 10th. March 27th is reserved for considering gubernatorial vetoes. Legislative actions can be viewed at: http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislative_Session/Bill_Reports/default.aspx?Session=2017

Live broadcasts of legislative actions and committee meetings are provided by South Dakota Publication Broadcasting at <https://legis.sd.gov/LegislativeSession/Committees/>

You can reach legislators in Pierre. To leave a message for a Senator, call (605) 773-3821. To leave a message for a member of the House of Representatives, call (605) 773-3851.

Another great source is the Legislative Research Council (LRC) website: <http://sdlegislature.gov/> You can use this site to search bills by number, subject or the member who introduced the bill. You can also track committees and floor activities and find existing laws. The LRC site also contains contact information for every member of South Dakota House and Senate.

VA Partners with Prostate Cancer Foundation to Expand Clinical Research

As a national leader in oncology advancement and as the largest integrated healthcare system in the nation, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced an important and substantial partnership with the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) to prevent, screen and promote research to speed the development of treatments and cures for prostate cancer among Veterans. Announcement of the partnership was made during Launch Pad: Pathways to Cancer InnoVation, a joint VA/PCF summit held today that brings together world-class oncology experts, corporate and non profit partners to discuss research, big data, technology and clinical solutions to advance screening, diagnostics and care coordination for cancer and to promote the implementation of best practices across the VA healthcare system.

SOUTH DAKOTA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES

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300 N. Dakota Avenue, Suite 314
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 275-2868 / FAX (605) 275-2875

What's Happening in Washington, D.C.

Sign up to receive Washington Weekly and stay in-the-know on key issues affecting veterans and the military. You'll get the latest on what's happening with veterans' legislation, national security and other news affecting America's defenders.

Go to: <http://cap-wiz.com/VFW/mlm/signup.htm> and follow directions. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Everybody Knows
SOMEBODY
Eligible for
VFW

So Why Not Ask That Veteran to Join Your Post?



Highlights Around South Dakota VFW

—PHEASANT HUNT continued from Page 1



The 13th Annual SD Veterans Pheasant Hunt was hosted by the Gettysburg VFW Post 8530. The veterans from across the U.S. got their limit of birds on Monday while hunting at the Potts farm southeast of town. Picture are: (back-(l-r): local hunters and veterans Brady Potts, Dan Thomas, Butch Anderson, Steve Sheldon, Lonny Potts, Roger Liebig, Curt Hamburger, State VFW Quartermaster Darwin Tolzin of Brookings, and Bill Hirschert of Piedmont. Front row: Veterans Dan Bond of Michigan, State VFW Commander Dennis Sharp of Pierre, National VFW Director of Operations Barney Hill of Kansas City, Missouri, Kenneth Wescott of Arizona, Stephen Blair of Alaska, Frank Ramirez of Texas, and Rex Sproles of South Carolina.

Photo by Tim Potts/Meade County Times-Tribute Correspondent

Allen Merrill, VFW Post 8530 Commander was first contacted by Pat McGrath from the Faulkton VFW Post who previously hosted the hunt for 12 years and asked if the Gettysburg Post could take over the hunt. The membership voted and accepted and agreed to host the 2016 hunt in the Gettysburg area.

Barney Hill, VFW National Director of Operations from Kansas City helped with running an advertisement in the VFW magazine, which distributed the information out to a wider network of Veterans that are eligible. "One of the things that is very important is this hunt is targeted to those Vets with Purple Hearts and/or disabilities and it is a chance to reconnect with who they were before they had their disability. It helps them understand that their lives may have changed greatly through their service, but the quality of life can still be high," said Hill. He continued, "when you look at what the VFW provides to the local community, that is the key."

Dennis Sharp, State VFW Commander talked about the hunt that had originally started in Faulkton and was hosted there for the past 12 years. There is an application process and five Veterans are selected each year. Sharp stated, "the Veterans like to meet others that have had similar experience and share their stories."

Darwin Tolzin, State Quartermaster Adjutant said, "as the State VFW, we are trying to give something back to those that almost gave it all." They were asked to go someplace and came home with a Purple Heart - that means you came home, but that does not mean there wasn't damage." He continued, "our job is to give five days of sunshine in their life and that is what this is all about - God bless the Faulkton and Gettysburg VFWs."

The Five Purple Heart recipients include:

Stephen Blair, now living in Anchorage, Alaska served two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan where he was wounded in combat patrol in the Army. Blair said, "this was fantastic and I had a great time shooting - a little hesitant at first, but then I got comfortable."

Kenneth Wescott, from Waddell, Arizona, a Marine who served in the Vietnam War in 1966-1967. Wescott commented, "the day was fabulous and it was just an incredible day and a lot of fun."

Daniel Bond, Lapper, Michigan, a Marine who served in Vietnam in 1968-1969. "What an awesome experience. More than I could have ever expected, good company and fun with a great group of guys," said Bond.

