

## VFW “No One Does More for Veterans”

**Voice of Democracy, Partiot’s Pen, Teacher of the Year Winners, State Officers and VOD/PP at Legislative Conference, Ft. Pierre, S.D. 2016**



Row 1, Elizabeth L. Fixson; Caleb A. Miller; Rachel S. Richenbach; Aerica I. Schroeder; Row 2, Austin J. Lentsch; Alura J. Elmore; Emily C. Olsen; Sadie M. Eitemiller; Kayla R. Schorthuster; Max S. Lee; South Dakota Honorable Governor, Dennis Daugaard; Row 3, National PNC, Representative Thomas Tradewell; Keith Wilkinson; Sherri Aldinger; Ann Marie Fraser; Row 4, Kenneth Payne, Chief of Staff; Roland Ennings, District 10 Commander; Danny Frisby-Griffin, State Surgeon; Mike Mullin, State Commander; Nancy Worth, State Auxiliary President; Karen Sharp, State Senior Vice President; Dennis Sharp, State Sr. Vice Commander and Keith Blume, VOD/PP Program Chairman.

### Austin Lentsch and Rachel Rickbach Take Top Honors of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen Programs

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, and it’s Auxiliary, Department of South Dakota announced its Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen State Champion’s at the Annual banquet February 1, 2016 in Ft. Pierre.



VOD – Austin J. Lentsch, a senior at Theodore F. Riggs High School in Pierre, South Dakota. Sponsored by the VFW Post 2038 and it’s Auxiliary, District 8. Recipient of \$500.00 monetary award, a specially designed plaque and an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Austin participated in the National Voice of Democracy competition and placed 14th place nationally and was the recipient of the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship award. He also received an all expenses paid trip to the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, PA. this summer. Austin plans a career in biotechnical engineering or international business. See winning essay on page 11.

PP – Rachel S. Rickenbach, 6th grade student from Hot Springs Middle School in Oelrichs, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Rapid City VFW Post 1273, District 10. Rachel received a first place monetary award of \$250, a specially designed plaque and was able to read her winning essay during the banquet in front of 200 people in attendance. At the National competition, Rachel was the recipient of the \$750.00, VFW Department of Georgia and Auxiliary National Patriots Pen Award. See essay of page 11.



### South Dakota Teachers of the Year 2015-2016



Tommy Tradewell, National PNC; Mike Mullen, State Commander; Ann Marie Fraser; Keith Wilkinson; Sherri Aldinger, Teachers of the Year 2016, sponsored by the Aberdeen VFW Post 17 and its Auxiliary. Nancy Worth, State Auxiliary President; Karen Sharp, State Sr. Vice President; In row 2, Keith Blume, State Chairman; Dennis Sharp, State Sr. Vice Commander.



### Past Commander-in-Chief to Represent National Organization at Convention

Past Commander-in Chief, Edward S. Banas, Jr. will represent the national organization during the Department of South Dakota, 86th Annual State Convention in Deadwood, South Dakota, June 9-12 at the Lodge, 100 Pine Crest Lane. Hosted by the Sturgis VFW Post 2730 and its Auxiliary. Biography can be found on page 10.

The VFW Auxiliary National Representative will be Jan Owns, Secretary/Treasurer and Past National President.

### 12th Annual Disabled Veterans Pheasant Hunt



Five disabled veterans were hosted at the 12th annual Disabled American Veterans pheasant hunt by Faulkton VFW Post 3179. They arrived November 1, 2015 to hunt and participated in a public program on November 2nd at the school.

In front are Pat McGrath, chairman of the event; Francis Karst of Hoven, SD, who earned three Purple Hearts from Vietnam;

Ron Allen of Spokane, Wash., a disabled Vietnam veteran, Jeremy Collins of Sioux Falls, a disabled veteran from the Iraq War; Mike Muller, Department of South Dakota Commander; Henry Murphy of New Jersey, a disabled Vietnam veteran; and Bill Stahl of Minnesota, a disabled World War II veteran. Standing behind them helping with the hunt were: second row, Rich W. Barg, S.D., Gene Baskins of Ore., Royal Traver of Faulkton, Ray Walters of Wis., Tom Strzykalski of Calif., Glynis Collier of S.D., Brian Duffy of Middletown, Kentucky who is the VFW National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and Lynn Rolf of Kansas; in back, Russel Dramstad of SD, Eric James of Pierre, Gordon Paul of SD, Dennis Sharp of SD, Willie Page of SD, Jim McGrather of Minnesota, Pam Heiser of SD, Steve Williams of Ore., and Karen Sharp of SD.

The Faulkton VFW Auxiliary 3179 hosted the veterans and helpers for a supper on Tuesday night, November 3rd. The McGrath family with the help from the Auxiliary also held a supper Monday night, November 2nd, at the Legion Hall for the hunters and helpers.





**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

### Michael N. Mullen



At this writing, I have just returned from the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. This was a whirlwind visit of the VFW Washington Office, meetings with South Dakota Legislators, and the Commander-in-Chief's testimony before a Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs. I was honored to represent South Dakota at a variety of events and learned there is so much more we can do to insure the rights and benefits of our fellow veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has established a phone number (1-877-881-7618) for veterans to call if their credit has been adversely impacted by being billed by private sector providers due to care received through the Choice Program. The VA is required to pay for this care and the VFW urges any veteran being pursued by collection agencies to seek the VA's assistance. If you have a question regarding a billing for care under the Choice Program, give them a call. However, veterans who were sent a bill from a Choice Program provider should contact the Choice Program call center, 866-606-8198, to determine if VA is liable for the cost of the care received.

**A BIG CONGRATULATIONS** to the South Dakota youth scholarship winners; they represented our state so well.

Rachel Rickenbach, a sixth grader from Hot Springs Middle School received \$750 scholarship for 15th place in the Patriots'

Pen competition. Rachel was sponsored by VFW Post 1273 and Auxiliary in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Austin Lentsch, a senior at Theodore F. Riggs High School received a \$2,000 scholarship (14th place) for his Voice of Democracy entry. Austin plans a career in either biotechnical engineering or international business and he was sponsored by VFW Post 2038 and Auxiliary in Pierre, South Dakota. He also indicated that he has received a nomination to West Point Academy and has been accepted to continue his education at Notre Dame University.

I had not visited Washington, DC since I was a child; and my wife made arrangements for me to visit a few of the many memorials our Nation's Capital has to offer. I had the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial and the WWII Memorial, all of which are dedicated to the thousands of American soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. I was truly humbled to stand in front of these monuments and reflect on what it is to be a proud Veteran of Foreign Wars.

It has been a complete pleasure to serve as the 2015-2016 South Dakota Department Commander. I wish the best success to incoming Commander, Dennis Sharp, and vow to be available to any members if there are concerns about benefits.

**Remembering our Promise**  
**Mike Mullen**  
**South Dakota VFW Commander**

## Sr. Vice Commander's Report

### Dennis Sharp



Comrades and Sisters:

This has been a busy year. Recently I, with other members of the Department, had the opportunity to visit the VA hospitals in Ft. Meade and Hot Springs. We also had the privilege of viewing the new facilities in the Veterans Home in Hot Springs. The hospital in Ft. Meade is constructing a new surgical unit. It is approximately three times larger than the current facility. It is a state of the arts complex.

It is more orientated for the patient, recovery facilities for the patient and areas for spouse and family to help the patient in recovery from surgery. The new surgical unit is supposed to be operating by the end of April 2016.

We, also, had the opportunity to tour the new Veterans Home facilities in Hot Springs. Words cannot fully describe the new home. The veterans and spouses living there have everything that is possibly imaginable at their disposal, from TV's in each room, cooking and kitchen facilities in their wing or unit, commons areas, and community dining areas. We were fortunate to view the facility before they moved in the next day. If any of you have the opportunity to visit the Veterans Home, do so. You will be amazed

by all the new up to date features that have been implemented to make it feel like home for the veterans.

