

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

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

South Dakota Overseas Veteran

Website: www.sdvfw.org
PROVIDING TOP COVER

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

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

Newly Elected Leadership in Command of the VFW /AUX



(L-R): State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin; Past State Commander, Rick Williamson; National Council Member Darold “DD” Couch.

The Department of SD Veterans of Foreign Wars conducted an installation ceremony Saturday, June 16 to complete the 2018-2019 election process.

Danny Frisby-Griffin, a member of Madison’s Ronald Westby VFW Post 2638, was elected State Commander replacing Rick Williamson, a member of Canton’s Lincoln VFW Post 3164.

During the past year, Williamson worked closely with the South Dakota Veterans Council to support and promote an East River State Veterans Cemetery.

“I am honored to have been the Commander of this great organization for the past year,” stated Williamson, “and am pleased with the accomplishments that we have achieved during 2017-18 through the efforts of every post and District within our Department. I am equally honored to turn our department over to very capable Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin and the rest of our line officers.”

Danny Frisby-Griffin takes command of the Department of SD VFW after the second straight year where the Department has achieved 100% membership. Danny Frisby-Griffin’s theme for his command year is “Providing Top Cover: and will focus on ensuring the members and posts across South Dakota are getting the support they need from National, the Department, and District officers. Danny is also the SD VFW Baseball Chairman and responsible for 16 regional and state tournaments across four age divisions and three classes.

“I’m humbled and excited for this awesome opportunity to shepherd the Department of SD VFW and give back to the veterans of South Dakota and our nation,” said Danny Frisby-Griffin. “Our success will be determined by our service attitude.”

Mary Kirkvold
State Auxiliary President

“Hats off to Veterans”
Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.

See page 8 for Report

Danny Frisby-Griffin,
State VFW Commander
“Providing Top Cover”

See page 2 for Report



VFW Dept. of South Dakota Line Officers



(L-R): Row 1-Surgeon, Colin Reisner; Judge Advocate, Barbara McKean; Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin; Sr. Vice Commander, Sean Johnson; Jr. Vice Commander, Cody Mangold. Row 2-Quartermaster/Adjutant, Darwin Tolzin; Chaplain, Mike Boxa; Chief of Staff, Kenneth Moss; Inspector, Kenneth Payne; Past State Commander, Rick Williamson.

VFW District Commanders, Dept. of South Dakota



(L-R): District 1, Frank Conde; District 2, Gerald Kuecker; District 6, Pam Heiser; District 7, Tom Hafner; District 10, LeRoy Cekalla



Line Officers pledging their willingness to Support the VFW Department of South Dakota for this pursuing year 2018-19 toward the newly elected State Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin.

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



VFW at a Glance

Origins: In 1899, the American Veterans of Foreign Service (Columbus, Ohio) and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines (Denver, Colo.) were organized to secure rights and benefits for veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. VFW was chartered by Congress in 1936.

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



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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dickp.signs@gmail.com

Ken Payne, Department Publications Chairman
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Plankinton, SD 57368

Commander's Report

Danny Frisby-Griffin



Thank you for entrusting me with this great Department and I look forward to continuing my service to you and veterans across South Dakota. Rick, thank you for your tireless sacrifice and service this past year as we carry on from the heights you led us too. Congratulations to your membership team as they drove the Department to achieving 100% two years in a row. I'm excited to be working with you this coming year and plan on

tapping you to help cover some of our State Baseball Tournaments now that we've got a year under our belt!

"Providing Top Cover" is my theme for this year. As a fighter pilot and Eagle Driver whose primary mission was maintaining air supremacy over a battlefield, the theme seemed to fit. I believe it's our job to ensure all veterans have the freedom of movement (access) and have confidence in their security to allow them to obtain the services and benefits they have earned. The Department will focus on "Providing Top Cover" to the District staff and Posts, concentrating on the goal of providing the support and tools that Posts and members need to be successful. I'm excited to continue to move this Department into the future.

Membership, membership, membership...everyone may get tired of hearing about membership from me and the membership committee. We've got a great plan for you and I'll warn you that it is different from what you have experienced in the past, both from the National and Department levels. You really need to read through both to see what incentives are available. If a post or district would like a Membership Trainer to attend a meeting to discuss round up and membership contact options, please let Cody, the Membership Chair, or me know. I'll let you know upfront that if a post would like 100 bonus points, turn in your Membership Plan by 7/31/2018. We've got some new tools for you track post and district progress towards All State qualification also. VFW National is one of the primary sponsors of the Sturgis Bike Rally and we'll be supporting with membership recruiters from about August 2nd through the end of the rally. This is a really big deal and we'll need lots of support. If you're interested in helping cover a block of time please contact Ken Moss, Chief of Staff.

Just as Rick challenged you last year I ask each post to have at least

one event that is "fun" for your members since we're trying not to be the "stodgy old-timers club." We, as an organization, have so much more to offer. As you schedule events, please keep the Department posted allowing us to post on Facebook and who knows, maybe one of the Department Officers may show up and help.

Department of South Dakota VFW Baseball is alive and well. Below you'll find the 2018 State Tournament Schedule. We will need everyone's assistance in making sure the tournaments are successful, especially during the presentation of colors.

2018 Class AA (Tentative depending on team sign-up)

12U 7/13-15/2018 (Sioux Falls)

10U 7/13-15/2018 (Sioux Falls)

2018 Class A

16U 8/3-6/2018 (West Central)

(Regions during week of 7/23-27 and must be complete by 7/27)

14U 7/20-22/2018 (Flandreau)

(Regions during week of 7/9-12 and must be complete by 7/12)

12U 7/13-15/2018 (Madison)

10U 7/13-15/2018 (Madison)

2018 Class B

16U 8/3-6/2018 (Salem-Montrose)

(Regions during week of 7/23-27 and must be complete by 7/27)

14U 7/20-22/2018 (Gregory)

(Regions during week of 7/9-12 and must be complete by 7/12)

12U 7/13-15/2018 (Webster)

10U 7/13-15/2018 (Platte-Corsica)

Please put these dates on your calendar!

2019 Tournament Dates

Class A and B 10U and 12U: 7/12-14/2019

Class A and B 14U: 7/19-21/2019 (Regions must be completed by 7/11)

Class A and B 16U: 8/2-4/2019 (Regions must be completed by 7/26)

2020 Tournament Dates

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

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

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

—COMMANDER'S REPORT, continued on pg. 2

Sr. Vice Commander's Report

Sean Johnson



Hello Fellow Comrades,

A tip of my hat to a successful year of membership! We reached and surpassed 100% plus 41 of 52 posts reached 100% also. We had a superb year and I thank not only the membership committee, but each and every member that helped us achieve our goal. We certainly came a long way this year, and achieved a great deal. I hope we will be able to reach the same goal next year with higher percentages in place.

I thank you for electing me to be your Senior Vice Commander for the 2018-2019 year and for putting your confidence in me. I look forward to serving you in this capacity and working closely with the Commander. We have already been planning and will hit the ground running to bring you a successful year.

In the coming months I will be attending the National Convention, Big Ten Conference, and Fall Conference. I am excited to attend these conferences and learn information I can bring home to South Dakota and share with you. I hope to see you there and I look forward to serving you.

Jr. Vice Commander's Report

Cody Mangold



Comrades,

Thank you for your support this past year as the Judge Advocate. I appreciate your continued support to Junior Vice with membership. This year for bonus points for the membership plan please have the membership plan in to me by July 15th 2018. We are looking for assistance for sitting at the National recruiting table at the Sturgis Rally this year. I look forward to another amazing year.

Cody Mangold

Jr. Vice Commander

cody.mangold@hotmail.com

605-770-1030

1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066

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 its Auxiliary. Everyday, we're on Capital Hill and out in communities across this state ensuring your voice is heard – that your story is being told. If you want to know what is being done, here's the chance to read about everything we've been busy working on. Deadline for the next issue of the SDOV is September First, Two thousand and Eighteen. As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to dickp.signs@gmail.com or vfwsd@aol.com

Quartermaster/Adjutant Report Darwin G. Tolzin



We are having challenges in the VFW that we've never had before and that challenge being how do we get members since the large pool of eligible members has dried up. The pool of members came from World War II and Korea. One of the things that has increased the minimum of eligible members that we now have is the multiple deployments. Many of our National Guard troops are having 3 and 4 deployments we are in past times making the pool of eligible members much smaller.

So, we have to make the VFW of veteran organization that is palatable to the younger soldiers. With literally thousands of organizations, associations, nonprofits and for-profit groups from which to choose. How do you decide which one is right for you?

I read an article recently that addressed 5 topics that the younger military persons are looking for:

1. What kind of organization do I want?

Some organizations are developed for older veterans, some for younger ones. Among the options are organizations are veterans of current conflicts, veterans who ride motorcycles, ones who run marathons, ones who want to volunteer as first responders, female veterans, veterans from specific services and veterans who just want to drink a beer or two with their veteran friends.