Frank Ramirez, Galveston, Texas, a Marine who served in Vietnam in 1966-1967 and lost his right leg below the knee from a bomb. Ramirez said he has never hunted pheasants in his life and it is something he said he always wanted to do while he was still alive and able. Ramirez does enjoy hunting and has hunted deer, turkeys and a lot of varmints. Ramirez did share his experience on Sept. 10, 1966 when he heard a big explosion. He tried to stand up and saw his bone sticking out below his knee and the other part of his leg laying in the dirt. The medevac helicopter took him to a hospital in Da Nang.

Weyman Sproles, Columbia, South Carolina, a 22 year Army Veteran that served two tours in Vietnam in 1965-1966 and 1968-1969. "Today was exciting, more exciting than I every anticipated. It was good to be out with all of the Veterans," said Sproles.

The first day of the 13th Annual Veterans Hunt was successful with four more days of adventure to follow at the Sheldon, Larson and Thomas Farms. The Veterans were able to speak to the High School on Friday, Veterans Day.

Submitted by Tim Potts



BIG TEN

Back Row: DD Couch, Russell Dramstad, Nancy Worth, Sean Johnson, Mike Mullen, Darwin Tolzin, Patti Couch, Vickie Rosse, Wanda Mix, Nelda Jorgensen and Jan Endes;

Seated: Donita Mullinix, Mary Kirkvold, Karen Sharp, Dennis Sharp, Rick Williamson, Carol Gross and "Cole," Sean's service dog.



Radio Station KK93 / KDAM / KYNT manager Curt Dykstra came up with the idea to raise money for our VFW Post 791 by selling T-shirts.

Pictured L-R: Quartermaster Colin Reisner, Commander Dale Stibral, Curt Dykstra and Cynthia Miller from the radio station.

Christmas Tree Decorating November 23, 2016



Glynis Collier, Carrie Alm, Mike Mullen, Nancy Chester, Deb Fahey, Karen Sharp, Dennis Sharp, Lois Knudson, Kat Craig, Pam Vissia, Colleen Foland, and Nancy Worth - kneeling



—See Story on Page 8



—SIOUX FALLS BURGER KINGS from Page 1

Diane J. Diekman Commander, VFW Post 628 presents plaques to managers in Souix Falls, SD



Presentation in Watertown, SD at Burger King



The presenters were Ray Kerstetter Post 750 Commander and Ernie Gatchell Senior Vice. Store manager Mandy Kohlhoff (in blue shirt) and Canace Cederstrom.

Unmet Needs Burger King-Huron, SD



Pictured front row: Past Post Commander Bill Rueppel; Post Commander Dale Stibral of VFW Post 791, Yankton, SD; Burger King Manager Jason Shanders; Quartermaster Colin Reisner; KK93/KDAM/KYNT Radio Supporters Cynthia Miller and Dave Lee.



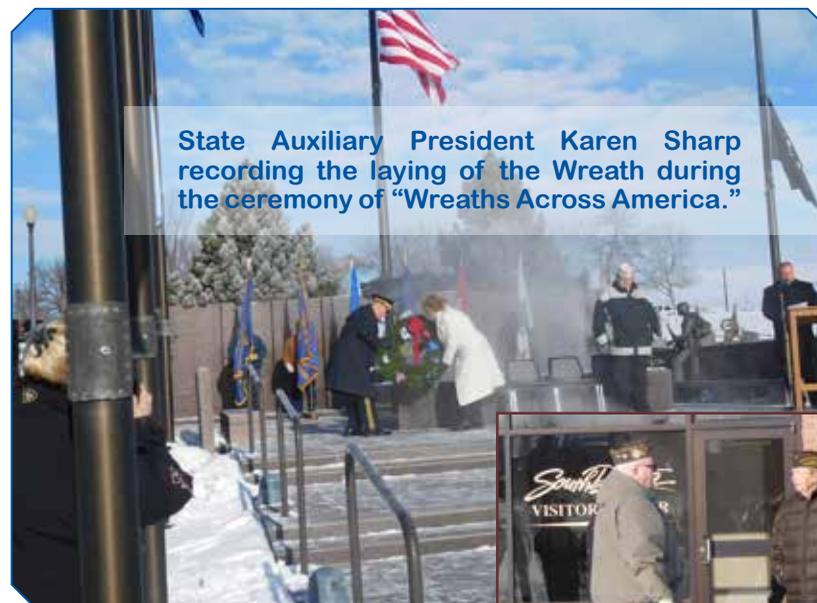
Huron VFW Post 1776 Commander Dale Greenfield and Auxiliary President Bev Freng present "Unmet Needs" plaque to Burger King Manager Daryl Heffner.



VFW Post 628 fund raiser with Sports Clip

Diane J. Diekman Commander, VFW Post 628 presenting the plaque to Sport Clips for donating to a military scholarship fund.

Annual "Wreaths Across America" ceremony on the Capital grounds on December 12, 2016, was attended by State Commander Dennis Sharp and Auxiliary President Karen Sharp.