As this year is rapidly coming to an end, we still need to remind ourselves that there is still a lot of work to be done. Not only helping our fellow veterans, we need to work on retaining our current membership. Our current membership consists mainly of World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans. We need to go out and recruit the younger veterans that served in Iraq and Afghanistan to bolster our ranks. We need to think out of the box. We need to provide something to entice or interest them to join our ranks. They are young men and women, who after their service, are very active with home, work, family and all the activities that their children are involved in. We have to provide something that involves the whole family. I know it is going to be a tough to get accomplished, but as veterans, we all have faced tougher situations. Membership is the life blood of our organization. We need to go out in the remaining months of this year and retain and reinstate our current members and also recruit new members. We all know what has to be done. Now is the time to go out and get it done. **Tomorrow is Today.**

**Dennis Sharp**  
**Department Sr. Vice Commander**

## Adjutant/Quartermaster's Report

### Rick W. Barg



Well another VFW year is coming to a close. We are 80 days out from our Department Convention as I prepare this article. Unfortunately I must report we need some more membership but I hope you all go out and try to get those continuous members who have not paid their 2015-2016 dues. As of March 21, 2016 we have 860 continuous members from last year who have let their membership expired or not paid their dues this year. The bad news is we have 262 members who have answered the last roll call and we will need to replace them. At this time we have 119 new annual members, 42 new life members and 33 reinstate members which totals 194 members, this is 68 members less than our number of decess members for the year. This is the second time in row we have more deaths then we do reinstates and new members. This is not a good sign for our Department membership program. Commander Mile needs 615 members to reach 100% for the year. We need 615 out of 860 which is 72% to make us 100% plus one.

IS THIS NUMBER REACHABLE? Well if we get to work and go out there and get it done anything is possible. Membership is needed to keep our message strong in supporting the needs of our veterans and their families.

Remember to order your Buddy Poppies for Memorial Day and to send in your Post Officers Election Reports after your post elections and installation of post officers. This information will be sent out to every Post by National Headquarters. June 1st is the cutoff date for suspending of a post charter for not having their election reports in, so please send this information in before June 1st, 2016.

This year's State Convention is going to be held in Deadwood from June 9th to June 12th. Here's a great time to visit one of the oldest cities in the state where you can shop, have fun and spend some money. The Deadwood and Sturgis Post's and its Ladies Auxiliary is working hard to put on a great time for all of us.

I would like to thank and congratulate all those VFW members who have stepped up to serve their posts and districts for the ensuring year of 2016 – 2017. You are the leaders of today for this great organization and thank you for your leadership.

This will be my last article in the Overseas Veteran as your Adjutant/Quartermaster, due to my wife's health I need to be at home more often to take care of her. I want to thank all the members of the South Dakota VFW and the presented Council of Administration for your support over the last seventeen years. A special thanks to the Past State Commanders I served under, Walter Joynt, Rapid City; Daryl Halling, Canton; Kenneth Jorgenson, Watertown; Glen Walters, Sioux Falls; Stanley Seymour, Spearfish; Cheryl Stahlecker, Yankton; Gary Knudson, Pierre; Russel Dramstad, Huron; Marv Czerwonka, Rapid City; Dick Pickering, Brandon; William Barlow, Custer; Dave Cauley, Sioux Falls, Verne Hansen, Brookings; Gary Kuecker, Watertown; Darold Couch, Custer; Donald Dahlin, Beresford and our present Commander

Mike Mullen. We had some great times at National and State Conventions; trips to Washington D. C.; Big Ten Conferences; trips to Kansas City, Reno and Las Vegas for training, we learn together to better serve the Veterans of South Dakota. I know Dennis our new Commander and Jeff our new Adjutant and Quartermaster will do just fine in the up and coming new VFW year of the 2016-2017.

If you need help, please feel free to contact Crystal or Jeffy at Department Headquarters. They will do their best to answer your questions.

**Rick W. Barg**  
A/Q Dept. of South Dakota

## National Councilman Report



Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary;

The Department Commander Mike Mullen and the Department Auxiliary President and I attended this year Legislative Conference held February 28 thru March 3, 2016. Headquarters motel was the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City in Arlington Va.

On Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of February all meetings were held at the Headquarters Motel. At 8:30 AM I attended first the Veterans Service Advisory Committee meeting to catch us up on all the things that Veteran Service is working on. This committee was chaired by Past Commander and Chief Richard DeNoyer. The main issues are veteran homelessness, 22 suicides per day, VA health care, back log numbers, Agent Orange, and Persian Gulf syndrome were the main topics. It is very assuring that our National VFW works each and every day on Capitol Hill on these issues.

The next meeting was the Budget and Finance Committee. It was chaired by Past Commander and Chief Paul Spera. Meeting began at 10:00 AM. The chairman Spera gave the budget by line items. All questions were answered by Quartermaster General Larry Mahar. With a budget for 2015-16 of just under 100 million dollars there was a lot to cover. The budget looks to have some left over at the end of the fiscal year end if membership of post continue to improve.

The next was the Legislative meeting for all attendees to attend. This meeting was handled by Ray Kelley of the Washington office on the issues that were the priority goals for the VFW. This gave info for the VFW members to talk to their Senators and Representatives about. The main issues were the Veterans Choice Program, Back log on claims, COLA, Women veteran's issues, Veteran employment to name a few.

National Council of Administration meeting began at 2:30 P.M. With the Opening Prayer, Salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander-in-Chief Biedrzycki spoke to a full house to start meeting. Then reports for committees, Budget and Finance, Quartermaster General, VFW Employees Retirement Plan, Awards and Citations, Announcements for Adjutant General Hamilton, and National Veteran Service. Then the Jr. Vice Commander in Chief, Keith Harmon spoke as did our Sr. Vice Commander Brian Duffy. With no more business there were closing ceremonies.

Our final event on Monday was the VOD Parade of Department winners. Our Department Commander Mullen and Auxiliary President Worth escorted Austin Lensch from Pierre S.D. to the stage. Of the 54 participants Austin came in 14<sup>th</sup> with a \$2000 scholarship. A 6<sup>th</sup> grader from Nevada won the Patriot Pen contest for a \$5000 scholarship.

On Tuesday Commander Mullen, Auxiliary President Worth and myself toured the VFW Headquarters building on Capitol Hill. It is a 5 story building that houses our VFW work force in D.C. With all space being used at this time.

Next we had a meeting with Representative Kristi Noem 11:30 A.M. She took time from her busy schedule to go over our issues. She is also very veteran active in her daily business on the hill. This was my third time to

—NATIONAL COUNCILMAN, continued on page 4

## Jr. Vice Commander's Report Rick Williamson



Greetings Comrades and welcome to the final issue of the Overseas Veteran for the 2015-16 year. We have many things going on to complete Commander Mike's year coming up in the next few months. One of the big tasks we have to do is All-State judging for Post and District Cmdr/Qmstr. Please take the time to review the requirements and complete them before judging is completed in May. The most important thing you can do to help yourself is MEMBERSHIP. To be eligible you must make 100% for Post and 98.5% for District. We still have time so get your recruiting teams out there, 11 Posts within the department only need 1 or 2 members at this time. Let's get it done, now is the time.

Department Convention is just around the corner, please try to attend this function as we have a Proposed By-Law change to be voted on during this convention regarding Redistricting. The requirement to change our districts around has certainly been a very tough thing to do. I, like you, don't always like change however sometimes it is a necessity. I would like to thanks

everyone who has been involve with the discussions and committee meetings pertaining to this task. This has not been easy for the leaders of this department, we feel that we have proposed the best plan for the future of this department. With your support and input we hope to move forward with this plan and have it fully implemented for the 2017-18 year. As stated before change is never easy, however, together we will move forward and look out for the best interests of this department and our members.

As Mike completes his year I thank him for the opportunity to serve as his Membership Chairman. We are not done yet but we are doing well. In April we will be electing officers for the ensuing year, Thanks to all who have stepped up to become leaders in this department. I wish to congratulate you and let you know that we, your department officers, are here to help you in any way you may need. Thanks and have a great year. See you in Deadwood!

God Bless,

**Rick Williamson**  
Jr. Vice Commander

## State Judge Advocate's Report Willie Page



Dear Comrades,

The year is going by fast. I want to thank all the members of South Dakota VFW and the members of the Council of Administration for supporting me during this year as the State Judge Advocate. This year I am running for State Jr. Vice Commander of the state of South Dakota. I appreciate all your help on my pathway. I would want all the veterans that are all overseas in the service to be safe and coming back home soon. I am thankful

for all your support and services that you are doing for the United States of America. It is in my honors that we will pray and take one day at a time. All of my life I was told to never give up on anything I believe in. So with a lot of work, ambition, and patience to achieve in working on what we have to and you all are doing the same thing in the service, so remember my theme, "Never give up".

May God bless you and God bless America.

**Willie Page**  
State Judge Advocate

## Chief of Staff Report Ken Payne



Comrades,

I would like to thank all those who attended the Legislative Conference. We had much better attendance by our legislators and I thought the change to two days was a success. We had a few glitches, but for the first time, I felt all went very well.