2. Do they offer a range of services?

Veterans associations usually aren't just social clubs.

Some of the larger organizations offer a variety of services as part of their membership, including discounts, travel, scholarships, career assistance, help with navigating the VA and sometimes even an exclusive retirement community. Many of them also lobby lawmakers on behalf of their members choosing where you want to be involved depends largely on the kind of service you like to access.

3. Does it have a local office?

You looking to dive into a military veteran Association involvement, you might want to get involved with an organization as a local office, chapter or all.

4. How much does it cost?

Military and veteran Association membership costs vary by organization. Some are completely free to join while others may cost \$50 a year or more. The cost tends to depend on the size of the organization and the perks they give to members. Remember to factor because when picking your Association.

5. Does it have a good track record?

A little googling about your group of choice will show if there any scandals or other information you probably would not like. If you're joining an organization because you think membership will help you find a job or because you like their lobbying efforts, you'll want to know their record and reputation first.

We as current VFW members struggling with some way to entice younger members probably need to develop list of some kind. It doesn't have to be the 5 items I have listed but maybe this is a start of where we need to head.

—COMMANDER'S REPORT, continued from pg. 2

In closing, I would like thank everyone for the respect and support you have shown me. I'm deeply humbled to be in this position and will keep the Department of South Dakota veterans at the forefront of as well as what is right for our members when confronted with tough choices. I work for you.

As always, I look forward to working with each and every one of you "Providing Top Cover" to those who served. Just a reminder, the updated forms and convention registration are on our website (<http://www.sdvfw.org>) and if you have problems with them, drop me a note at the email below explaining exactly what happened.

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

Dept. Commander, Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
Email: danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

Past State Commander Rick Williamson



Our Department has had a fabulous year, I can tell you that it has been one awesome experience to be the Commander of this Department. As I sit here writing this it is still hard to believe that my year is already over. I am glad and honored to turn this Department over to Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin. I wish this ride could have gone on forever and I hope that it does for our next leaders in line. I wish Danny all the best going forward, I have no doubt that he will carry on the momentum from 2017-18 into 2018-19 and will do a fantastic job as our next Commander. He is already working membership and that is getting this off to a positive start. Membership is a 24/7/365 job for the future of this organization and everyone is a recruiter.

I would like to thank everyone for the courtesies and support given this last year, it has been very rewarding to meet so many new people, visit with old friends, and work together to get so much done. I would like to cover a few of the most important accomplishments of the past year. The most important, and the hardest to achieve was getting 42 of 54 post in this department to achieve 100% in membership or better. Darwin and I have been trying to figure out when the last time this happened and let's just say it was a long time ago. Each one of you should give yourself and your post a huge congratulation for this. It wasn't easy, but we got it done with the effort of everybody.

The next thing was your support to help President Carrie and myself with our special project this year. We installed an 80 ft. flagpole at the SD Veterans Home in Hot Springs. This flagpole will be there for many years to come and it will be a legacy of what our VFW can do when we work together. There is a very nice dedication plaque notating that it was erected with the help and support of the Dept of South Dakota VFW. If you haven't seen this you need to stop by next time you're in the area, it is just beautiful to see our nations flag flying high on that hill. This flagpole is so very important to the residents of our Veterans Home. Again, Thanks to all of you we were able to get this done as well.

The next thing is the East River Veterans Cemetery, by working together with the other veteran's service organization across this state we have been able to make this a reality. This was not accomplished by the VFW alone, nor would it ever have been without uniting with every veteran across this state and letting our Legislators

—PAST STATE COMMANDER, continued on pg. 4

State Judge Advocate's Report Barbara McKean



I can't believe my year is up in this position as your State Surgeon. I want to thank you for all your support and patience as I learned my job in this position. I've also enjoyed meeting so many amazing veterans and spouses along the way.

As your State Surgeon, I've had the privilege this year to represent the Department at the District 6, District 4 and District 1 meetings and

Installation. I enjoyed the hospitality provided to me and my spouse, not to mention the incredible food and drink provided by the Auxiliary and the camaraderie at each location.

I also attended the VFW Annual Baseball meeting held in Madison on January 21, 2018 and voted on the first ever Youth Baseball grant winners. Danny Frisby-Griffin has put so much work into the SD VFW Baseball program and I'm proud to be just a very small part of it.

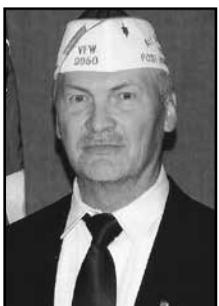
I assisted a fellow post in submitting 7 renewal memberships to Headquarters in the absence of their Quartermaster. I provided Post and District Commanders copies of election reports, rosters and stats upon request.

I hope I've also provided support to many of you throughout this past year as needed. It has truly been my great honor to have been able to serve you this past year and, if lucky enough to serve another year in a state position, I will continue to grow and learn and serve alongside my fellow Veterans in this great State of South Dakota to make sure our voices are strong and continue to be heard.

Thank you again for your support!

Barbara McKean
State Judge Advocate
504 S. Wallace St., Parkston, SD 57366
C: 605-630-0771
mckean4@live.com

State Chaplain's Report Mike Boxa



Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters, Many praiseful thanks to the State Dept. and Host VFW for a wonderful State Convention. I did not know that our Organization did not have enough personnel to fill the chairs and positions, then let alone have too many to have an election. Todd and I stepped out in the hall together with the escort of DD Couch. Todd and I visited and he looked me right in the eye and told

me I am qualified. I just went through the process and know, "a good man's steps are ordered by the Lord" which is Psalm 37:23. Either one us, were to be gracious to accept the position. Needless to say, Todd was a fantastic Chief of Staff and ran a

great hospitality room for the convention and wished me the best and the kicker was him presenting me to be sworn in.

The year is already going and Commander Frisbee-Griffith has got me on staff with some marching orders. I will do my best. One of the utmost things I take very seriously is prayer via prayer requests or prayer chain. I am committed to work for the Lord and for our VFW. I am currently the Quartermaster/ADJ of Post 9950 and District 7 Chaplain. I've been a member of VFW since 1991, and it seems longer than that with the folks, (Earl and Betty Boxa) being members 25 years prior. Dad so much enjoyed the Conventions.

With a busy schedule, always there to help!

Prayers Always,
Mike Boxa



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

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

VFW National Home for Children Chairman



Celebrating 30 years with Nancy Bowers! Nancy Bowers has been an employee of the National Home for over 30 years. Not a child has come through this community without being touched on some level by her fun, loving and educational spirit.

Nancy, a graduate of Michigan State University in 1987, with a degree in Animal Science, found a job at the VFW National Home for Children as a Recreation Specialist. She remembers the job described, working with children, arts and crafts, and animal husbandry. The National Home's 4-H program had been around for a few years and they needed someone with Nancy's kind of background to step in and build the program. At the time the National Home children were

showing hogs, rabbits, sheep and goats. The rest is history and after 30 years the Home will lose a dedicated and valued employee.

The National Home helps families face problems such as post-traumatic stress, reintegration, high unemployment, divorce, suicide and domestic violence. These types of problems are most often felt strongly by the ones we call "our little heroes," the children of our military and veteran families.

A couple of instances of the National Home helping families are as follows:

When John returned from war, overseas, he had a very hard time adjusting to civilian life with his wife and two young children. Having few connections in the community, they move into the Home, where they were warmly welcomed. The caring environment helped ease their reunion and allowed the family to grow and thrive while John got counseling and job training.

Mary is the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran. When she and her children needed to escape from domestic violence, they found refuge at the National Home and more. Counseling for the entire family and a chance for Mary to finish college, get a good job and put the family on sound financial footing in their own home.

Your Legacy: If you are looking to expand your commitment and make a difference in the lives of our nation's heroes and their families, the National Home offers many giving options that can help you give smarter, secure your future finances, and establish a personal legacy that will support our veterans for generations to come. Anything you donate will be greatly appreciated. You might also consider a monthly donation using automatic payment option. Remember, your gift is tax deductible. Please give generously.

For more information visit the VFW National Home for Children web site: 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

—*PAST STATE COMMANDER, continued from pg. 3*

know that this thing had been prolonged for way to long and that NOW was the time to do it. I was honored to work on the Task Force to accomplish this very important project for our veterans, but it was not just me, it was all of us. Your calls, emails, letters and visits with your representatives and senators is what made it happen. The leaders of all the VSO's across the state were the messengers, however each one of you were the voice that let them know that we would not allow them to continue to kick the can down the road. I am very pleased and honored to have been the messenger for the VFW and am truly pleased that it was FINALLY accomplished. Thanks to you our veterans on the eastern side of our state will now have a final resting spot with their brother and sisters in arms. Please consider a donation to the East River Veterans Cemetery Endowment Fund, Thank You again.