State Auxiliary President Karen Sharp recording the laying of the Wreath during the ceremony of "Wreaths Across America."

Right: Richard Jacobsen standing with Dennis Sharp waiting for the ceremony to start. It was so cold out it was hard to get good pictures.

VFW Post 791, KK93 and Burger King promote UNMET Needs

Letter to the editor:

What can \$1.00 do??? To many people it doesn't amount to very much, but to some it could be the difference of having something to eat, drink, wear or have a roof over their heads. The UNMET Needs program now ongoing at Burger King and partnered with the VFW has been raising money for our own Military Families in need here in South Dakota. All the money raised here in South Dakota, stays here in South Dakota for our Military Families. UNMET Needs provides medicine, rent/mortgage payments, car/house repairs, utility bills, diapers, and food. Many of our Military Families whose spouse is serving are having hardships to meet their basic living needs. On Veteran's Day from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., KK93 and Veterans from VFW Post 791 will be at the Yankton Burger King greeting people and asking for a \$1.00 donation. VFW Post 791 would like to give a Big Thank You to everyone that donated in the past, KK93, KYNT and KDam for broadcasting our fund raising efforts and the hard working employees at Burger King helping to raise funds for such a worthy cause. This fund raiser goes until the end of November, please stop at Burger King and donate your \$1.00. Your \$1.00 added with many others could mean the difference if a Military Family has heat tonight or food on the table. So see what a \$1.00 can do? Thank you for Supporting our Military while we enjoy the Freedom they provide for us.

Linda Fox
LT, JAGC, USN Ret.

Tim Sieber / Award for Veterans Unmet Needs



On 11 November 2016 at our local Veterans Day celebration at the Davison County 4H grounds, VFW Post 2750, Mitchell, SD presented to Tim Sieber, Store Manager of Burger King, a plaque for their contribution in raising money for UNMET Needs for veterans. They greatly appreciated the recognition.

Support Our Supporters

Take the time to visit the Burger King and Sports Clip organizations and thank them for supporting our VFW programs through Unmet Needs and Operations Uplink.

Burger King - partnered with VFW Unmet Needs in 2007. Unmet Needs has received over \$3.84 million in contributions from Burger King Franchise owners and their loyal customers. Unmet Needs has assisted over 4000 military families with grants totaling over \$6 million since 2004.

Sport Clips partnered with VFW Operations Uplink in 2007. Connected over 2.5 million calls and provided over 30 million minutes of talk time through VFW's Free Call Days. Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship began in 2014. The first Help A Hero Scholarship was awarded for the Spring 2014 semester. Since then, 580 scholarships have been awarded to deserving veterans totaling \$2.4 million.

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are now halfway through our year, and the whirlwind continues.

Commander Dennis and I along with fifteen other South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary members attended the Big Ten Conference in Kalamazoo, MI, October 21 – 23, 2016. It was a fun and busy time, but we also tended to

business. National Headquarters gave a presentation on the new MALTA computer system that we will all be working on in the near future. Yes, there will be a learning curve, but I believe that once we put forth the effort to learn the system and embrace it, we will find ourselves saying, "How did we ever get along without it?" Change can be difficult, especially new technology, when we don't work with it day in and day out, but it is part of the world we live in today and especially important if we are to recruit new, younger members.

We also attended two (2) District meetings in October. It

is always fun and a good learning experience to go to other Districts to see how they operate and visit with the members.

November found us attending Veterans Day programs at local schools and participating in the Veterans Day Parade sponsored by Post 1273 in Rapid City. It was an absolute beautiful day for a parade followed by a very nice Veterans Day program and luncheon at the Post Home.

I helped our Christmas Tree Chairman Deb Fahey on several days preparing decorations for the VFW Auxiliary Christmas Tree at the state capitol. We had a group of 12 for the actual decorating of the tree with over 1,100 dog tags, almost twice as many ornaments than we have had the past few years. In addition, we set out toy soldiers for individuals to take home and place in a prominent spot in their home to remind them of our active military personnel.

In December, we attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the state capitol in Pierre, which was a moving tribute to those that have served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I hope to see many of you at the Legislative Conference in Fort Pierre on January 29th and 30th. This gives us

an opportunity to promote the goals of the VFW and Auxiliary to our state legislative members, and there will be more information on the redistricting process. A lot of work goes into these conferences to make them informative and a learning experience, so I hope that you take time to join us.

Membership—Membership—Membership – another reminder that we must continue to work toward our goal of 100% Plus by June 30, 2017. Membership is our greatest strength and our future.

June will be our election of Department Officers for 2017 – 2018. Will this be the year that YOU step up to the plate and take a Department Office? It is a wonderful experience, and YOU can do it. Please contact any present or past Department Officers if you have any questions.