Redistricting was discussed quite a bit during the Legislative Conference. This topic bring many emotions. It is something that has to be done, and I feel it will strengthen

the Department. We all have to set aside our own emotions and realize that we need to look ahead a few years.

With the coming of Spring brings a very busy time for the VFW and Auxiliary. Post Elections, Spring District meetings, Loyalty Day, Memorial Day and State Convention in June. Please try to attend at least a Post meeting to keep abreast of all that goes on in this great organization.

Looking forward to seeing you at the State Convention in Deadwood!

**Ken Payne**  
Chief of Staff



set in her office with our group from South Dakota VFW and talk Veterans issues. We talked about the Pat Pen & VOD programs, Veterans Choice Program, COLA, Veteran Suicide, VA Hot Springs, Women Veteran issues to name a few. Very good meeting

After lunch we met with 2 of Senator Rounds associates Dan Adelstein and Erik Phelps who we went over the same issues as we did with Kristi. Erik added some great info on the Veterans Choice Program that we had not heard yet. That was there is a team in South Dakota starting March 1 2016 to meet with providers to get the monies paid by VA much sooner. So our veterans DO NOT GET BILLED!

At around 2:45 we meet with Senator John Thune Assistants Jonathan Abdnor and Justin Bergeson. We meet with them for about 15 minutes and Senator Thune came from the Senate floor to speak with us. We went over all the issues again and was very well received.

Mike, Nancy and I were invited to the South Dakota breakfast on Wednesday morning 9:00 A.M. in the Dirksen Senate building. We mingled with more South Dakota people who were in D.C. to talk their issues to our Senators and Representative. It was a very nice time.

At 10:00 A.M. we were in Dirksen Senate Building Room G50 for the Commander and Chief Testimony before the Joint Veteran Affairs Committee. The Chief went across all of what we had spoken to our Congressional members about. The Committee has our very own Senator Rounds on it. He asked for the South Dakota delegation to stand and be recognized. His issue to ask the Chief was the major miles that South Dakotans have to travel to VA's from outlying areas of the state. For a veteran to be able to get care and eye care nearest to their residence. Both sides are working on that issue.

At 5:30pm in the same room of the Dirksen Senate Building the Legislative Reception was held. I was able to speak with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald for a short time before he spoke to our whole

delegation. He spoke about the struggle he has had and the great work the VFW and the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee has done to work with him to help with the issues. He has high hopes that a lot of the issues will begin to ease with all concerned.

Next was time for the National Congressional Award to be announced. It went to Jeff Miller, Representative from District 1 in Florida. He is the ranking member of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Committees. He is a very well-spoken veteran's advocate that we as veterans should appreciate.

The final award for News Media Award went to Jennifer Griffin. She is based out of the Pentagon at this time for Fox News. She is to help Americans understand the Foreign and Domestic threats to America. She is a cancer survivor, had at least 9 years in foreign land with media and she has raised millions of dollars to help our disabled veterans. She was a breath of fresh air to listen to.

There we 10 Student Veterans of America at the Conference both female and male. They look to make the VFW future much brighter. If you know of a student veteran that qualifies for the VFW get them involved.

Our National Legislative Representative from South Dakota, Russ Dramstad from Huron was unable to travel with us. He was diagnosed with influenza a just before we traveled. Russ is the Departments of South Dakota immediate past National Councilman. If you know Russ THANK him for all he still is doing for our VFW.

I am very humble to be South Dakota's VFW National Councilman for the next 3.5 years. Our need is to help in every VFW post in South Dakota to get members and to help train in our replacements. As veterans we were replaced by trained comrades. We have to train our own replacements in the VFW!

Yours' in Comradeship,

**Darold D. Couch**

**VFW National Councilman 2015-19**

## State Surgeon's Report

### Danny Frisby-Griffin



Increasing amounts of daylight! Spring is right around the corner and we're rapidly approaching bike riding season. Keep an eye out for us!

We continue to have 23 posts reporting (37%) their first quarter activity, 26 posts (42%) with second quarter numbers and 19 posts (31%), as of February 26, 2016, sharing their third quarter reports.

**REMINDER:** Spring is a great time to emphasize healthy living. People with diabetes have a higher-than-average risk of heart attack or stroke. These strike people with diabetes more than twice as often as people without diabetes. There's a major link between diabetes, heart disease or stroke, also called cardiovascular disease. Clogged blood vessels can lead to heart attack, stroke and other

problems. But there are treatments for them. Please talk with your doctor on your next visit and live the "healthy ABCs." A is for A1C check, which also may be reported as estimated average glucose (eAG) and tells you your average blood glucose for the past couple months. B is for blood pressure because high blood pressure makes your heart work harder than it should. Finally, C is cholesterol and your numbers tell you about the amount of fat in your blood. Some kinds, like HDL help protect your heart while others like LDL can clog your arteries. Stay healthy my friends. (Modified from ADA February eNews: Stand Up Against Diabetes; 2/11/2016)

Thanks for your continued support. If I can be of any assistance, feel free to contact me.

**State Surgeon**

**Dann "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin**

## Happy Birthday Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 628

Submitted by Past Commander 628, Malcolm Haugen

2016 brings thoughts of the future for nearly 1300 Sioux Falls area residents. It will also be a year of reflecting on the past. Sioux Falls will have a community friend celebrating a birthday. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 628 turns 95 on February 22 of this year.

Post 628 has a long standing history in Sioux Falls. Post 628 birth began with an organizational meeting in Yeoman Hall that was located at 121 South Main Street in Sioux Falls. The initial 160 applications were received. It was decided that the post would be named in honor of John M. Bliss who died in France during WWII. Two brothers, Percy N. Bliss and Ernest V. Bliss were a part of the original 48 Charter members. The Charter was dated February 22, 1921. The first Commander was George Geise from 1921-1922.

Meetings were held wherever a place could be found

from 1921 through 1925. The membership dropped to six during the late twenties. Dues were \$3 per year at the time. In 1930, a special meeting was held for the purpose of reorganizing the post. The post sponsored a carnival to raise funds. A membership drive was held and 40 new members signed up. Meetings were held in Germania Hall until it was razed for the City Hall. Meetings were then held in the basement of the fire hall located at 22nd and Minnesota Ave. When City Hall was ready, meetings were held on the third floor in a room called Veterans Hall. By 1931, the post had grown to 250 members.

Finally, in 1931, the Department of South Dakota was formed. South Dakota previously fell under the Department of Iowa.

In 1937, the post created a Drum and Bugle Corps

*continued on page 10*

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



**Wear Your Colors Proudly**

Colors hold significance for people around the world. Not only do colors influence emotion, but they also hold meaning in various cultures, holidays and activities, such as football! Some might ask, "what do the colors orange, dark blue and white symbolize?" This

question can be answered differently depending on where you live. I've been proudly wearing the dark blue, orange and white for over 30 years. To me, these colors signify Broncos, winners, teamwork, success, champions, front-runners, spirit and loyalty!

Color charts will show you that dark blue symbolizes integrity, knowledge, power and seriousness; while orange symbolizes energy, balance, enthusiasm, warmth, vibrant, expansive, flamboyant, demanding of attention; so I guess they align close with my analogy!

Colors play a large role in many of our lives – from our first pack of colors, to the color of our first car, to decorum in our home, to our holiday decor. Holidays such as St. Patrick's Day, Valentines Day, Independence Day and Christmas are symbolized and marketed by colors.

Every Independence Day we wave our flag, but do we ever stop and ask, "Why does America salute the red, white and blue?"

The colors and their significance trace back to the birth of the country, and had very specific meanings in the creation of the Great Seal. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to develop a seal for the country. The committee was instructed to draw up a seal that reflected the Founding Fathers' beliefs and values, as well as the sovereignty of the new nation. Red, white and blue were chosen.

Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, explained the significance to Congress when he presented the seal. "The colors," Thomson said at the time, "are those used in the flag of the United States of America. White signifies purity and innocence. Red, Hardiness and valor, and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice."

Although most Americans today aren't aware of the symbolism behind the flag's red, white and blue, I do believe the flag still evokes patriotism and pride and that they know the flag represents our freedoms – freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion.

Perhaps Ronald Reagan said it best when he said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be bought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

God bless the United States of America and the men and women who serve to protect our freedom.