I hope that you feel as good as I do about the past year in our VFW. My intentions heading into this year was to bring a new sense of excitement to our department, and I feel that we have done exactly that. I was hopeful that we could change a few things in the way we do business that would help every Post and District in this department to be able to do their mission. I was on a mission of my own to make sure that every Post and District knew without a doubt that we, the Department office and staff, were here for to work for you. Judging from the feedback that I have received I think we got that done as well. We now have a complete team effort throughout this department to help every veteran that may need it, and to welcome every eligible veteran to our VFW. I don't like to talk about myself or what I may have accomplished, however you all have allowed me to be your Commander and together I feel that 2017-18 was a very successful year for everyone of us. My sincere gratitude goes to each of you, you are so vital to this team, I will never be able to Thank You enough, so I will just continue to be very active with this department in the years to come as token of my appreciation for all that you have done to help make our department one of the best in the entire VFW organization. Please join me in supporting Commander Danny this next year and let's see if we can keep the momentum going as we head into 2018-19. For the last time, Thank You and please know that it has been a complete honor to be your Commander. God Bless every one of you.

PSC 2017-18
Rick L. Williamson

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS -

The Pheasant Hunt article stated that Gary M. Reick Jr., from Texas, had passed away, after have the opportunity to hunt our States Bird. It should have read: Frank Ramirez of Texas, from the 2016 year's hunt.

A picture during the Renewal of Vows by James & Suzanne Booth, had Wanda & Dennis Malony, as pictured, and Suzanne made the costumes they were wearing. Apologize to both parties.

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



East River State Veterans Cemetery Continues to Progress

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs submitted the VA Pre-Application documentation for a Grant for Federal Assistance in April 2018. The Department hopes to learn if the grant has been awarded in early fall, regardless, we are working closely with our partners to complete much of the preliminary pre-construction work completed.

Stockwell Engineers Inc., from Sioux Falls has been selected as the design consultant.

The City of Sioux Falls is in the process of gifting the land to the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

The project continues to move forward as we wait for the VA's response.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

For more information, contact: Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

Find the key, unlock the message

This past year we set out on a mission to find and recognize all of South Dakota's living World War II Veterans. We called it Operation Whirlwind. When we started on this venture there were over 2,200 living World War II Veterans in South Dakota. Six months later, this is not the case. The reality is in a few years there won't be any living World War II Veterans and many of their stories will not have been shared.

Documenting veteran's stories is a way to archive our history, but it is also a great way to develop an appreciation for their experiences. It shows how far we've come and how far we have yet to go.

Veterans memories are of great value to family and friends. Some veterans freely discuss their service. However, many are not comfortable discussing their past. It is important for us to document their stories for future generations. There is nothing better than hearing first-hand what it was like to be there – the visuals, sounds, the smells, the fears, the feelings, the delay in communication. Our World War II, Vietnam and Korean Veterans didn't have Instagram, Facebook, Skype, FaceTime or Twitter. They may have gone months without communication from their families.

The past few years I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Korean War Legacy Foundation and the Korean War Digital History Project. Their goal is to preserve stories and pictures from Korean War heroes, creating a permanent legacy for future generations. Their program instructs social studies teachers on collecting and preserving veteran's stories.

Unlocking the chest of wars and veteran's experiences can be very rewarding. If the key can be found and the chest opened, the stories will flow and history will be documented for future generations.

It is key for all of us to let veterans tell their stories. Listen, listen and listen. Our education and awareness of their stories is a key to their healing and an opportunity for us to hear first-hand the issues and struggles they faced.

As Americans celebrate Independence Day, flags will be raised, parades will stroll through the streets, patriotic music will be played and hopefully our heroes will share their war stories for us to welcome, appreciate, and treasure.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary

Subject: VA Extends Record of Transparency with First-Ever Posting of Annual Nursing Home Ratings

This VA news release came out this afternoon about comparison of VA's Community Living Centers (CLCs) with private sector nursing homes. The Sioux Falls VA CLC is more than a traditional nursing home. Our CLC offers skilled nursing, rehabilitation services, hospice and palliative care. We care for Veterans with multiple chronic illnesses that may require complex treatment. Many of the services we offer on the CLC units – IV therapy, blood transfusions, nutritional support, and hospice – are not available in traditional nursing home settings. Because we offer more than traditional nursing home services, the data is not exactly "comparable" to private sector nursing homes in the area. We, however, are constantly working to improve care and services.

Another distinction is that private nursing homes chose who they admit to their facilities. VA accepts all eligible Veterans and works to ensure they receive the rehab or long-term care required. In addition, the CLC residents have access to in-house specialty care such as cardiology and pulmonology.

Our CLC beds are nearly always full with a current occupancy rate of approximately 95%. Veterans in community facilities often request to go only to VA and prefer to wait for admission because of the unique Veteran-centered care provided here. We receive numerous positive comments and compliments from Veterans and their families about the care VA provides.

Beyond the CLC, this facility has achieved a 5-star rating and is rated 5th in the country in quality. With diligence, we are confident we can improve our Community Living Center rating to mirror this.

Link: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/includes/viewPDF.cfm?id=4072>

Shirley Redmond, Public Affairs Officer
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System
605-333-6889
Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, Press 1

Post 2750 Memorial Day Program

Post 2750 had a busy Memorial Day weekend. On Saturday the Post participated in the Mitchell Veterans Park dedication. The event was organized by the City of Mitchell. Post 2750 played a significant role planning and execution of the event. We had 6 members serving on the Park Design and Dedication Planning Committee. Several Post members began setting up chairs, sound system, and the stage at 0530 Saturday morning for the event. We set up a booth close by to sell Poppies, food items, and drinks. Three of the National Guard Color Guard that posted and retrieved the colors are members of the VFW, Post 2750. On Memorial Day, Post 2750 was in charge of the services at the Mitchell Cemetery. The Friday prior to the weekend we placed flags at the graves in the Servicemen Cemetery. At 0600 on Memorial Day, we placed flags around the perimeter of the Servicemen Cemetery, set up approximately 150 chairs for guest and chairs for the Mitchell Municipal Band. Post Commander Ken Schoenfelder was the Master of Ceremonies for the events at three locations in the cemetery; the Servicemen Cemetery, the Grand Army of the Republic portion of the cemetery, and the Navy Lagoon. Post member Jay Schreurs was the guest speaker. The Municipal Band played music prior to the service and during the service they played "Sleep Soldier Boy Sleep" with Jenna Miller being the vocalist. They also played the National Anthem and America the Beautiful at the conclusion. The Auxiliaries for the VFW, American Legion, and DAV presented wreaths at all three locations plus at the American Legion Cemetery. An Honor Roll of Veterans who passed away over the last year was read. The National Guard firing squad shot at all locations along with taps being played. The firing squad was a full seven man team to include an OIC. Of the firing squad four are members of Post 2750. A wreath was laid in the Navy Lagoon to honor the Navy and Marine Corps men and women who gave their live defending our country.



Cares and Concerns

Navy Reserve Lt. William Q. Punnell, 27, of Flandreau, S.D., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried May 2 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. Punnell was the acting commanding officer of the VF-14 Fighter Squadron, operating from the aircraft carrier USS Wasp. On July 25, 1944, Punnell flew his F6F-3 "Hellcat" with several other aircraft on a strafing mission against Japanese targets on the islands of the Republic of Palau. Punnell was in the lead position when the tail of his aircraft took a direct hit from anti-aircraft fire. His fellow pilots witnessed his plane crash into the water and immediately sink with no bailout reported. Interment services are pending.

Sailor Accounted for from World War II

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Navy Reserve Lt. William Q. Punnell, 27, of Flandreau, South Dakota, accounted for on June 23, 2017, will be buried May 2 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. On July 25, 1944, Punnell was the acting commanding officer of the VF-14 Fighter Squadron, departing from the aircraft carrier USS Wasp in his F6F-3 "Hellcat" with several other aircraft on a strafing mission against Japanese targets on the islands of the Republic of Palau. The mission was to strafe the Babelthaup (now Babeldaob) Airbase and the two Arakabesan Seaplane bases. Punnell's aircraft encountered intense anti-aircraft fire over the islands of Palau. His Hellcat was in the lead position when the tail of the plane was seen taking a direct hit. He crashed approximately 300 feet from the northern seaplane base, and his aircraft sank on impact. The other pilots on the mission did not witness Punnell bail out from his aircraft.

Following multiple unsuccessful attempts to locate Punnell's Hellcat, it was located by the Project Recover, a nonprofit NGO of volunteers and professionals who work with DPAA in the Republic of Palau, in March 2014 through use of modern techniques and scuba diving grid surveys. During a dive on April 2, 2014, a DPAA forensic anthropologist discovered osseous remains in the area of the cockpit. The remains were turned over to the Palau Historic Preservation Office, and then were received by DPAA and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

In April 2015, a DPAA Underwater Recovery Team excavated the site and recovered additional remains and material evidence.

In March 2016, a subsequent excavation was completed by SEARCH, an archaeological contracting firm, where additional remains and material evidence were recovered.

To identify Punnell's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial (mtDNA), dental and anthropological analysis, and historical evidence.