"NOW IS THE TIME"

Karen Sharp
SD VFW Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Jr. Vice President & Membership/Leadership Chairman Report

Mary Kirkvold



I hope you "All" had a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

The key to treating people with respect is to treat them as you would like to be treated - commonly known as The Golden Rule. Then you will be able to rise above the situation and treat them well.

Here are several tips for treating members with respect within your Auxiliary:

1. Practice self-respect. Because you want to respect others as you would hope to be respected, it is incredibly important that you extend yourself the same respect and

courtesy that you would to another person. If someone says something cruel or demeaning, speak up. Tell them what you found to be disrespectful and why.

2. Really listen. A lot of people don't listen very well because they're distracted, check their phone, or thinking about the next thing they are going to say. Learn to REALLY LISTEN with other people speak.

3. Treat other people's ideas with due consideration. This means listening to another person's ideas, opinions and advice with an open mind. Even if you don't agree with them, give them the benefit of thinking about what they have said.

4. Be mindful of your words. Words are very powerful and they can be incredibly disrespectful if used improperly.

Think carefully about what you're going to say, and to whom, otherwise you might hurt someone.

5. Cultivate good manners. Such as saying "THANK YOU" and "PLEASE" when you're requesting something from another person. It shows that you respect the time and effort that it will take for them to help you and it will allow them to feel respected.

"Love cures people - both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it." **Menninger**

"Everybody needs a hug. It changes the metabolism." **Unk**

Auxiliary Project Chairman Report

Deb Fahey

The 2016 Christmas at the Capitol theme was "A Monumental Christmas" - Mon-u-men-tal adj. Extremely important. That certainly sums up our veterans.

Dog tag templates were emailed out to auxiliary members and they were asked to put the veteran's photo, name and any other information they had room for or wished to put on the ornament, saving the back of the ornament for auxiliary information.

The response was monumental with 1,122 ornaments received to place on any branch that could be found available

on the tree.

Names of all veterans who had photos on the tree were alphabetically listed under the auxiliary name that had sent them in and placed in two books located near the tree so that people could look in the book for names they recognized or knew.

Plastic toy soldiers with dog tags attached saying, "Please take a soldier home as a reminder of the men & women serving our country," were put in a basket near the tree also and at the time of this writing the basket has been refilled numerous times.

The tree was located on the third floor of the Capitol where there was plenty of room to stop and try to find your loved one's photo. The Capitol is quite festive with over 90 other trees, Christmas music playing in the background and live entertainment throughout the season.

The trees were viewed by thousands, so this was a perfect way to get the message out - our "extremely important" veteran heroes don't wear capes - They wear dog tags!

Ornaments can be picked up at the Legislative Conference in Fort Pierre. Be sure to save your photos for future trees. See Christmas tree photo at bottom of Page 6



VFW Auxiliary -
Department of
South Dakota
@DeptofSDVFWAux

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Cootie Corner



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Cooties at all levels are reminded that Cootie Sunday is in February. All Cooties should make a special effort to visit our hospitalized Veterans. Grand Scratch will be held in Yankton and hosted by Pup Tent #12 in April. (Date to be announced.) Supreme 9th District 5-State Pow-Wow will be held in Yankton this year on June 16-18.

Keep "Em Smilin" in beds of white.

Yours in L.O.T.C.S.
Dale Stibrall
Grand Commander

Article Submission, Vermillion South Dakota VFW Post 3061

In Recognition to Dr. Jing Williams for her efforts in promoting buddy poppy "In Flanders Field" artwork exhibition project

The elementary education major students at the University of South Dakota [USD] created visual artworks honoring veterans this fall. An art exhibition, entitled "In Flanders Fields," was held at USD on October 13, 2016. More than 500 people attended this event. The VFW Post 3061 provided 1,000 buddy poppies for students to make their artwork. Dr. Jing Williams, the Social Studies Education professor at USD, has been collaborating with Post 3061 since the spring of 2015. Each semester she leads her future social studies teachers to do a veteran-related project which aims to raise awareness of veterans' sacrifices among her students and in the local community. This fall, she and her students held the "In Flanders Fields" art exhibition, which included 40 pieces of artwork created by her 38 future social studies teachers along side a USD art professor and Dr. Williams herself. All artworks were silent auctioned during the exhibition, and the event raised more than \$1,000 which was all donated to Post 3061 to aid its mission in supporting education and disabled veterans. This event was in the local news before and after the exhibition. Please see the news release links here:

- Announcement before the exhibition: [School of Education Honoring Veterans Through Art](#)
- News after the exhibition: [More Than 500 People Attend USD Art Show Honoring Veterans](#)

Nobody has ever done what Dr. Williams is doing for veterans at USD. Our post is very appreciative for her efforts in promoting awareness of veterans among future social studies teachers. Dr. Williams can be reached via email: Jing.Williams@usd.edu

Bruce Williams
Service Officer, Post 3061
Trainontime@gmail.com
(901) 857-1959

USD School of Education Writing Contest Honors Veterans

November 23, 2017

VERMILLION, S.D. — University of South Dakota students honored military veterans through a writing contest and oral presentations that were judged by Vermillion members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and USD's ROTC unit

USD's School of Education and the Vermillion VFW collaborated on the effort intended to promote student awareness of veterans' sacrifices and contributions to society.