**God bless the red, white and blue.**

**Larry Zimmerman, Secretary  
South Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs**

### **WARNING: VA ID Cards Are Easily Scanned**

**All Veterans enrolled in VA  
Healthcare System are advised  
to guard their VA ID cards as  
new cards are being created.**



## VFW National Home for Children – March 2016

Have you heard about the **Awesome Gang** at the National Home? The Awesome Gang is a group for children between the ages of 6 and 11 living at the National Home. They meet once a month to work on life skills. Meetings can cover topics from sewing and cooking, to sportsmanship, goal setting and expressing needs and wants. They also volunteer for local organizations like the Eaton County Humane Society and the Island City Assisted Living. Awesome Gang members earn points by attending meetings, participating in camps events, volunteering and completing projects throughout the year.

Several new supporters of the National Home were recently interviewed. One of them is Brandon Hadley. His beloved grandmother grew up at the Home and he is certain that her experience at the home helped to shape her into the amazing woman she is. As his grandmother

has recently become ill, 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 and 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 to keep families together while they deal with the struggles of war, is important to everyone. 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 families' commitment to service. In addition to Brandon's service in Iraq, his great grandfather was a World War I veteran, his grandfather was World War II veteran and his father served in the US Army. Brandon is currently a member of VFW Post 1089.

Donating: Have you considered giving a donation recently? There are many ways to donate. Just pull up the National Home web site and click on donate. Then decide which way you wish to help out: Give Now, Tribute Bricks, Tribute Park, Monthly Giving, Become a Life Member, Plan your Legacy or Other ways.

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

### Sioux Falls Healthcare System

The new acute care addition is the first of two acute care projects. Now that the new construction is complete, renovations have started on the "old" 2S & 3S. The goal is to have this project complete by the end of 2016. Once complete, there will be 28 inpatient rooms – all private with their own bathrooms. Services provided in this unit will include acute admissions with diagnoses ranging from pneumonia and congestive heart failure to post-surgery.

In addition, construction continues on the surgical suites just outside the Emergency Dept. entrance and the primary care addition above the existing clinic. Also prep work for renovation and an addition to the Rehab Medicine (Physical and Occupational Therapy, chiropractor, Speech Therapy) Dept. has started to the north of the front entrance. There will be more construction coming in the near future with plans for a new Integrative Health building behind the medical center yet this year.

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



*Just the beginning of the new acute care addition.*



*Addition finished at last!*

### Black Hills National Cemetery Avenue of Flags

The South Dakota Veterans Cemeteries Support Council [SDVCSC] was formed in 1999 from what used to be the Black Hills National Cemetery Support Committee. The "Avenue of Flags" at Black Hills National Cemetery was the first project SDVCSC undertook. After permission to construct a "permanent" Avenue of Flags was received from the National Cemetery Administration, the Council began fundraising efforts to purchase the 70 (25' internal halyard) poles needed for the Avenue of Flags. The Avenue of Flags was dedicated on Memorial Day 2003.

Since this was a Council project, responsibility for maintenance of the Avenue of Flags remains with the Council. Even though the Council has made numerous attempts to get the word out, many people still believe the Avenue is maintained by the National Cemetery Administration. So, the Council is asking for help from everyone to inform your friends about how the Avenue of Flags came to be and who is responsible for maintaining it.

Western South Dakota weather (wind, in particular) takes a heavy toll on the flags in the Avenue of Flags. The money for day-in and day-out maintenance comes from the same place the money for the original project came from. DONATIONS!!! The Council spends about \$4,000 per year to keep serviceable flags, halyards and snaps on hand.

The purpose of this report is to solicit contributions to the SDVCSC for maintenance of the Avenue of Flags. The SDVCSC is a 501(c) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Make your donations to the South Dakota Veterans Cemeteries Support Council and mail to P.O. Box 1932, Rapid City, SD 57709.

### Korean Ambassador Peace Medal Ceremony DVD Available

On Tuesday, January 12, 2016, the Honorable Sung-choon Park, of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs for the Republic of Korea, presented South Dakota veterans of the Korean War with Ambassador of Peace medals in the first such ceremony held in the United States. A total of 466 South Dakota veterans were honored, 158 of them at the ceremony which took place in the rotunda of the South Dakota state capitol building in Pierre.

The ceremony recorded by South Dakota Public Broadcasting is available on DVD and is approximately 60 minutes in length.

Those interested can order a copy from SDPBs website: <http://shop.sdpb.org/index.php?p=product&id=330> or can order by phone at 800-456-0766 during regular business hours.

### Needed: Volunteer Van Drivers

Transportation is often an issue for Veterans who seek to receive services from VA hospitals. Through the Volunteer Transportation program, we try to eliminate some of those barriers through van service originating from multiple areas within the state. This program is supported by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization through donations of many vehicles throughout the VA network. All volunteers must be screened and pass certain pre-qualification requirements. This can be a time consuming process, so please be patient as you-

- Complete an application and supporting documents
- Receive a driver's physical and TB test from VA Employee Health (no charge)
- Get fingerprinted at VA for a background check (no charge)
- Present a valid driver's license and proof of insurance coverage

Once we have received the completed forms, the DAV and Voluntary Services Office will work together to make the rest of the steps easily managed and as smooth and timely as possible. These are volunteer (non-paid) positions that often require a full day commitment from the volunteer on the days they are assigned to drive the van. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Cheryl Rieniets, Voluntary Services Specialist, at 605-347-7206 or 1-800-743-1070 x7206 or contact Don Sealock, DAV/HSC at 605-720-7065.

### From the Editor

Greetings! This edition of the south Dakota Overseas Veterans contains the beginning of soliders stories of the past history/memories of conflicts they were involved in. First from VFW Sioux Falls Post 628, Past Post Commander Malcolm Haugen. War story of the 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. See page 4 for story. When space is available, additional short story submissions will be included for your enjoyment. Keep sending them!

The SDOV extends a hearty "Thank You" to all our World War II Post leaders, members and veterans. And we want to recognize those who still devote time and energy to VFW causes. Please forward their names and information to the editor.

**Dick Pickering**  
**South Dakota Overseas Veterans Editor**

### Donating Retirement Savings to the VFW

Since you first started working, you've been regularly reminded of the importance of saving for retirement. Now you may find that your retirement savings are more than adequate. Because retirement plans are taxed differently than most assets, they may actually become a tax liability. Donating all or part of a retirement plan to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) after your lifetime may be an attractive option for leaving a legacy and reducing income and estate taxes.





# Highlights Around South Dakota VFW

## Teacher of the Year Award Winners

State VOD/PP/ Teacher of the Year Chairman Keith Wilkinson, Aberdeen high School; National Past Commander-in-Chief, Tommy Tradewell; State Commander, Mike Mullen; State Auxiliary President, Nancy Worth; Auxiliary National Councilwoman #23, Vickie Rosse.



*Keith Wilkinson, Aberdeen High School, Teacher of the Year.*



*Ann Marie Fraser, Aberdeen Middle School, Teacher of the Year.*



*Sherri Aldinger, Aberdeen Elementary School, Teacher of the Year.*

## Department Scholarships Awarded by Posts, Auxiliaries and Districts, \$10,392.94 Plus Extra Costs

District VOD Winners: District 1, Commander Cody L. Mangold – Aerica I Schroeder, Beresford High School, Sponsored by Beresford, VFW Post 2975 and its Auxiliary. District 2, Commander Dick L. Pickering – Emily C. Olsen, Deubrook Area Schools, White, SD, sponsored by Brookings VFW Post and its Auxiliary. District 4, Commander Lyle L. Berg – Kyla R. Schuster,

Webster Area Schools, Sponsored by Webster VFW Post 4690 and its Auxiliary. District 6, Commander Pam Heiser; Third Place Winner – Max S. Lee, Faulkton High School, Sponsored by the VFW Post 3179 and its Auxiliary. District 7, Commander, Brian Bierema; Second Place Winner – Sadie M. Eitemiller, Wagner Community School, Sponsored by VFW Post 7319 and

its Auxiliary. District 8, Commander Gordon Paul; First Place Winner – Austin J. Lentsch, Pierre, Theodore F. Riggs High School, Sponsored by VFW Post 2038 and its Auxiliary. District 10, Commander Roland Enninga – Alura J. Elmore, Custer High School, Sponsored by VFW Post 3442 and its Auxiliary. See page 11 to read the First Place essay.