DPAA is grateful to Project Recover and SEARCH for their assistance in this recovery.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are 72,934 service members (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II. Punnell's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines, along with the other MIAs from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

VOD and Patriot's Pen Program

VOD, Patriot's Pen, Teachers and Chairman,

This past year we did well with our VOD and Patriot's Pen winners. Our VOD winner Olivia Heinecke and our PP winner Kathryn Doom both placed in the top 20 nation. A big thanks to everyone for all the hard work to make this possible. our teachers also did a great job this year, let's strive to make next year even better.

2018-2019 VFW Program dates

- Oct. 31, 2018 - VOD & Patriot's Pen student entries to post
- Nov. 15, 2018 - Completion of post judging and sent to District Chairman
- Dec. 6, 2018 - Completion of district judging and sent to Department Chairman
- Jan. 7, 2019 - Completion of department judging
- Jan. 15, 2019 - District participation report to Department Chairman

2018-2019 Teachers Deadline

- Oct. 31, 2018 - Teacher nomination to the post
- Nov. 15, 2018 - Completion of post judging
- Dec. 15, 2018 - Teachers to Department Chairman
- Jan. 15, 2019 - District participation report to Department Chairman

Notice date to Department Chairman

District Chairman, please make sure you have all forms filled out correctly and please include pictures of the winners.

Post and District Chairmman, please make sure to fill out your participation reports and get them to me on time. The time to start for this coming year is NOW. If we all work together, we can have yet another successful year.

Thank you again for all your hard work, chairing these programs can be challenging, yet rewarding.

Thank you for having me as your Department Chairman.

Sincerely,
Keith Blume

Emergency Relief Fund

Team VFW,

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief, thank you for your outpour of prayers and donations for those who experienced the path of the many natural disasters last year, and those so far this year. As a result of the many recent disasters, we now unfortunately have an extremely low balance in our Emergency Relief Fund. So, I am asking for your help again this year to supplement our fund to be able to offer support to areas that could be impacted this year.

The VFW's Emergency Relief Fund, established several years ago, provides us a broader relief opportunity and allows us to provide immediate relief to those states and territories affected. Departments, Districts and Posts wishing to contribute to the VFW relief efforts **needed for those in the path of natural disasters** are encouraged to donate to the VFW Emergency Relief Fund.

Some have asked if Post Relief Funds can be used to assist with donations ... Yes, Section 704 (a) of the Manual of Procedure delineates this point clearly.

To donate to the VFW Emergency Relief Fund, please send checks **payable to VFW**, earmarked "Emergency Relief" to:

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Quartermaster General
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111**

Veterans' service, sacrifices honored on Memorial Day

DOI Secretary Zinke, Thune, Noem speak during event
at Black Hills National Cemetery

STURGIS - On a windy Memorial Day morning at the Black Hills National Cemetery just east of Sturgis, families, veterans and public officials gathered to honor the nation's war dead.

Political leaders from Washington, D.C., including U.S. Secretary of the Interior Department Ryan Zinke, U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, sat alongside officials from the cemetery and local veteran organizations on stage Monday as wreaths were laid and Taps was played.

Zinke, a former Navy Seal, talked about Memorial Day growing up in Whitefish, Mont.

"The veterans walked by, ushered by grandchildren holding flags." He joked that the then-young Vietnam Veterans didn't "march as well" as the older World War I or World War II veterans. But he said now, increasingly Vietnam Vets are seen as the elder statesmen in veterans organizations.

"We don't sacrifice the older men, but the youth," he said.

Monday's event, presented by the South Dakota VFW, had somber moments, too. Rick Williams, State VFW Commander of South Dakota, asked Gold Star families - those families who've lost a family member in combat - to raise their hands. He also noted, his voice breaking, that "22 veterans every day take their own life."

"And that's too many."

Following the 11 a.m. ceremony, the cheyenne River Sioux Tribe also held a similar ceremony for Native American veterans, at which Zinke, Thune and Noem spoke.

On Monday, Craig Weber, a Vietnam Veteran and former member of the Air Force at Ellsworth Air Force Base, visited the gravestone of his wife, Geraldine, who died in 1990.

"I try to visit every year," he said.

He visited with a friend, whose husband is also buried at the cemetery, managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

—VETERAN'S SERVICE, SACRIFICES, continued on pg. 10

Special State Convention Highlights

South Dakota Fire Fighter of the Year Award 2018



Troy Scandin with his attending Comrades of support.
Sponsored by the Sioux Falls VFW Post 628.

(L-R): Danny Frisby-Griffin, Chairman, National Representative Kevin C. Jones, Recipient, Troy Scandin, State Commander, Rick Williamson.

South Dakota Law Enforcement Officer Award 2018



DesaRaé M. Gravatt. Sponsored by the Wagner VFW Post 7319.

(L-R): Danny Frisby-Griffin, Chairman, National Representative, Kevin C. Jones, Recipient, DesaRaé M. Gravatt, State Commander, Rick Williamson.

South Dakota Emergency Services Award 2018



Patricia Pape. Sponsored by the Parkston VFW Post 3298.

(L-R): National representative Kevin C. Jones, Chairman, Danny Frisby-Griffin, Recipient Patricia Pape, State Commander, Rick Williamson.

Eagle Scout of the Year 2018

Rilyn, a National Honor Society member 2016-17-18; serving as Secretary 2016-17; National Merit Finalist; U.S. Presidential Scholars Candidate 2018; AP Scholar with Honor 2017 and SD All State Band 2014 & 2018. His Eagle Scout project, building a gageball arena in the city park. To be an Eagle Scout you must complete 21 merit badges. Rilyn has completed 47. Has served in many leadership positions over the past 6 years, including Senior Patrol Leader of his Troop 171.



Rilyn T. Fox of Harrisburg High School
Sponsored by the VFW Post 628 Sioux Falls.

(L-R): National Representative, Assistant Adjutant General, Kevin Jones; Recipient, Rilyn; VFW Scout Chairman, Jeffy Wilkes; State Commander Rick Williamson.

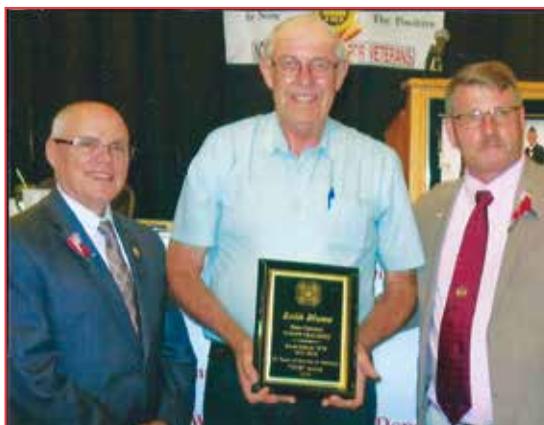
Outstanding District 1 Auxiliary President, Cindy Williamson, Canton, VFW Post 3164



(L-R): State Auxiliary President Carrie Alm, recipient, Cindy Williamson; National Auxiliary, Jean Hamil of Orlando, Fla.

"T.G.R." Award

The "T.G.R." Award is named after Past Merton Tice, Ray Gallagher and William Radigan, and is presented to a member for continuous leadership and dedication to a Veteran that has given to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department, District and Post, 1931-2018. The Recipient of this prestigious award was presented to Keith Blume of Custer, VFW Post 3442.



(L-R): National Representative, Kevin C. Jones, Keith Blume, State Commander, Rick Williamson.



Newley Elected State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin presents the Past State Commander's Pin to outgoing Commander Rick Williamson.

Baker-Simpson Award



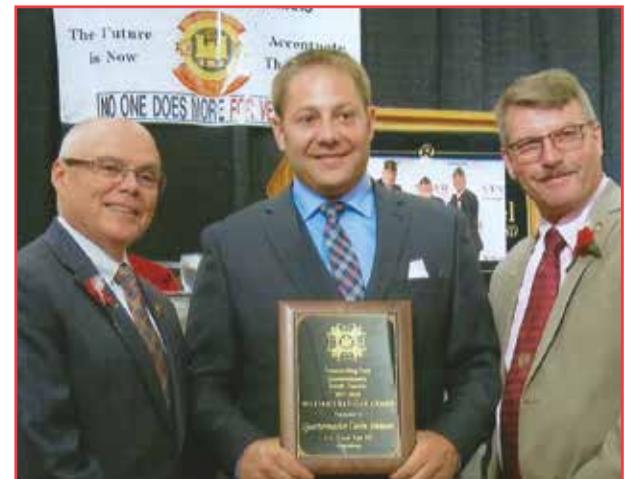
Sean Johnson, Aberdeen VFW Post 17, receiving the Outstanding VFW Post Commander, BAKER-SIMPSON AWARD from National Representative, Kevin Jones and State Commander, Rick Williamson.

Tice-Gallagher Award



District 10 Commander Tim Brooks, Rapid City VFW Post 1273, receiving the TICE-GALLAGHER AWARD from Kevin C. Jones, National Representative, and State Commander, Rick Williamson.