The winners, chosen Friday: First place (\$150), Destiny Leftwich, a senior elementary education major from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; second place (\$100), Catheryn Kunz, a senior elementary education major from North Sioux City, South Dakota; and third place (\$50), Megan Ohlendorf, a graduate student studying clinical mental health counseling from Sioux City, Iowa. Each also will receive a certificate from the Vermillion VFW.



Megan Ohlendorf, of Sioux City, Iowa; Andy Howe, quartermaster of Vermillion VFW Post 3061; Alexander Voisin, ROTC cadet

CPT Jerry Zevecke, assistant professor of military science, ROTC; Jing An, assistant professor of social studies education; Andy Martinez, senior advice commander of Vermillion VFW Post 3061; Catheryn Kunz, of North Sioux City, South Dakota; Destiny Leftwich, of Pine Ridge, South Dakota;

It's Not the Price You Pay to Belong...It's the PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE!!!

Letter to the Editor:

"Your Freedom is the Most Expensive Thing that you Own Even if you didn't pay for it Yourself."

I found this saying on a wall hanging in red, white and blue and it's so true because Freedom isn't Free. With Veteran's Day approaching, we need to reflect on how many of our Veterans never returned home, are homeless, have been injured and are permanently disabled. They paid the price for you to enjoy your freedom. We celebrate Veteran's Day every November 11th without fail. But we also need to celebrate the families that are behind the scenes and taking care of business while they are away. They aren't on the front lines, but they are in grocery lines, soup kitchen lines and working lines. The VFW Post 791 Veterans will be at Burger King this Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Veteran's Day to raise money for the UNMET Needs program. This program is a grant, it doesn't have to be paid back, up to \$5000.00. It's to help families of Service Members with unexpected emergencies, pay rent, medical bills, car repairs and any assistance they may need. We have helped many families in South Dakota and given out over \$20,000.00. The money raised in South Dakota helps our South Dakota military families. Please stop by Burger King throughout the month of November to support this program. One Dollar is all it takes and add them together we can help our Military Families and our Veteran's at the same time. Our Veterans are under enough stress and this will help them knowing there is a program to help their families. Please support the UNMET Needs Program.

Linda M. Fox
LT, JAGC, USN (Retired)
VFW Post 791

VFW Foundation Post & Auxiliary Community Support Grant

A reminder that the VFW Foundation wants to help your Post and/or Auxiliary get more involved in your community with the "VFW Foundation Post & Auxiliary Community Support Grant," open to all VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries.

The Foundation will provide up to \$1,000 to a Post and/or Auxiliary supporting local non profits or performing important outreach in their community or needing to make much needed repairs or updates to their Post buildings.

Funded activities do not have to be geared exclusively toward the needs of veterans, military service personnel or their families. In most instances, grant funds will be used to help "general" non-military or mixed general/military populations so as to demonstrate how a VFW Post and its Auxiliaries can make an additional positive impact on its community.

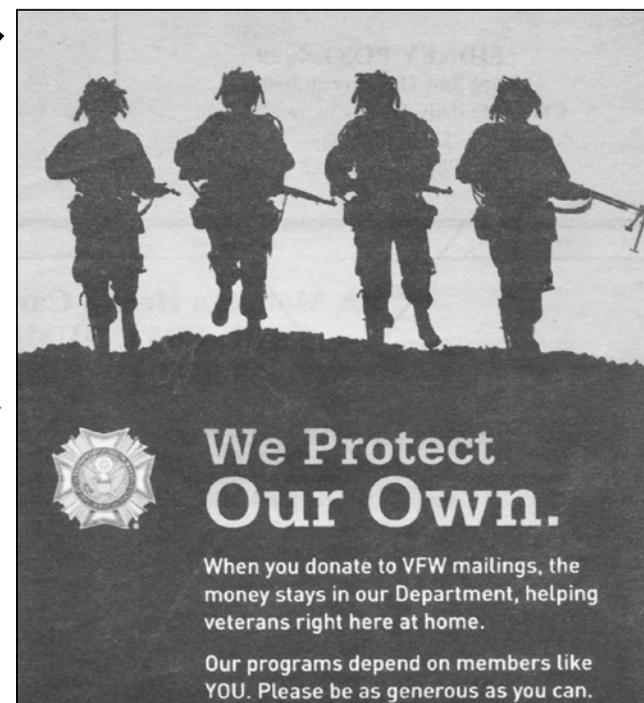
VFW Posts and/or their Auxiliary can conduct grant activities on their own or leverage grant funds in partnership with other non-VFW charities that have existing programs or services such as a local Boy Scout chapter. Your Post and/or Auxiliary may only make a donation to another organization that is within a 25-mile radius of your Post.