### Voice of Democracy Top Three Winners



*Austin J. Lentsch, VOD First Place Winner*



*Sadie M. Eitemiller, VOD Second Place Winner*



*Max S. Lee, VOD Third Place Winner*

### Voice of Democracy Additional Winners



*Aerica I. Schroeder*



*Alura J. Elmore*



*Kyla R. Schuster*



*Emily C. Olsen*

### South Dakota VOD First Place Winner, Austin J. Lentsch on stage in Washington, D.C.



*National Commander-in-Chief, John Biedrzycki; State Commander, Mike Mullen; Austin Lentsch; State Auxiliary President, Nancy Worth; National Auxiliary President Francisca Guilford.*



*Past National Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell of Wisconsin, explaining the VFW VOD/PP premier program to Justice Steven Zinter during the Supreme Court visit.*



*State Commander Mike Mullen presenting an appreciation South Dakota 2015-2016 Membership Campaign medal for being a recruiter to Sean Johnson of Aberdeen VFW Post 17.*



## South Dakota Patriot's Pen Awards Program

First place award is the "Glenn McFarland" Award and is sponsored by his family in his memory. Glenn was a dedicated volunteer of the VFW programs and held the position of Chief of Staff in 1998/1999. The recipient of this award received a \$250.00 cash award and a specially designed plaque presented by the Department of South Dakota and its Auxiliary. This year's winner is Rachael S. Rickenbach, sponsored by Rapid City VFW Post 1273, District 10. See page 11 for her first place essay.

Second place award is the "Daryl and Loretta

Halling" Award. Daryl and Loretta are very dedicated to the Patriot's Pen Program in supporting patriotism to our youth. Under the continued support and leadership of Past State Commander Daryl and his wife Loretta, this program has grown to a high level within the state of South Dakota. The recipient of this award, Caleb A. Miller, sponsored by Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628, District 2 and its Auxiliary, received a \$200.00 cash award and a specially designed plaque by the Department of South Dakota and its Auxiliary.

Third place award is a \$150.00 cash award and a

specially designed plaque presented by the Department of South Dakota and its Auxiliary. This year's winner is Elizabeth L. Fixsen, sponsored by the Redfield VFW Post 2755 and its Auxiliary.

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

### South Dakota Patriot's Pen Top Three Winners



*Sandy Moss, Past National Commander-in-Chief, Tommy Tradewell, State Commander, Mike Mullen, First Place Winner, Rachael S. Rickenbach, Second Place Winner, Caleb A. Miller, Third Place Winner, Elizabeth L. Fixsen, State Auxiliary President, Nancy Worth and National Councilwoman #23, Vickie Rosse.*

## Veterans Memorial Stop at the Capital Tour, Pierre S.D. for the VOD/PP/Teachers of the Year Awards Winners



*Left to Right - Aerica I. Schroeder, Kyla R. Schuster, Austin J. Lentsch, Sadie M. Eitemiller, National PNC Tommy Tradewell, Emily C. Olsen, Alura J. Elmore, Rachael S. Rickenbach, Caleb A. Miller, Elizabeth L. Fixsen, Sherri Aldinger and Keith Wilkinson. Not pictured are Max S. Lee and Ann Marie Fraser.*

I would like to thank all the Posts, Auxiliary, and Districts for all their hard work in contacting all the South Dakota Schools to give the students the opportunity to participate in the National VFW premier scholarship programs. Submitting Teachers of the Year and contacting judges to judge the essays. Also to chaperone, Eileen Kramer for the students fun time and touring of the Capital organizing the program at the banquet. Thank you to my Co-Chairman, Sandy Moss, for her part with the PP program. Hopefully everyone will continue to promote these programs for the future. It was a pleasure, and thank you to Commander Mike Mullen for this opportunity, for being the State VFW/PP/Teacher of the Year chairman.

### Participation of Post/Districts

- VOD - 942 Students, 32 Posts and 27 Auxiliaries  
Districts 7 - Monetary Costs/Awards - \$13,832.94
- PP - 1943 Students, 29 Posts and 27 Auxiliaries  
Districts 7 - Monetary Costs/Awards - \$7,416.50
- Teachers of the Year - 8 Teachers

Sincerely,

**Keith Blume**  
State Chairman

**NOTICE: 2016-2017 Theme's:**  
**Voice of Democracy - "My Responsibility to America"**  
**Patriots Pen - "The America I Believe In"**

## 12th Annual Disabled Veterans Pheasant Hunt

Pheasant Hunt chairman and sponsor veteran Pat McGraph again hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunt for eligible, accepted purple heart disabled veterans from across the nation. Only 5 hunters made the hunt this year. This year they were CPL, USMC, Henry J. Murphy from Sayre,

PA.; USA, S/SGT William R. Stahl from Minnesota city, MN.; USA, SGT, Jeremy D. Collins, from Sioux Falls, SD and USMC, Major Ronald L. Allen, from Spokane, WA. Unable to attend were James D. Fairbanks of Drumright, OK; Phil Farr, of Greenwood, AR.; USMC, Late walk in, local SD VFW member of the Gettysburg Post 8530, Francis Karst of Hoven, SD.



*Left to right, Henry Murphy, Jeremy Collins sitting, Pat McGraph, Bill Stahl and Ronald Allen.*

National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief, Brian Duffy from Middletown, KY. Represented the National Organization and enjoyed the hunt with the veterans. Weather was a might chilly week, but good for hunters. Overall, the hunt was successfully done with over 110 birds shot and dressed by the hunters. Before and after they did some trap shooting to sharpen their skills prior to the hunt. A lot of camaraderie, bragging rights and fiction lies were all present.

Monday at noon the annual visitation at the local high school, State Commander Mike Mullen and Pat McGraph introduced

the guests. Each hunter shared their military experiences with the students of Faulkton High School during the assembly gathering veterans hunting together, forming life time friendships and fellowships. That is what it is all about!

Hunters and guests were invited to the American Legion for a community gathering. Mountain oysters and more were provided by the Post Auxiliary. Questions and answer time made the meeting a real welcome to the Pheasant Hunt Program by Pat McGraph and his associates, who put this great function together. Gifts were presented and additional comments, stories and fictional lies were included. Veterans versus Veterans and just being together, make each day.

Thank you to the Faulkton Community, West Side Motel/Burger Shack for their outstanding hospitality. Potter County Implement (John Deere Dealership) from Gettysburg and its owner Matt Cronin who provided four Gators for the hunt, Community Farmers for allowing the hunters to hunt on their property, Pat McGraph and local and state VFW organizations for their support of this program.



# Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Dept. of South Dakota



Our State Auxiliary President Nancy Worth's theme this year is:

## **"Remembering Our Promise"** **Advocates for Veterans & Their Families**



### Auxiliary State President's Report Nancy Worth



#### **Congratulations to two young South Dakotans:**

Rachel Rickenbach, a sixth grade student at Hot Springs Middle School has been named a winner in the 2016 National **Patriot's Pen** Contest and recipient of the \$750 Department of Georgia and Auxiliary National Patriot's Pen Award (15<sup>th</sup> place). Rachel was sponsored by VFW Post 1273 and Auxiliary in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Austin Lentsch, a senior at Theodore F. Riggs High School has been named a winner in the 2016 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship (14<sup>th</sup> place). Austin plans a career in either biotechnical engineering or international business and he was sponsored by VFW Post 2038 and Auxiliary in Pierre, South Dakota. He also indicated that he has received a nomination to West Point Academy and has been accepted to continue his education at Notre Dame University.

Our best wishes to both of these future leaders!

We are fast closing in on the close of another Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary term. It is time for us to report on all of our activities and events of the year; time to brag about how we have all been Advocates for Veterans & Their Families. It is my sincere request that all Auxiliary Program Chairmen get their annual year-end reports to the Department Chairmen prior to the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to better enable timely submissions to National Headquarters.

The two most recent events within our great organization have brought to light that we still have work to do. The National VFW Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference gave a sneak peek as to some of the Resolutions that will come to the floor at National Convention. Please make sure that each South Dakota member reviews these resolutions that will be available on the National Website in the near future. The VFW National Legislative Conference brought to light that we need to continue to be "Congressional watchdogs" for our Veterans and their families.

One of the best tools available for everyone interested in keeping in touch with legislation that will affect

our veterans is to sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly. The process is simple: go to <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>, complete the requested information and you will begin receiving weekly updates from VFW National Headquarters.

Lastly, don't forget to register for the upcoming State Convention in Deadwood. We ask for the assistance of all Posts and Auxiliaries regarding sponsorship of advertising in the convention booklet. Convention registration forms, Hospitality Night forms and advertising details are available on the South Dakota VFW website at [www.sdvfw.org](http://www.sdvfw.org).