William J. Radigan Award



Davin Johnson, Aberdeen VFW Post 17, receiving the Outstanding VFW Post Quartermaster, WILLIAM J. RADIGAN AWARD from National Representative, Kevin C. Jones and State Commander, Rick Williamson.



**WE SUPPORT
OUR VETERANS**

Special State Convention Highlights

All State Post Commanders



Danny Frisby-Griffin, Madison VFW Post 2638; Sean Johnson, Aberdeen VFW Post 17; Leonard Nolz, Parkston VFW Post 3298; LeRoy Cekalla, Rapid City VFW Post 1273; Roland Holub, Burke VFW Post 9950; Loren Hanson, Brookings VFW Post 2118; Not in Picture - Troy Zimmerman, Brandon VFW Post 4726.

All State Post Quartermasters

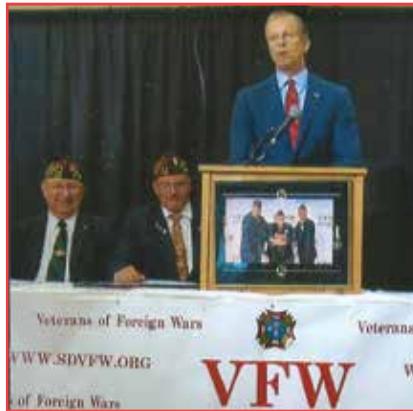


Earl "Mike" Boxa, Burke VFW Post 9950; Paul Ott, Rapid City VFW Post 1273; Barbara McKean, Parkston, VFW Post 3298; David Johnson, Aberdeen VFW Post 17; Darwin Tolzin, Brookings VFW Post 2118; Not in Picture - Ron Harris, Brandon, VFW Post 4726; Vere Johnson, Madison, VFW Post 2638.



State Commander, Rick Williamson proudly accepting his Year in Review Collage from National Representative Kevin C. Jones of Kansas City, MO.

South Dakota Senator John Thune, Guest Speaker, during the joint session of the State Convention, Sioux Falls. He gave many words of wisdom on what's going on in Washington, D.C. and Veterans issues.



(L-R): State Quartermaster/Adjutant Darwin Tolzin, State Commander Rick Williamson, Senator John Thune.



PSC Gerald Kuecker, Watertown, VFW Post 750 presenting State Commander Rick Williamson a State Commander's 2017-2018 Uniform Dress Shirt.



State Commander Rick Williamson receiving a VFW honorable HENRY rifle for obtaining the National Membership Goal of 95% by May 1st, 2017, by National Representative Kevin C. Jones.

Outstanding Community Service Post Award George Dokken VFW Post 2118 and its Auxiliary, Brookings.



Row 1 (L-R): Sandy Meisenheimer, Auxiliary President Suzanne Booth, Vickie Rosse, Mackenzie Halverson, Lois Ladegaard. Row 2 (L-R): Wanda Mix, Jean Tolzin, Norma Hanson, Virginia Halvorson.

Auxiliary Line Officers



(L-R): Sr. Vice President, Sandi Moss, Rapid City Post 1273; State President, Mary Kirkvold, Sioux Falls, Post 628; Jr. Vice President, Donita Mullinix, Beresford Post 2975; Treasurer, Carol Gross, Huron Post 1776 (not present); Conductress, Patti Mitchell, Grenville; Chaplain, Wanda Mix, Brookings Post 2118; Guard, Pam Vissia, Plankinton, Post 6554; Secretary, Cindy Williamson, Canton Post 3164 (not present).



Auxiliary District Officers



(L-R): Row 1, District 1, Pam Gillespie; State Auxiliary President, Mary Kirkvold; District 4, Wanda Mix. Row 2: District 6, Nancy Chester; District 7, Pat Cerny, (not present); District 10, Regis Blodgett.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Dept. of South Dakota



Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference



Auxiliary State President's Report

Mary Kirkvold



Thank you for electing me as your 2018-2019 Department President. I am honored to serve you and our Veterans and their Families. I have a Great Team, so with Them and "ALL" of you, we will have a very Successful Year.

We have two new programs this year. "Buddy" Poppy/Vfw National Home for Children and Historian/Media Relations. Also BUILDING ON THE VFW AUXILIARY FOUNDATION. This program can be found

on the web site www.auxiliary.org/resources, along with SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD. These programs will be mentioned several times this year. We still have CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE, which we need to start NOW, recruiting new members and collecting dues, to make our GOAL of 100%.

National President Sandi Kriebel will be visiting South Dakota in Sioux Falls, August 13-15, 2018. Hope to show here a good time. Her homecoming will be in Hanover, MD, September 6-9, 2018, and Celebrating Americas Freedom (CAFÉ) Event is in Williamsburg, VA, September 8, 2018.

The Department Commander/President Homecoming

and Fall Council meeting will be held October 5-7, 2018, at Cedar Shores, Oacoma.

The Big Ten conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, On October 19-21, 2018.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK AND REMEMBER THAT "ATTITUDE IS A LITTLE THING THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE," AND IF YOU "BELIEVE...WE CAN DO IT!"

Mary Kirkvold
Department of South Dakota
Auxiliary President 2018-2019

Auxiliary Sr. Vice President's Report

Sandi Moss



What a great year we have had! Thank you Brothers and Sisters for your hard work. We haven't made a hundred percent in Membership yet, ut we worked hard. Hard to believe that summer has arrived and State Convention is around the corner!! 'No One Does More for Veterans', and without Members we can't do our best!! Membership is the key

to our Auxiliary. We know that without Membership we cannot grow and prosper. We have been working hard on Membership all year. We should work on Membership 24/7, it is that important. Ladies and Gentlemen our reason for being in this organization is to do more for Veterans, therefore we need lots of Members!! Please continue to ask people to join, for this year until 30 June and after that for 2019. We can get 100% by pulling together, it is never too late.

I am so proud of all my Brothers and Sisters, we made our

first three Quarterly Goals BEFORE the deadlines. As of this writing we are just 3 away from our 4th Quarter Goal, I am positive we will make the goal before 30 June! Getting new members is easy if we apply ourselves and ASK. Remember there are many people out there who are not members because no one bothered to ask them. Keep up the good work. All of you inspire me, Thank You for all your hard work!

I can't wait to find out how many of you earned the 'Catch Five' pin. Congratulations!! Your name will be put into a Raffle for the basket of 'goodies' that we will be drawing for at State Convention, for each and every new member you signed up. A Life Membership makes life so-o-o much easier. If you are an Annual Member you can convert to Life. You can talk to your Treasurer and make payments towards your Life Membership. Please seriously consider getting your Life Membership this year. As a VFW Auxiliary Member, please continue to carry an Auxiliary Application with you at all times.

My last request for those of you who have recruited New

Members this year, please don't ignore these new members. Continue to mentor them for the next few months. Contact them between meetings and offer them a ride to the meeting. Ask them if they have any questions, find the answers for them. Mentoring strengthens an Auxiliary. I hope to see all of you at the Convention in Sioux Falls.

It has been my pleasure to hold the position of Junior Vice President this year and I want to thank the members for this honor. I love this organization and all we do for our Veterans. I will be running for Senior Vice President this year in Sioux Falls and look forward to the opportunity to hold that position at State level for the 2018-2019 Year.

God bless all of you and God bless America!!

Loyally,

Sandi Moss
Auxiliary Sr. Vice President
Membership/Leadership Chairman

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

Donita Mullinix



The South Dakota Convention for 2017-18 has past. I would like to congratulate Commander Rick and President Carrie on a great convention and a super year. You both have done a fantastic job. I would like to wish Commander Dan and president Mary on a successful 2018-19 year. I would like to thank the Dept. of South Dakota Auxiliary for electing me

as your Jr. Vice President for the insuing year. I look forward to serving you to the best of my ability.

For those of you that don't know me, I'll give a brief introduction of myself. I grew up on Yankton, SD, and graduated from Yankton High School. I am the 2nd of five children born to Harold and Ethel Beveridge. I married Tarzan Mullinix 47 years ago and we have 4 children. I joined the VFW Auxiliary under the service of my Dad, a Korean War Veteran. My brother also served in the Vietnam War. I have been a member of the Beresford Auxiliary for 34 years, and have been the Auxiliary President for the past 19 years. I was the District 1 President for 3 years. OK, enough about me.

Our 2018-19 years has begun and we have our work cut out for us. My focus as a Jr. Vice President is

membership. For every eligible Veteran, as many as 11 relative "types" could be recruited as new members. They are: Father, Mother, Brother, sister, Spouse, Son, Daughter, Grandfather, Grandmother, Grandson, and Granddaughter. Start your recruiting now, don't wait until next year. Our numbers do count! Remember to thank a Vet! Gold Bless America.

Donita Mullinix
Auxiliary Jr. Vice President



VFW Auxiliary-
Department of
South Dakota
 @DeptofSDVFWAux

UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Auxiliary President Mary Kirkvold Bio

I was elected on June 14th and installed June 16, 2018 at the South Dakota State Convention here in Sioux Falls.