To apply online for the "VFW Foundation Post & Auxiliary Community Support Grant," go to the "Grants" page on the VFW Foundation website (www.vfwfoundation.org) and click on the link provided.

VFW Foundation grant funds must be expended within nine (9) months of the award date which coincides with the time frame expected for project completion. A final report documenting how the funds were used is required by July 1, 2017.

Don't miss out on this opportunity! As of January 1, over 50% of the available funding for the "VFW Foundation Post & Auxiliary Community Support Grant," has been distributed to over 225 Posts and/or Auxiliaries, so submit your applications as soon as you are able.

For questions, please contact Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator by email at jcouch@vfw.org



Dakota Retrospect Small Town Spirit of a Post

WWII Veteran, Woodrow Heintz
Charter member of the Harrold VFW Post

Written by his son Gary Heintz

Submitted by PSC District #8, Commander Gary Knudson

Dad loved Harrold. His favorite stories seemed to revolve around his family and his life in that small town.

Dad met Mom when he was stationed in Green Cove Springs, Florida. They married and Dad promised Mom they would live in Florida, but he wanted to spend a few weeks back in Harrold, to see family and all his friends that were returning from WWII. The little town was bursting with a new sense of life and a joy in knowing a world without war. Dad somehow convinced Mom this is where they needed to live. She was overwhelmed with the prairie, the scarcity of trees and the over abundance of wind, but she also fell in love with the people, and they became her anchor on the plains of South Dakota.

One of the first things the returning veterans did was organize a VFW post. The initial enrollment listed 40 men, most from WWII. The post sponsored town celebrations, the junior baseball team, school band competitions across the state, and after buying a building on the main street, held dances on a regular basis. They had a club room that was open to the public on Wednesday and Saturday nights where beer and hard liquor were served. Card games went on through the night, and the club had two slot machines, which no one, including the VFW members, knew if they were legal to have, so every night after they locked up, one of the members would load the slot machines in the trunk of their car for safekeeping until the next club night. Remembering Dad talking to other members about the slots, I think they had a lot of fun pretending they were doing something shady.

When I was three or four years old, the VFW sponsored a town celebration and hired Art B. Thomas' carnival show to set up on the main street, complete with what seemed at the time a huge Ferris wheel. Dad was busy with the show, so Mom took me to the carnival and even though she was terrified of heights she took me on the Ferris wheel. All the way around, she was excitedly saying, "Gary, hold on, now don't be scared... Oh my!" Then squeezing my hand so hard it hurt. We stopped at the top one time, the chair rocking back and forth, and we sat as still as we could, Mom giggling with fear the whole time. She took my mind off of her fear by pointing towards the west, where the prairie, like an ocean, shimmered, slowly hiding the setting sun. It seemed we could see for miles! Actually, we could! The exciting culmination of the celebration was the raffle drawing for a new Ford car the VFW club had purchased for \$950 from Tish Drury Ford. They drew for the car at the end of the dance, and Slim Onken won it. When all was said and done, the VFW had sold enough tickets to pay for the car and the carnival show and still had some money left over.

Dad stayed busy barbering, especially on Wednesdays and Saturdays, cutting hair all day and long in the night. The cost of a haircut was 50 cents and a shave was 35 cents. Dad was also the fire chief of the volunteer fire department back then, and when there was a fire, everyone stopped what they were doing and headed for the fire hall. One day Dad was shaving Boots Gregg when the fire whistle blew. Dad was only half done with Boot's shave, but told Boots he had to respond to the fire whistle. Boots told him to go ahead, he would finish shaving himself. When Dad returned, he found the razor cleaned up and put away and there was 35 cents on the counter for the shave!

This article was taken with permission from the Pierre Capital Journal editorial page.



As the nation's oldest major veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

YOUR DONATION OF \$20 ENSURES THE VFW CAN:

- Educate a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.
- Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war
- Provide training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services
- Serve 5 morale-boosting "welcome home" meals for service members recently back from combat

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at www.vfw.org

Headquarters Issues a Challenge to Posts

Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters is challenging every Post to put together teams to get facetime with lapsed members who have expired and members who will be coming due in the next few months. This event will take place February 17-19. Get out and knock on the doors of your members in hopes to collect 2016-2017 membership dues and help us make 100% membership as a National Organization for the first time in 24 years!

Your recruiting teams will run into members who will say "my dues haven't expired." Be prepared to explain a few things. The VFW Commander-in-Chief will be testifying before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on 01 March 2017. Inform your members that "By paying dues prior to this date, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will have a stronger voice on Capitol Hill. Now, more than ever, the size of our membership is important."

CIC Duffy will be asking State Commanders for their report on the results of this campaign at the Commanders meeting in Washington D.C. in at the end of February.

**Everybody Knows
SOMEBODY
Eligible for
VFW**

So Why Not Ask That Veteran to Join Your Post?

*"...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!