Thank you to all VFW and Auxiliary members for all you do for our South Dakota Veterans. It has been an honor to serve as the South Dakota VFW Auxiliary Department President. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

#### **Remembering Our Promise – Advocates for Veterans & Their Families**

**Nancy Worth**  
(605) 490-1220 Cell  
[nworth@rushmore.com](mailto:nworth@rushmore.com)

### Sr. Vice President's Report Karen Sharp



SPRING IS HERE – a time for new beginnings, new growth, and renewed freshness. Our Auxiliary year is nearing the finish line for the present year, but at the same time, we are gearing up for all the new beginnings, renewals, and continued support and service to our veterans. What new challenges, assignments and goals will you help to achieve with a refreshed new outlook?

In January, I and Nancy Chester attended Sr. Vice Training in Reno, NV. We were fortunate traveling to Reno without any blips due to the weather. Many were not so lucky. The first day of training was presentations

given by the VFW, which was very informative and gave us a better understanding of how we can best help serve our veterans. The next day was all dedicated to what we, as incoming Presidents, were to expect, do, and achieve during our year. There will be some significant changes, some renewal of present practices and procedures, and some new direction. Some of the goals seem rather lofty, but I'm confident that the SD Auxiliary is up to the task. We always are, and I for one, have always appreciated everyone's efforts.

In February, I and eight other South Dakotans traveled to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, for the National Midwinter Conference. Having never before attended a midwinter conference, it was especially interesting. It was very informative, and a good update and refresher course. As usual, the meetings were run

very professionally and smoothly. The job that National does always amazes me.

I want to congratulate and thank all Auxiliary members for reaching 95% by March 31<sup>st</sup>. We need to keep working toward the 100% Plus goal by the end of June. Our greatest strength lies in membership and is a never-ending process.

I hope that many of you are making plans to attend the State Convention in June in Deadwood, and the National Convention in Charlotte, NC, in July. More learning experiences and networking opportunities, plus what a wonderful way to help Commander Mike and President Nancy finish their outstanding year.

**Karen Sharp**  
**Auxiliary Sr., Vice President**

### Auxiliary Jr. Vice President's Report Carrie Alm



I am so excited to share with you that I am sure we will make our 95% by the end of March as we are only in need of 34 more members to hit that goal! As a group we are doing great! I have no doubt with the availability of male members, that we will make this goal with ease. If we make the goal by March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Department will receive \$500.

The "Fourth Quarter" goal is to reach 100+% by May 31, 2016 and Department will receive \$1,000. This will be positively encouraged as membership week is April 10-16.

A wonderful idea for membership week promotion is in the March VFW Auxiliary magazine on page 7. Jane Loucks, a National Certified Recruiter Trainer from our neighboring Montana gives a detailed explanation of the

"Fly your Flag Proudly" promotion. It gives both the VFW and Auxiliary positive exposure, while also leading you to potential new members. Don't forget, there is a reward for the best idea of how to promote membership week that is submitted to me. I sure hope that some of you will submit ideas, as I don't want to have to eat the whole box of chocolates to myself. If you are looking for ideas, you can always call me and I will help you brainstorm what will work well with your community.

Are you having any response from potential male members? There are so many male family members out there that would probably be happy to help in the service of their veterans, but you have to ask! They all have talents that would be beneficial to our organization and are happy to share them with you. You don't just have to focus on our male members, there are hundreds of eligible family members of our veterans that would be happy and proud to be a part of our organization. Get out

there and keep asking!

Please remember to get your names of any members that have brought in five or more members this year. This makes them eligible for the "No Excuse, I Recruit" pin offered by National and they can be put in the drawing for the topaz bracelet.

As always, I am happy to assist any of you or your auxiliaries in reaching your goals this year and I know that we can get department to 100% with a full team effort. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, ideas or just to chat at 605-517-0287 or [littlegirlz3@msn.com](mailto:littlegirlz3@msn.com). (I am serious about this, you can call me...Questions, ideas, suggestions, just to chat...I am kind of lonely!)

Respectfully Submitted,

**Carrie Alm**  
**Department Membership Chairman 2015-16**





Left to Right: Laurel Sharp, Tarzan Mullinex, Donita Millinex, Deb Fahey, Nelda Jorgenson, Nancy Worth, Karen Sharp, Vickie Rosse, Jan Endes

## Honoring the flag, 65 years later

By Kenny Bass

Tyndall now has a new place to properly dispose of damaged American flags. The tattered flag disposal box sits next to the Veterans Building on Main Street. Original plans for the box would have cost between 700 to 800 dollars. That was a number that my Grandpa, Laddie Horacek, didn't like. He took matters into his own hands and in a little over a month, a new box was built. The steel box stands about three feet tall and two feet wide. Those who want to dispose of a damaged American flag can put it in the box at any time. Flags will then be disposed of during an unserviceable flags ceremony.

To Grandpa, the flags inside the box have a special meaning. In 1951, he received a draft notice. He traveled to Yankton and boarded a train that brought him, Dale Stewart of Scotland and Kenny Gale of Springfield to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. for 16 weeks of basic training. "Basic training was something else! Write to the boys in Korea, pray for them in Fort Leonard Wood!"

After basic training, Grandpa Horacek was chosen to go to FECOM (Far East Command) which sent him to Korea. The trip from the U.S. to Korea was a long one to say the least. Thirty-one days on the USS Lennox. The ship was far from a cruise liner. Waves as high as 50 feet crashed against the ship as it sailed across the ocean.

As part of the 72nd Combat Engineers, his primary duty was to assist the military by building roads and bridges. However, when the infantry needed help, he would operate the 50 caliber machine gun, protecting his fellow soldiers. Grandpa vividly remembered the destruction in Seoul, now the capital of South Korea. "Everything was destroyed while I was there.



Standing next to the flag disposal box include from left, Darlene Tycz, VFW Auxiliary president; Kenny Bass and Laddie Horacek. (photo by Becky Tycz)

I would like to see what it looks like today."

Life in Korea, like life in any war zone, was not easy. "I can recall sleeping in (what felt like) 52 degrees below zero weather." Life was not easy for the people of Korea also living in war. In 1951, a man named Alan Stewart came across a barefoot Korean boy who was living on the streets of Seoul. Stewart took the boy in and the soldiers of the 72nd called him "Shorts." When Stewart was sent back home, Grandpa stepped in as the boy's caretaker. Shorts was very appreciative of his hospitality. After seeing a picture of Grandma Horacek, Shorts had that picture painted on a piece of material and gave it Grandpa as a gift. The tube that held the painting was made out of food ration containers. Grandpa still has the painting today.

For 16 months, Grandpa was in the war zone, six of those were spent on the front lines. In 1952, Grandpa Horacek was tasked with leading a group of men through an active mine field. He successfully guided them through the danger zone to safety. No one was injured during the mission and for his heroics, he received the Bronze Star.

He's not done yet. Going forward, Grandpa plans to do more projects to honor the American flag.

The red, white and blue is something very close to my Grandpa's heart. He lived a part of history that most of us could only imagine. Defending it was an honor to him. While talking to Grandpa, one statement stuck with me. "The best thing when you come back (to America) is seeing the flag at the end of the gang plank...you're back to freedom."



## Made Donation to the Veterans

With-in the Ernest Bowyer Post # 791, two organizations joined together to donate to the Veterans at the South Dakota Human Services. The Big Aggie Pup Tent # 12 (known as the Cooties) and the Auxiliary VFW Representatives of the State Hospital together donated Fleece pants to all the Veterans in the State Hospital. Pictured are Tate Mallory, Support Service Coordinator and Jeff Thurman, Activity Center Coordinator with Dale Stribral, Seam Squirrel Commander, Robert Bender and Cody Mangold representing the Cooties. Norma Bender, Kathy Ryken, Judy Potts, and Dorothy Stanage, Representative of the State Hospital Veterans Program.



## VFW's Cootie's present check to Veterans Center, Sioux Falls, SD



*The organization within the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars, known as the "Cooties" take great pride in visiting as well as taking care of our Veteran's in the Veterans hospitals and the Vet center. Dale Stribral, Seam Squirrel, Commander of the Big Aggie Pup Tent #12, presents a check of \$500 to acting team leader Shawn Martin at the Veterans Center in Sioux Falls, SD. The check will be used to help the Indigent Veterans of South Dakota.*

*continued from page 4*

that made 18 public appearances in 1937 and 1938. The Auxiliary at the time also organized a Drill Team. In 1935, the post organized an orchestra that played for Wednesday night socials. In 1938, the post hosted a Benefit Card Party to raise money for Washingtons High School to attend the Worlds Fair in New York City.

Through out the 1950's, the post supported several Teener Baseball teams. Many of these teams won the right to claim the title of State Champions. The tradition of supporting local baseball continues today. From 2010 to present day, Post 628 has hosted Veterans Stand Down serving meals to veterans in need. From 2007-2014, the post also hosted Job Fairs for veterans and their spouse to assist in finding employment or to find new employment.