I joined the VFW Auxiliary in 2007 under my Dad, a WWII Army Veteran. I was Auxiliary President of Post 628 in 2009-2010. District 2 President for 2 years, then started up the Department Chairs. I am a Member of MOCA and Life Member of VFW National Home for Children, also VAVS Rep for Royal C. Johnson VA Hospital, also here in Sioux Falls.

I have 3 grown children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter. I owned my own business for 32 years, cleaning new houses, apartment buildings and commercial buildings. I now work at the VFW as bartender and food server. My Goal as Department President is to spend more time with you Veterans and Families.

Around the world the VFW is reaching out to American heroes during long, dangerous deployments, during the often difficult transition back to civilian life and always in the years that follow. The VFW supports our Veterans and service members with programs that make a real difference...educational resources and support...financial assistance during hard times... help navigating the VFW system. These programs are available at no charge to the veterans and their families, thanks to the generosity of members of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and millions of patriotic supporters.

2018-2019 VFW Auxiliary National Hospital Ambassador Elected



Vickie Rosse has been appointed 2018-2019 VFW Auxiliary National Hospital Ambassador. This Hospital Program, in particular, is near and dear to her heart. Memories of all the times she took her Dad to the VA Hospital and saw how appreciative the veterans are of the volunteers, have greatly influenced her dedication to this cause.

She has been a member of the Brookings George Dokken Post 2118 Auxiliary for 20 years and is a past President of this Auxiliary. Since her joining, she has been District 2 President, past Department President, as well as being the Big Ten Auxiliary Hospital Chairman and past National District Council Member #23.

Some of her jobs will be to supervise the State Hospital Chairman in all 50 states, including reports and awards.

Vickie has also been working with National Senior Vice President Sandi Kriebel to rewrite the Hospital Program. It now will include Objective Zero. Objective Zero is a program to reduce the suicide rate to zero.

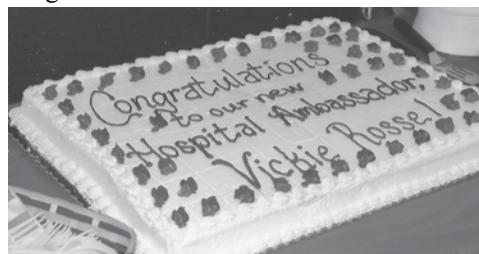
She will be writing eight bulletins and eight blogs with an exchange of project ideas during her appointment.

She is planning to give presentations in Kansas City, Tucson, and Orlando.

Training is going to be very important in building the Auxiliaries Foundation.

She will be joining the distinguished ranks of Marge Carlin, Pat Cerny, and Sharon Mitchell as past South Dakota National Directors, to become South Dakota's first Ambassador.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please meet the 2018-2019 National Hospital Ambassador Vickie Rosse.



Outstanding Participation Award to Donita Mullinix



(L-R): National Representative Jean Hamil, Recipient Donita, State Auxiliary President, Carrie Alm. Other Auxiliary members to receive this award was Jan Andes and Patti Mitchell.



In Loving Memory of Our Past Department President Who Went to Her Eternal Home

Inez Woolhiser, 98 of Canistota, SD formerly of Winner, SD passed away on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at the Good Samaritan Society in Canistota, SD

Inez was a member of Trinity Lutheran church and Ladies Aid, and Winner Hospital Auxiliary. As a Life member of VFW Auxiliary, she served the organization on all levels including State Auxiliary President in 1974-75, where she was named Outstanding State President of the Year. In 2004, Inez was named the State Volunteer of the Year and went on to be named the National Volunteer of the Year. Her work for the veterans and their families was always foremost in her volunteering efforts as she joined the auxiliary through the eligibility of her brothers, Linden Woolhiser who was killed in action in WWII, Glen who also served in WWII, and Merle who served in the Korean War.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota AWARDS

First Quota Buster Post: Category I, Chamberlain, VFW Post 6436; Category II, Burke, VFW Post 9950; Category III, Mitchel, VFW Post 2750; Category IV, Brookings, VFW Post 2118; Category V, Aberdeen, VFW Post 17; Category VI, Rapid City, VFW Post 2750.

VFW Posts 100% and Over: Tyndall, VFW Post 6895, 106.45%; Parkston, VFW Post 3298, 103.94%; Vermilion, VFW Post 3061, 103.84%; Spearfish, VFW Post 5860, 102.89%; Lemmon, VFW Post 2969, 103.84%; Canton, VFW Post 3164, 102.70%; Quinn, VFW Post 9120, 102.38%; Madison, VFW Post 2638, 102.32%; Wessington Springs, VFW Post 5548, 101.96%; Custer, VFW Post 3442, 101.89%; Brandon, VFW Post 4726, 101.66%; Sisseton, VFW Post, 101.18%; Britton, VFW Post 3507, 101.16% Elk Point, VFW Post 915, 100.55%; Yankton, VFW Post 791, 100.50%; Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628, 100.22%.

VFW Posts 100%: Parker, VFW Post 2821; Freeman, VFW Post 3728; Crooks, VFW Post 5770; Flandreau, VFW Post 3351; Webster, VFW Post 4690; Summit, VFW Post 5022; Goodwin, VFW Post 6361; Dell Rapids, VFW Post 10623; Mobridge, VFW Post 2741; Faulkton, VFW Post 3179; Eureka, VFW Post 5126; Miller, VFW Post 3214; Turton, VFW Post 6481; Gettsburg, VFW Post 8530; Marty, VFW Post 1353; Armour, VFW Post 6897; Sturgis, VFW Post 2730; Faith, VFW Post 5751; Newell, VFW Post 5807.

Publications Newsletter 5 or more times per year: First Place, Rapid city, Rushmore VFW Post 1273; 4 or less times per year, First Place, Wagner, Rollie Bucholz VFW Post 7319.

Certificates: Brandon, VFW Post 4726; Yankton, VFW Post 791; Watertown, VFW Post 750; Custer, VFW Post 3442; Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628; Pierre, VFW Post 2038; Burke, VFW Post 9950; Canton, VFW Post 3164; Madison, VFW Post 2638; Aberdeen, VFW Post 17.

Post Poppy Awards: Largest % increase in Poppies Purchase, First Place Award- Tyndall, Simek-Ptak VFW Post 6895, Sioux Falls, John M. Bliss VFW Post 628.

Community Service Book Awards: First Place, Brookings, vFW Post 2118; Second Place, Deadwood, VFW Post 5969; Third Place, Burke, VFW Post 9950.

Hospital Awards: Category I First Place, Elk Point VFW Post 915; Category II, First Place, Burke, VFW Post 9950; Category III, First Place, Madison, VFW Post 2638; Category IV, First Place, Brookings, VFW Post 2118; Category V, First Place, Aberdeen, VFW Post 17; Category VI, First Place, Rapid City, VFW Post 1273. OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST -Brookings, George Dokken VFW Post 2118 and Auxiliary.

2018 White Hat Winners: Leonard Nolz, Cmdr., Barbara McKean, QM, Parkston, VFW Post 3298; Roland Holub, Cmdr, Earl "Mike" Boxa, QM, Burke, VFW Post 9950; Danny Frisby-Griffin, Cmdr, Vere Johnson, QM, Madison, VFW Post 2638; LeRoy Cekalla, Cmdr, Paul Ott, QM, Rapid City, VFW Post 1273; Sean Johnson, Cmdr, Davin Johnson, QM, Aberdeen, VFW Post 17; Loren Hannson, Cmdr, Darwin Tolzin, QM, Brookings, VFW Post 2118; Troy Zimmerman, Cmdr, Ronald Harris, QM, Brandon, VFW Post 4726. Tim Brookes, District 10 Cmdr, Rapid City, VFW Post 1273.

Fire Fighter of the Year Award: Troy Scandin, Sioux Falls; Law Enforcement Officer Award: DesaRaé M. Gravatt, Wagner; Emergency Services Award: Patricia Pape, Parkston.

Boy Scout of the Year: Eagle Scout, Rilyn T. Fox, Harrisburg.

Outstanding VFW Post Commander: Baker-Simpson Award, Repeat - Sean Johnson, VFW Post 17, Aberdeen; Outstanding Post Quartermaster, William J. Radigan Award, David Johnson, VFW Post 17, Aberdeen; Outstanding District Commander, Tice Gallagher Award, Tim Brookes, Rapid City VFW Post 1273; Captain, "All-State VFW Post Commanders Team," Commander Sean Johnson, VFW Post 17, Aberdeen. "All-State VFW Post Quartermaster Team," David Johnson, VFW Post 17, Aberdeen; Captain, "District Commanders Team," Tim Brookes, VFW Post 1273, Rapid City; TGR Award, State Chairman, (VOD/PP/Teachers of the Year), Keith Blume, VFW Post 3442, Custer.