Custer, Kenneth Kuper, VFW Post 3442

Glazier Ken, Korea, USAF, Life
Feinaugh Fred, WWII, USA, Life,
Charter Member

Alcester, VFW Post 6149

Anderson Roger A., France, USA, Life

Sioux Falls, John M. Bliss, VFW Post 628

Halligan Donald, Korea, USA, Life
DeVries, Thomas, Korea, USA, Life
Frey Carl, Korea, USA, Life
Bruggeman Robert, WWII, USN, Life
Bruhm Gerald, Korea, USA, Life
Schultz Edwin, Korea, USA, Life
Fincher Dale, Korea, USA, Life
Grush Robert, Korea, USA, Life
Kalda Donald, WWII, USA
Nelson John, Korea, Vietnam, USN, Life

Swane Flonnie, WWII, USA

Hedlund Don, WWII, USAF
Stelzer Herbert, Korea, USMC
Meerdink Robert, Korea, USA, Life
Cook Wendell, WWII, USA
Fanebust Duane, WWII, USA
Grant Donald, WWII, USN, Life

Madison, Lake VFW Post 2638

Stearns James, USA, Life
Eilertson Marvin, German, USA, Life

Alcester, VFW Post 6149

Tucker Howard, Korea, USMC
Anderson Roger A., France, USA, Life
Rapid City, Rushmore VFW Post 1273
Walker Richard L., WWII, USN, Life
Roybal Joseph, WWII, USA, Life
Kenmer Loren, WWII, USN, Life

Burger Ladimer, WWII, USA, Life

Penega James, WWII, Pacific, USA, Life
Johnson Eugene, Korea, USA, Life
Neiger James, USAF, Life
Kelsey Willie, Korea, USN, Life
Kraus Bernard Jr., Vietnam USN

Vermillion, Clay County VFW Post 3061

Tiahr Wilbur, WWII, USAAC, Life
Lawrenson, Glen, Korea, USN
Cusick Harold, WWII, USA, Life

Newell, VFW Post 5807

Stapp, Tom, Vietnam, USN, Life

Watertown, Frank H. Adams VFW Post 750

Matteson Walter H., WWII, USN, Life
Stricherz Richard J., Vietnam, USN
Pesall Bernard A., Korea, USA, Life

Deerg John R., WWII, USA, Life

Schoepp Roert K., Vietnam, USN, Life
Hossa Harry L., WWII, USN, Life
Garnos Gordon R., Army of Occupation,
USAF, Life
Murphy James K., Korea, USA

Huron, Tomczak-Bartels VFW Post 1776

Taylor Robert, WWII
Meyers Frank N., WWII, USA, Past Post Cmdr
Delvaux Frank L., USAF

Wagner, Rollie Bucholz VFW Post 7319

Schryvers Marvin D., Korea, USMC, Life,
Past Post Cmdr

Yankton, Ernest Bowyer VFW Post 791

Christensen Marvin, WWII, USN
Hill Glen, Korea, USA, Life

Eckhardt Lloyd, WWII, USN, Life

Oien Orvin, WWII, USA, Life

Canton, Lincoln County VFW Post 3164

Anderson Marloin "Marly", WWII/Korea, USA,
Life
Kock Ralph, WWII, USA, Life, Past Post Cmdr



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

2016-2017

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District 8 Commander

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Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-224-4295



Medical Centers of the VA South Dakota Health Care Network

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

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

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

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

VFW National Veterans Service works to ensure veterans receive every benefit available to them from their government. Our nationwide network of service officers was established to help veterans and their families file claims with the VA. This service is available at no charge and made possible through donations. Over the past three years, the VFW has helped more than 284,000 veterans recover nearly \$7 billion in compensation and pension.

Visit VFW.org/nvs to find a service officer near you.



The United States of America has the most professional military in the world because of the high quality of the people who raise their right hands and swear an oath of allegiance, few have or will ever take. Our job as VFW members is to ensure they have the proper equipment, are properly resourced, that their quality of life programs remain first-class. And perhaps most of all, that they continue to have the full support of the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Overseas Veteran Option

At this year's Department Convention held in Deadwood, it was voted to have the Overseas Veteran posted only 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 the 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.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

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

Pillowcases for the Veterans in Brookings

At the Department Convention in June, Hospital Chairman LeeAnn Payne showed members the Burrito Pillowcase. The unique construction made it a perfect choice for veterans at our veterans homes.

Brookings Hospital Chairman, Linda Vollan, took the idea and made it a reality for the Brookings veterans. Every month the veterans in homes and assisted living can look forward to some 'favor' from the VFW Auxiliary #2118. Vollan has made special cards, firecrackers filled with candies and keepsakes for each month of the year. The project started by purchasing eighty (80) yards of coordinating fabric. The next step was cutting the materials and making pleasing combinations. These were made into kits for the auxiliary members to take and start sewing.

This month, eighty (80) veterans in Brookings will receive a Burrito pillowcase made from patriotic fabrics. Vollan presented the idea to the auxiliary, and members were happy to help make the pillowcases. With 12 members, 80 yards of fabric and over 130 hours of work, the Veterans will each receive their 'favor' this month.