Most recently, Post 628 supports other local charities and non profit s through donations. Such support goes to the Sioux Falls Childrens Inn, union Gospel Mission, Glory House, as well as visitations to local retirement facilities and the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center. Post628 honor Guard has lead several of the cities parades, opening ceremonies at Sioux Falls Stampede, Storm and Canarries events. The Honor Guard is most recognized for providing final honors to veterans who passed away. Provising Final Hours for approximately 100 veterans each year.

## Edward S. Banas, Sr. Commander -in-Chief, 2003-04 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Edward S. Banas Sr., was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 29, 2003 at the 104th national convention, held in San Antonio, Texas. He is only the second member from Connecticut to be elected to this position.

Ed served in the Army from 1965-68. In Vietnam, he was assigned to the 18th MP Bde. He was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

In 1967, while still in the military, Ed joined VFW Post 10004 in Jewett City, Connecticut. He served in a variety of positions at the Post level including Post Commander. At the district level, Ed earned the honor of All American District Commander. He served as Department Commander of Connecticut in 1993-94.

On the national level, Ed has served on several committees including Safety, By-Laws, Budget & Finance, and as chairman for both the Americanism and Legislative Committees. He served a two-year term, 1994-1996, as a member of the National Council

of Administration representing the Departments of Massachusetts and Connecticut. In 1998-1999 he served as the Eastern States Conference Chairman.

Ed put his military police experience to good use when he became a member of the Norwich Police Department in 1968. He served with the department for more than 10 years. During this time, he was a member of several law enforcement associations including Patrolman's Benevolent Association, New London County Detective Association, Connecticut Narcotic Officers Association, and the International Narcotic Officers Association.

He attended Northeastern University for the Study of Constitutional Law for Police, Police Organizations and Management. He also attended the Department of the Treasury – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms School for Criminal Investigations.

Ed is a member of the American Legion, the Voluntown, Conn. Historical Society and a Life Member of VFW Post 10004. He has five children and resides with his wife Sandra in Niantic.

## Desert Storm History

### Story of the 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry 1st Infantry Division

News from the Middle East on August 2, 1990, Iraq had invaded the small country of Kuwait. This very act led to the involvement of U.S. military. 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry was alerted for deployment on 8 November 1990 as a part of the general mobilization for this conflict. The battalion was deployed for Operation Desert Storm as a part of the 1st Infantry Division. The mission would be renamed Operation Desert Storm on 17 January 1991.

The Battalion would train for their mission to penetrate Iraqi defensive positions and assist in defeating the Iraqi Republican Guard. On 24 February 1991, the battalion with the rest of the 1st Infantry Division spearhead an armor attack into Iraq.

#### The Initial Attack

The assault was designed to allow other VII US Corps units to pass into Iraq and drive into Iraq to destroy the enemy. The 1st infantry fought through the Iraqi 26th Infantry division and destroyed it. In total, the division captured nearly 2500 prisoners in the first day. By night fall of the first day of fighting, the battalion had captured 600 enemy troop and drove 30 kilometers into Iraq. The following morning, the battalion pushed on and again defeating another Iraqi division. The time, the Iraqi

48th Infantry division fell in defeat. Capturing the Iraqi Commander and destroyed its command post by the 2nd Bn, 16th IN.

Moving the mission forward, the battalion had cut through and destroyed the Iraqi 25th Division. The last effort for the day, the battalion encountered several Iraqi units, most notably the 110 Infantry Brigade. The brigades commander was taken captive by members of the battalion. Hundreds more enemy were captured. Many being captured had no fight left in them after hours of bombing that continued day and night.

One of the biggest challenges for the battalion was yet to come, the Iraqi republican Guard. On the night of 26 February, the 1st Brigade collided with the Republican Guard Division, and 12th Armored Division. This battle was a division-level battle. As dawn came and the 12th Armored Division. Enemy losses were estimated at 40 tanks and 40 infantry vehicles. The rest of the day was spent capturing more Iraqi troops.

#### Cease Fire and Return Home

The cease fire was announced at 8am on the 28th of February, 1991. Desert Storm was essentially over. This day tuned into a clean-up day. The battalion was ordered to go back over the area just captured and destroy any remaining vehicles of the Iraqi Army. Negotiation began between Coalition Forces and the Iraqi leaders to negotiate a final cease fire agreement. On the 10th of May, 1991, the entire 1st Infantry Division, including the 2nd Bn. 15th In. unfurled its colors, signifying their official return home.

*Author: Malcolm J. Haugen. Malcolm was a Sergeant with Delta Co. of 2nd Bn. 15th In. Malcolm spent two years with the battalion as a member of the battalion, Malcolm received an Army commendation Medal and the battalions Valorous Unit Award.*

*"...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!

#### Vermillion, Clay County, VFW Post 3061

Don Chamberlain, USA, Life  
William Barton, USA

#### Watertown, Frank H. Adams VFW Post 750

Donald J. Rex, Korea, USA, Life  
Robert J. Stoltenburg, Sr., Vietnam, USA  
Donald A. Camp, WWII, USA

#### Huron, Forrest McMullen VFW Post 1776

Adam R. Kuhns, WWI, Life  
Kenneth Schade, WWII, USA

#### Rapid City, Rushmore Post 1273

Leo A. Grebner, WWII, USA, Life  
William G. Meredith, WWII, USN, Life  
Guy L. Carlsen, WWII, USN, Life  
Harold A. Voss, WWII, USA, Life  
John A. Welch, WWII, USN, Life

#### Alcester, VFW Post

Paul E. Lindgren, German,  
French Morocco, USAF, Life

Glenn R. Kroger, USMC, Life

#### Sioux Falls, John M. Bliss VFW Posy 628

Patrick Brasel, WWII, USA, Life  
Derald Bogonrief, WWII, Life  
Robert Wright, WWII, USA  
Arthur Jann, WWII, USA, Life  
Earl Meyers, WWII, USN  
William DeVries, Korea, Life  
Joseph Simon, Korea, USAF, Life  
Hanford Twaddle, German, USA, Life  
James Anderson, Korea, USAF  
Victor Brinker, WWII, USA, Life  
Lawrence Sorenson, WWII, USA, Life  
Durdelle Engverson, WWII, USAF, Life

#### Parkston, Hutchinson County VFW Post 3298

Gerald F. Mechhtenberg, Korea, USA  
Dennis E. Schlumberger, Vietnam, USA/USAF, Life  
Marvin W. Harnisch, Korea, USA, Life

#### Beresford, United VFW 2975

Raymond J. Schaap, WWII, USAF

#### Wagner, Rollie Bucholz, VFW Post 7319

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Past Post Commander  
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#### Madison, Lake VFW Post 2638

Leonard Oakley, Korea, Life  
Paul Dillion, Korea, USN

#### Canton, Lincoln County VFW Post 3164

Charles H. Hill, WWII, USA  
John R. Johnson, Vietnam, USA, Life  
Larry W. Niebuhr, Vietnam/Desert Storm/Shield,  
USA, Life, Past Post Commander

## The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

*— William Tyler Page*



## VOD Theme “My Vision for America”

By Austin J. Lentsch, Theodore F. Riggs High School



Make America great again. Restore Old Glory to her former glory. As the world advances in leaps and bounds, every sign seems to point to our great country falling behind. Foreign countries fail to respect our agreements, the national debt continues to expand and the government seems to be in constant partisan gridlock. Pampered, privileged, and lethargic, we Americans watch as other countries pull ahead to the point where the gap seems insurmountable. But is it really?

The truth is, in the last decades, America has fundamentally changed. The contribution remains intact, and thus the Great Experiment of Democracy continues, but something is missing. That special piece that has fallen out of the mix is courage. Courage was the driving force behind the founding fathers that inspired them to sign a document, putting their lives at risk in the hope of creating something great. Courage is the companion of every man and woman who has defended the United States on domestic and foreign soil. Courage is the grit to stand up for what is right, even if that means to stand alone. Now, courage is at an all-time low. Morals are being bent and broken, and people are afraid – afraid to acknowledge the problems facing our future, and afraid to act before they become a reality. My vision for America is

that we will find that courage again, and that it will inspire us to remember the reasons for risk and sacrifice. (1:24)

The only way to change America is to change the way that we think. The capacity in which courage is most necessary is the armed forces. What we cherish, we defend, what we don't cherish, we don't defend, and what we don't defend, we lose. The way we defend what we cherish is through the sacrifice of each individual member of our military. If you ask a high school student what a soldier is, they would recite a list of adjectives such as brave, noble, and honorable; however, if you ask who goes into the service after high school, the probable answer would be, “anyone who either doesn't know where to go or just doesn't want to go to college.” At a basic level, this answer is convoluted. Young adults go into the military out of necessity, yet soldiers are brave and honorable? The true value of the willing sacrifice made by these people should be recognized and appreciated, not seen as a choice with no alternative. I spoke with a young father who recently came back from serving with the border control in South Korea. He enlisted in the Air Force right out of high school, and while he loves his country and would do anything to protect her, his oath comes at a price. He has missed birthday parties and wedding anniversaries that he will never get back. Even today, we must realize and appreciate these service men and women for what they truly provide us.