Snap-on Joins New VFW Employment Pilot Program

Transitioning service members have skill sets but not tool sets

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 28, 2018) - The Veterans of Foreign of the U.S. is proud to announce that Snap-on has joined in the launch of a new VFW Veteran Employment Tools (VET) pilot program to provide transitioning veterans with the necessary hardware to help start careers in the automotive maintenance industry, which often requires its employees to provide their own tools.

"Our new veterans already have the skill sets to succeed in this industry, but what many might lack are the required tool sets, which can cost thousands of dollars," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "This is a tough financial barrier to employment, and that's why we teamed with Snap-on to initially provide 20 transitioning veterans with the tools they need to succeed."

"The VFW is dedicated to helping veterans, service members and their families," said Harman, "and we are very hopeful that the pilot program exceeds to the point that we can help even more service members successfully transition back into their communities."

For VET program eligibility requirements and to apply, visit www.vfw.org/VET.

—*VETERAN'S SERVICE, SACRIFICES, continued from pg. 5*

Taft and Marci Tubbles' family, Air Force veterans, spent their first Memorial Day not in uniform by bringing their son to the ceremony.

"We can really appreciate it in a new way," said Marci.

Zinke has toured the Dakotas since last week, including the minuteman Missile National Historic Site outside Philip, the Badlands and Mount Rushmore.

"I've reassessed the beauty of western South Dakota," he said after the service. "I always knew there were good people here, but now I'm impressed by the places, too."

Noem, who authored legislation to transfer 200 acres from the Bureau of Land Management to the cemetery, said the expansion was needed to honor the "astounding number of South Dakota patriots" who have served in the military.

"It was truly an honor to put legislation on President Trump's desk," she said.

Thune said Memorial Day is often associated with lilacs blooming, the crack of a bat at Legion ballparks across the state and paying respects to the armed services. He said doubling the cemetery will ensure "future generations can be laid to rest in the spectacular setting."

VFW to Sponsor 78th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

The rally draws more than 400,000 riders each year

KANSAS CITY (June 4, 2018) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce it is the official sponsor of the 2018 Military Appreciation Day at the 78th Annual Sturgis® Motorcycle Rally™.

Held annually in the Black Hills of Sturgis, S.D., the rally draws more than 400,000 motorcycle enthusiasts to the area for 10 days of open roads and entertainment. This year's rally will be held Aug. 3 – 12.

The VFW invites all attendees to join in celebrating and thanking active-duty service members, veterans and their families by gathering for the "noon crowd photograph" on historic Sturgis Main Street, flyover and more on Tuesday, Aug. 7 for Military Appreciation Day.

The VFW also encourages attendees to stop by the VFW kiosk located in the Armory each day until 8 p.m. to learn more about the VFW's wide array of programs and services as well as information on how to join America's largest organization of combat veterans. For event-related news and schedule of events visit <http://www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com>.

BURGER KING Restaurants

Established in 2004, the Unmet Needs program assists service members and military families experiencing financial hardship by providing financial assistance grants toward basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments. Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees and their customers have contributed more than \$5 million to Unmet Needs, which has provided more than \$10 million in aid to more than 9,000 struggling military and veteran families since its inception.

"America's heroes and their families have come to rely on the VFW's Unmet Needs program, but it's the support from BURGER KING® franchisees and their loyal patrons that helps ensure this vital program can continue to help our military and veterans' families when they need it most," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "I encourage VFW members and all Americans to support our brave heroes by adding a visit to a local participating Burger King's Restaurants to your summer checklist."

Most of you know VA's top clinical priority is suicide prevention. The new suicide prevention coordinator for Sioux Falls is social worker Jenifer Schramm. She and the suicide prevention team are available to help educate members of posts and communities in southwestern Minnesota. They have a wide variety of materials and will provide free gun locks as well. In addition, we encourage each of you to help Veterans by referring them to VA for care and to learn more about services and benefits. out of the 20 Veterans who commit suicide each day, 16 have not been enrolled with VA.



"Wish List" for Fort Meade VA Medical Center

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

The Fort Meade VA does not solicit for donations, nor do we allow the name of the VA to be used in solicitations through other organizations. However, for those organizations or individuals who inquire as to our needs, the following is a list you can use as a guide for our special needs, program support and/or equipment. None of these items are available through our normal budget. Please note ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE and become the property of the VA once donated. Please contact us prior to delivery of any large or out of the ordination donation you or your organization plans to make to ensure we can accept it.

DONATIONS- WE CANNOT ACCEPT KNITTED/CROCHETED BLANKETS, BAR SOAP, OUTDATED MAGAZINES OR HOME RECORDED DVD'S.

Clothing:

- Men's size 2x undershorts and t-shirts
- Men's size small t-shirts

Mental Health in-patient

- Slip on shoes or hard soled slippers (no shoestrings)
- Journals (notebook type without wire bindings)

Personal Care items

- Large body lotion
- Lip balm
- Full size deodorant

Chaplains Office would like cut flowers or colorful summer plants for chapel.

Red Carpet

- Activity books: word search, sudoku, etc.

Rapid City Clinic and Rapid City Vet Center

- Coffee for waiting room

HUDV Ash/Homeless Veterans Program

- Queen size sheet sets
- Toilet paper
- Bus passes
- Colored pencils, markers

Monetary Donations

Checks should be made out to Fort Meade VA. Special designation should be noted in memo line

Volunteer Opportunities-Fort Meade/Rapid City

Fort Meade: Support of Mail room by stuffing letters into envelopes

Fort Meade: Clothing room 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:30 - 12:00

Rapid City Clinic (3625 5th St.): Receptionist/clerical support positions.

Rapid City Vet Center (621 6th St.): Receptionist/clerical support positions

Please direct any questions regarding donations or volunteering to Cheryl 605-347-7206 or Melody 605-720-7151

Veterans Day at South Dakota State Fair Veterans Building Open for Vets

FREE ADMISSION FOR VETERANS
ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of South Dakota will have a display booth at the Veterans Building at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron from Aug. 30th-Sept. 3rd, 2018.

Veterans Day - Heroes Day will be held on Thursday, August 30th, during the South Dakota State Fair. The South Dakota Veterans Council will host a program at 10:00 a.m. with the presentation of the "Chester Sorenson Veterans of the Year Award." We will have VFW items available and information on Legislation, Membership, Services, etc. at the VFW and Auxiliaries Booth.



"...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!

Alcester, VFW Post 6149

Hultgren, Dennis E., Korea, USA, Life; Beeler, Elden A., Jr., Vietnam, USA, Life; Kleihauer, Harold N., WWII, USA, Life

Madison, VFW Post 2638

Dudley, Albert, Vietnam, USA/USN; Wiseman, Maynard D., WWII, Life

Brandon, VFW Post 4726

Anderson, Curtis E., WWII, USAF, Life

Huron, VFW Post 1776

Erickson, Randy N., Vietnam, USA, Life; Klukas, Darwin R., Korea; Miliken, Roy R., WWII, Airborne

Yankton, VFW Post 791

Huber, Larry, Vietnam, USN, Life; Kerr William WWII, USA, Life; Bender, Charles, Korea, USA, Life; Haarberg, Lloyd, WWII, USN, Life; Williams, Dennis, Vietnam, USA, Life; Peterson, Roland, Vietnam, USA, Life; Goetterte, Edmund, Korea, USN, Life

Watertown, VFW Post 750

Aderhold, Dale N., Korea, USA, Life; Amos, James A., Vietnam, USA; Conkle, Galen, Life; Livermore, Joey L., Korea, USN, Life; Palmer, Willis W., German Occ, USA, Life; Burge, Reese W., WWII, USAF, Life

Sioux Falls, VFW Post 628

Christianson, Robert, Korea, USAF, Life; Grimm, Keith, Vietnam, USN, Life; Persing, John, WWII, USAF, Life; Sehr, Paul, Korea, USMC, Life; Nash, Eugene, WWII, USA, Life;

Kilpatrick, Donald, Korea, USA, Life; Funge, Lyle, Korea, USMC, Life; Church, Robert, WWII, USAF; Maierhauser, Francis, WWII, USA, Life; Pasley, Max, WWII, USA, Life; Jonas, Robert, Vietnam, USA, Life; Westby, James, Korea, USMC, Life; Otten, John, WWII, USN, Life; Holmberg, William, Korea, USN/USMC, Life; Fecko, James, Desert Storm/Shield, USN; McDonald, Patrick, Iraq, USA; Fredricksen, Donald, Vietnam, USAF, Life; Jasper, Dale, Korea, USAF, Life; Rensberger, Harold, Korea, Vietnam, USAF; Debates, Edward, Korea, USA, Life

Parkson VFW Post 3298

Roth, Norbert C., Korea, USA, Life; Bialas, Ivan W., Korea, USA, Life

Cootie Corner



Greetings You Lousy Cooties,

Another year has come and gone. Unfortunately I was elected again to be the commander grand for the Grand. Our next grand scratch will be at the Fall Conference. We did vote that we will be having the Grand on the 2nd weekend of May.