Pictured:

Participating auxiliary members Lois Ladegaard, Ellen Herrbolt, Jan Olson, Suzanne Booth, Janice Justice, Norma Hansen and Vickie Rosse are shown displaying a few of the different pillowcases that were presented in December as gifts to veterans in the Brookings care facilities and assisted living. Not pictured are Linda Vollan, Grace Linn, Marjorie Wallborg and Auxiliary President Wanda Mix.

NO MATTER WHAT WAR THEY FOUGHT IN OR ARE CURRENTLY FIGHTING IN, WE SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

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.

VA Makes Changes to Veterans Choice Program

Changes Remove Barriers and Expands Access to Care

Who can help Veterans with questions at the VA Sioux Falls:

Primary Choice Champion: Robert Taylor
Email: Roberttaylor26@va.gov | Phone: (605) 336-3230, Ext. 7921
Secondary Choice Champion: Lisa Seeley
Email: lisa.seeley@va.gov | Phone: (605) 336-3230, Ext. 6578

Who can help Veterans with questions at the VA Black Hills:

VA Black Hills Choice Champions:
Cynthia Heaton | Phone: (605) 720-7181
Valerie Anderson | Phone: (605) 347-2511, Ext. 7632
Barb White | Phone: (605) 745-2000, Ext. 2253

DEADLINE

For the next issue (April 2017) of the *South Dakota Overseas Veteran*, the deadline is March 1, 2017.

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:

dpsigns@alliancecom.net

Dept. Post Advertisers - Please mention you read their ad

POST SCHEDULES

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

Book your wedding reception with us!
Call 605-338-9421
Follow us on Facebook at VFW Post 628
Serving the Sioux Empire since 1921

Brookings

George Dokken
Post #2118

SMOKE FREE!

Bingo: Mon., Thurs. and Fri.
Lounge: Bingo nights & Sat.
Hall: Available for rental

520 Main Avenue
605-692-6771

C.C. CROAL

POST #17
ABERDEEN, SD

Post/Auxiliary Meetings
Second Thursday - 7:30 PM
Room for Parties
All Occasions
M-S Hours: 2 PM - 2 AM

Black Hills

Post 5969
Deadwood

Wednesday: Hamburger Night
Friday: Dinners

Lounge & Gaming

FRANK H. ADAMS

POST #750
808 South Broadway
Watertown, SD

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

Post Meeting Nite 3rd Wed.
Aux. Meeting Nite 2nd Wed.

THREE RIVERS

POST #4726
BRANDON, SD
(The most eastern Post in SD)

Interstate 90, Exit 406
Post Meeting,
3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m..
Auxiliary Meeting,
2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Welcome Veterans & Friends
to Our Freedom Grill
and Bar Lounge.

Ernest Bowyer

Post No. 791
209 Cedar St.
Yankton, SD

(605) 665-3562
Open 3 p.m.
Sun. thru Sat.

All Veterans and Visiting
Members Welcome

Meeting Night 2nd Tuesday

Rollie Bucholz Post 7319

Wagner, SD 57380
PHONE: 342-9804

Open Daily: Mon.-Sat. at 5:00

All Veterans & Guests Welcome
Short Orders served during week.
Saturday evening special dinners served

Post Meeting - 3rd Tues.
Auxiliary Meeting - 2nd Tues.

Bingo every Wed. night

Rushmore - Post #1273

420 Main St., Rapid City, SD 57701
PHONE: 342-9804

Meeting Nights
MOC/MOCA Pup Tent 17 - First Thursday
VFW & Auxiliary - Second Thursday
Joint Meeting - Fifth Thursday of any Month
With Five Thursdays

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

Ronald Westby

Post #2638
510 S. Washington Ave.
Madison, SD 57042
256-6771

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.

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

Sturgis Veterans' Club

868 Main Street
Sturgis, SD

605-347-4682

Open Mon. - Fri. 4:00 PM to close
Sat. noon to closing

Short orders & dinners available

VFW Post #2730 & Auxiliary
AL Post #33 & Auxiliary
DAV Chapter 11 & Auxiliary

Kenneth Kuper

Post #3442

721 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Custer, SD
605-673-4262

Lounge Opens 2pm

Post & Auxiliary Meetings
Third Thursday - 7pm

Visit us on your trip to the Hills

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: Jeff Wilkes; Johnathan Thorun; Mike Boxa; Betty Foxa; Arnold Sattler; Burke VFW Post 9950; William & Pat Cerney; Robert Folkerts; Gail Arnott; Charles Kerkhove; Henry Whitney Custer VFW Post 3442; Marvin Gall; Linda Fox. Silver category: Dennis Brady; Hobart Cole. Bronze Category: Mavis Hameck; Wilfred Arens; Wagner VFW Post 7319; Leonard Kisely; Dick Pickering.