We must also change the way that we approach morals

and values. It seems that everything in media today is focused around physical looks and money. The value of attractiveness is inflated, and materialism thrives. Because we are told that these two things, beauty and wealth, epitomize the perfect person, quality morals are comprised in an attempt to attain them. Just as a man is only worth as much as his word, he is also only worth as much as his values. Folding under the slightest social pressure is a sign of weakness in our country that must be addressed. If the appeal of a couple dollar signs is enough for an under-the-table deal, off-the-record negotiation, or other immoral action, then the worth of that individual is little to none. Instead of such frivolous things, the focus should be on family, morality, and individual resolve. By changing our views of what is important, we can also change our actions to reflect what America should come to represent.

The question of whether America will continue to be relevant or fall victim to her stereotypes of stagnancy is still unresolved. The issues faced by our nation can be easily fixed, but not before we take a long hard look at how we think on an individual basis. The answers are not easy, but realizing the true value of sacrifice and the things we should hold important is a good place to start. Are we really falling behind, and can we ever catch up? It is possible; but, we can decide right now to put the past behind us and move forward toward a brighter tomorrow.

## PP Theme “What Freedom Means to Me”

By Rachael S. Rickenbach, Hot Springs Middle School

Freedom. What is it? Why is it a word? What does it mean? That is so special about it?

Freedom. Our forefathers fought for that freedom. The words of Patrick Henry, “Give me liberty or give me death!” rang through the hearts of those that struggled. Men died, starved, and froze. Yet they still fought. They sacrificed all that they had to be able to make their own choices. In 1776, America won the right to be independent from Great Britain. But that was only the beginning.

Martin Luther King, Jr. fought. He organized marches and protests like the March on Washington. That helped change the people's mind about segregation. Whites and blacks worked together. They wanted freedom for all people. Martin Luther King, Jr. became famous for giving everyone equal opportunity. He fought until he was assassinated in 1968. That's fighting for freedom.

What does freedom mean to me? Freedom means that I can get a job anywhere, eat in any restaurant, and go to the same as all my friends. It means I can marry whom I choose, and am not limited to live in certain areas of the city just because of my race. I can choose my own religion and freely state my opinion. Freedom means I can be my own person, not Jim or Bob or Sally. Me. Because of freedom, I can sculpt my own person into exactly what I want.

Sometimes we don't grab hold of that freedom. Sometimes we don't use the freedom that so many have worked to achieve. Many people don't vote. Voting is a right, a right our freedom earned us. People died for freedom. The least we can do is use it! Take advantage of being free.

Freedom isn't a word. It is a whole story...a story that

continues to be told. Even today people die, speak out for equality and sacrifice so that we can all live with freedom. So the next time you think of freedom, think of a story not a word. That's what freedom means to me.

Dear State VFW,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of participating in Patriots Pen. I had so much fun touring the Capital and am proud to represent South Dakota in the National Competition. Thank you all so much for serving our country. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely, Rachael Rickenbach



## Thank You Note from Sherri Aldinger

Thank you so much for all you did with the VFW Teacher of the Year award ceremony in Pierre. It was truly an honor being in the presence of so many distinguished veterans. It



was a beautiful ceremony and I especially enjoyed hearing the VOD and PP winners! I had never been to the Capital so the tour was extra special. Thank you again!

Respectfully,  
Sherri Aldinger  
Aberdeen Elementary School

## Thank You Note from Keith Wilkinson

I want to take a moment to thank the VFW for a warm welcome and for the events on January 31 and February 1, 2016. The VFW went above and beyond my expectations for what was necessary from providing dinners, a room for my family, a tour of the Capital building and lastly the awards banquet. Absolutely amazing!!

What a special event it was to recognize a wonderful group of students and teachers. I have been blessed all my life and being recognized as the VFW school teacher of the year just confirmed how blessed I am.

At the same time, I also understand that I was not alone, I have had much help to arrive at my current position in life. I have had the opportunity to work with a wonderful staff and outstanding students who continue to stand out by displaying a commitment to projects in school. These projects have really been a positive for the high school as a whole. The recognition (award) has my name on it but it really is a recognition of those around me.

As a life member of the VFW this moment really stands out and is a time I will always look back on with pride and fondness. It really has substantiated my membership in the VFW and I will use that moment as a selling point to hopefully get others to join.

One of the speeches at the awards banquet was given on what it means to be free. I can tell you that being free in America allows organizations such as the VFW to do wonderful things for others. When it comes to education, I try to pass on the passion of freedom to my students.

Again, thank you for your commitment to education in our state, it makes me feel adequate so many people recognize the good that is going on in the classrooms and our communities with strong leadership coming from students and staff alike.

Keith Wilkinson  
Aberdeen Central High School  
VFW Member Post 17





# Sioux Falls VA Health Care System Combined VSO /Congressional /Stakeholder Meeting January 19, 2016

## Briefing Information

**Choice Changes:** The Veterans Choice Program continues to evolve. The most recent changes allow Veterans who live less than 40 miles driving distance from the nearest VA to be eligible if they have difficulty reaching VA for a number of reasons including: geographic challenges, roads blocked or closed, medical conditions or other factors. A VA staff member will work with each Veteran to determine and make appointments for care. More to come on this.

**Cross-Servicing Program:** Beginning February 2016, VHA will begin using the Department of Treasury's Cross-Servicing program to encourage Veterans to satisfy their first party delinquent copayment debt with VA for non-service connected care. Under the new Treasury cross-servicing program, if the debts remain unpaid or if arrangements to pay the debt are not made using VA's financial assistance options, the debt will automatically refer to Treasury collection after it has become 120 days delinquent. Veterans have been informed.

**OEF/OIF Name Change:** The OEF/OIF Program will now be called, "Transitioning Care and Management" for all Post 9/11 Veterans.

**Construction:** The final touches on the acute inpatient medical/surgical unit are being done in conjunction with staff simulation exercises this week. If all goes well, the unit will open next week, and then the existing 2nd and 3rd floor space will be handed over to the contractor to begin renovations. The primary care addition on the roof and 5th floor surgery suites addition should be completed this fall. They have started digging and rerouting pipes for the

physical and occupational therapy addition and renovation. The coffee shop will be relocated to first floor next to Dental and across from the Patriot Store. Additionally, new space for Hospice, Integrated Health, Sioux City CBOC, Emergency Department and Spec Med should all be in the works this year. Future projects include: lab and kitchen remodels in 2017.

**VA Copay Proposal:** VA is proposing rules to change copays to three tiers (\$5, \$8, and \$11), and reduce copays for some Veterans. Eligibility will not change - only the amount paid. The first tier will be for generic drugs, which consist of 85% of our prescriptions. Tier 2 will be for short-term drugs, such as antibiotics. Tier 3 will be for brand and non-formulary medications. This change will allow VA to compete with pharmacies such as Walgreens and Walmart that off prescriptions at \$4. More information will be available by midsummer.

**VBA Update:** The Sioux Falls Dakota Regional Office is currently worked on 300 claims received at an Average Days Pending (ADP) of 70-75 days. Their average workload for all claims is at 100 ADP. The National Work Que is projected to be released in the near future. When released, there will be heavy testing of the new system, and then it will be a month before it rolls out in Sioux Falls. The que will automatically send workload to each VBA. At the beginning of each day, work in the que will be redistributed. This will eliminate having to do strategic distribution every month. Recruiting: VBA has hired four new VSRs this quarter and a new secretary, Cathy Anderson.

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  
www.vfw628.com  
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  
DAY 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

VFW  
atWork

Bookmark this site!

[www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://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 (July 2016) of the *South Dakota Overseas Veteran*, the deadline is June 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](mailto:dpsigns@alliancecom.net)

## 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. In the Silver category, Lyle L. Berg; Dick Pickering.