Our Grand Elected Officers are:

Commander Grand: Cody Mangold, 1101 Main St., Tyndall, SD 57066 (605-770-1030)

Grand Sr. Vice & Hospital Chairman: Ken Moss, 10577 Dogwood Lane, Rapid, City, SD (605) 341-0442

Grand Sr. Vice: Sid Walters, 2701 E. Worcester Pl., Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Grand Quartermaster: Nathan Beiningen, 1913 S. Grinnell Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (605) 231-0906

Grand Chaplain & Inspector: Colin Reisner, 101 E. 14th Ave., Tyndall, SD 57066 (605-464-7544)

Judge Advocate: Bill Rueppel, 915 Douglas Ave., Yankton, SD 57078 (605-661-7796)

Surgeon: Vern Anderson, 6604 W. 46th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (605-361-3935)

Grand Historian: Larry Scudder, 329 Custer, Rapid City, SD 57701 (605-342-9559)

Grand Adjutant: Laddie Novak, 1218 W. 9th St., Yankton, SD 57078 (605-260-1070)

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

Cody Mangold, Commander Grand
cody.mangold@hotmail.com

Post-Traumatic Stress

"The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly serve the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedom deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being," the Governor's proclamation states.

"It is important that we ensure our heroes embrace their invisible wounds in a timely, confident manner, ultimately saving lives and preserving families," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA). "As Americans, we could not enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty without the service of these men and women fulfilling an extraordinary duty."

South Dakota Joining Forces is a new facet of SDDVA. The mission of Joining Forces is to enhance the state's ability to meet the behavioral-health care needs of its service members, veterans and their families by increasing access to appropriate care, closing gaps, building the system's capacity, increasing interagency communication and building collaboration.

Zimmerman is encouraging everyone to he;raise PTSI awareness. "Awareness of PTSI can be divided into three themes," said Zimmerman. "Learn, connect and share. Take the mystery out of PTSI by learning more about the invisible wounds and the treatments that are available. Reach out to someone and give support. Help spread the word. Working together we can make a difference."

For more information, contact: Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)



Vermillion Post 3061

I'm the Service Officer for Vermillion Post 3061 and my wife, Dr. Jing Williams, is the professor at the University of South Dakota (USD) that is mentioned in the linked article.

http://www.plaintalk.net/local_news/article_6aff550-653c-11e8-8456-33b1013288df.html

Our Post Commander, Jackie Voigt, and Quartermaster, Andy Howe, are both Cc on this correspondence.

It's easy to say "we will never forget" when a service member is killed in action or dies of wounds sustained in battle, but the collective memory fades with each passing day, year, decade, and generation. Many of the Nation's fallen have become mere names on plaques and headstones. Working with the USD School of Education's Dr. Williams and the Clay County Historic Society (CCHS), VFW Post 3061 hopes to collect and preserve the historic lives of Clay County's fallen. Over the past three years, VFW Post 3061 has awarded \$1,600 in research awards divided among fourteen future teachers from the USD School of Education. Each year the top researcher becomes the invited guest speaker for the County's Memorial Day Service. The article is this year's research and service.

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

Note from the Editor...

Together we will keep the VFW Strong! Our State Commander, Danny Frisby-Griffin's Theme is: "Provide Top Cover." The future is full of unknowns and challenges, but with your continued cooperation the outlook for our state will be successful.

Comrades, the VFW is a family and a team. Names may change, but overall missions remains the same- to serve veterans, our troops and our communities. To continue to be successful, and carry on our proud heritage, we must grow and expand the number of members in our ranks.

Each member of this organization contributes what they can to the VFW. Just by joining, each member provides strength to our leadership as they go forward to our state and national capitals. Whether in Pierre or Washington, politicians understand that our membership numbers translate into votes. Just being member in good-standing gives strength to our programs and a united resolve to our voice.

It is fully understood that some members cannot be as active as others, but have we asked them what they can do? An individual is more likely to volunteer and participate when asked what they can do, rather than being told, this is what you must do. A personal interest equals greater success.

Membership and mentorship are large parts of our future success. Regardless of holding a position, all members are encouraged to learn more about our programs. Let's work together as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, WE need to take care of all veterans and their families, because "No One Does More for Veterans."

Our Flag-the Red, White and Blue



(L-R): Gen. Logen, by Tom Onman being congratulated by National VFW Commander-in-Chief, Keith Harman from Ohio for doing such an excellent job of portraying Gen. Logan.

Making a Difference: Commander Rick and President Carrie's project - Donation of the 20'x38' American Flag and 80' Flag pole to the Michael Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home facilities in Hot Springs. The story is from Tom Onman, who played Gen. Logen and his wife, Laura during the Legislative meeting in Pierre. they both are employees at the Veterans Home. He wanted to tell this story about their new Flag. A couple of weeks after installation an employee of the Veterans Home came in my office and told me how they had a particularly bad day the day before. They said that they loved their job, but that day it just seemed that nothing went right at work and when they went home they considered quitting. (This individual is an outstanding employee.) The next morning as they made their way to work, still considering turning in their notice, they came through the main gate and saw our RED, WHITE and BLUE. They remembered why they Loved their job and would continue to serve our Veterans. The Thank You I received reminded me why I love mine. (God, Life, Country and my Freedom. End of Story.

Dr. Williams has compiled the 10 best research works into a book titled Hometown's Fallen: Discovering the Human Aspects of Wars. The book is in its final phase of formatting and should go to press this month. Grant money from the Chiesman Fund will cover the cost of 200-copies. These copies will be divided up and presented to: Post 3061, American Legion Wallace Post 1, CCHS, W.H. Over Museum, Vermillion Public Library, the USD I.D. Weeks Library, USD School of Education, the Chiesman Fund, and each contributing author.

Post 3061 also encourages community members to help us preserve and enhance the collective memory of our County's fallen by donating copies of any documents they may have to the CCHS, and we ask that surviving friends and family members preserve their memories on paper and likewise provide a copy to the CCHS. If you see a news worthy article anywhere in here, please feel free to publish. I stand ready to provide any further information you may require.

Regards-Bruce Williams (901-857-1959)

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.

South Dakota Overseas Veteran quarterly publication

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



WELCOME TO THE SD VFW/AUXILIARY

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



Past Department Presidents Dinner



Back Row (left to right): Neta Peterka, Vicki Williams, Jean Hamill, Mary Hammond, Mildred Ratigan, Imogene Ellis, Connie Heggstad
Row 2: Jan Endes, Karen Sharp, Carol Gross, Vickie Rosse, Nelda Jorgensen. **Row 3:** Gloria Fortin, Pat Cerny, Joyce Schat, Carrie Alm, Nancy Fickbohm. **Front Row:** Nancy Chester, Nancy Worth

Poppy Display



This Poppy Display was done by Gerri Dahlin of United Post 2975 of Beresford. It was entered under Category #2, Memorial and Inspirational at the VFW National Convention in Kansas City in July.

Remember Our Heroes on a plaque made out of

poppies glued tightly together, along with an open Bible made with poppies spray-painted white and black. There are five pair of boots and dog tags with American flags – Boots on the Ground!! And hand-painted rocks representing the five branches of the service. The display has 456 poppies on it. When asked the number of hours to make it, it's hard to say. But it took many, many hours. Poppies are my things and I enjoy it, otherwise I wouldn't do it year after year.

Department Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home for Children Chairman, Gerri Dahlin

PS- Hope there are more Poppy Displays next year, as it is one way to Honor our Heroes and to let them know they are Never Forgotten.

VFW 2017-18
Voice of Democracy
First Place
State Winner
Olivia Heniecke



Dear SD VFW,

THANK YOU for the amazing opportunity to represent South Dakota at the National Essay contest! I had an amazing time learning about our nation's history by visiting the various memorials & monuments. I enjoyed meeting the other State winners, and I even made a few new friends :). I am extremely excited to go to Valley Forge this summer, and I want to send you my BIGGEST thanks for this experience! Again, thank you for everything.



2018-19 Themes



Voice of Democracy
"Why My Vote Matters"

Patriotic Pen
"Why I Honor the American Flag"

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

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Serving the Sioux Empire since 1921

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George Dokken
Post #2118**

Bingo: Mon., Wed. 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

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



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

million members of the VFW as together, we continue to fight for all that's good **FOR VETERANS.**

DEADLINE

For the next issue (October 2018) of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran, the deadline is September 1, 2018.

Please submit your articles to me by that date.

Send to: Editor Dick L. Pickering
404 Dogwood Street
Brandon, SD 57005.

Or email them to:
dickp.signs@gmail.com

Valued Supporters of the South Dakota Overseas Veteran Publication

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

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

The following supporters are **Gold category:** Jonathan Thornburn, Paul and Leanne Payne, Ken and Michelle Payne, Jerry Gillmore, Wayne and Sharon Mitchell, Robert Folkerts, Mitchell VFW Post 2750, Lorene and Pat Ruzicka, Mike Boxa.

Silver category: Rick and Cindy Williamson. **Bronze category:** Dick Pickering.