



## Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota

(Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans)

**Chapter 1054**

**605-956-8820**

PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month:  
7 pm at the Elk's Lodge, 300 West Kemp St., Watertown, SD

Email: [vets@NESDVVA.org](mailto:vets@NESDVVA.org) Website: [www.NESDVVA.org](http://www.NESDVVA.org) Nov-Dec 2021

### Commander Corner,



Greetings fellow members,  
What a month this has been.  
A big shout out to all of our member  
in our Chapter, who helped us  
become "Chapter of the Year"!  
That includes those who worked

on the application for our award, but especially everyone who participated in the honor & color guard, helps with events and programs, comes to our meetings, helps with fund raising events and just being a members of Chapter 1054. We should all be proud of what we have accomplished. Most of all we need to remember that "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!"

Our Christmas party is coming up on Dec 4th at the Elk's. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at this next meeting. We will have an auction again for fun. If you have anything to donate to the cause, contact Kay @ 605-886-3040. We have lots to celebrate so that will be a night to celebrate.

We have been asked to provide security at the Holiday Lighted Parade on Friday Nov 26th at 6:15 pm. Meet at Mark's Auto on Kemp across from the Post Office & we'll assign a half of block to help with crowd control. Hope some of you can help out, we need about 15.

Veteran's Day Program this year was held at the High School with the students invited to attend. Thanks to all of you who attended and helped us on this Special Day.

In closing, I just want to tell you all to pat yourself on the back for all the hard work, dedication and passion you put into making our Chapter successful. We couldn't have been #1 in the US without each and every one of you.

Jerry Denman  
President of Chapter 1054



## Christmas Party

Sat Dec 4th

6:00 pm at the Elk's Lodge

\$15 a person

If you would like to donate anything  
for the auction drop it off at the  
Classroom Connection or call  
Kay at 605-886-3040

### VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman Wtn, 605-880-3630  
Vice President Denny Brenden, Wtn 881-3179  
Second Vice Pres. Gordie West, Wtn 237-8083  
Secretary Earl Cass, 605-237-4419  
Treasurer, Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950  
Board Members:

Darrell Boyle, Wtn 881-5569  
Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821  
Randy Holiday, Hayti 605-881-1601  
Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010  
Glenn Folk, Milbank, 605-880-1712  
Ed Timm, Elkton 605-695-2960  
Dean Halajian, Wtn 605-882-2678  
Floyd Hermans, Milbank 605-880-2711  
Greg Overby, Clark, 605-532-5218  
Phil Braeger, Wtn (Past Pres.) 881-6782  
Troy Foster Chapter 1054 Chaplain  
605-268-4673

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Address Changes.....

If you have recently moved could you please drop us a note with your new address...either to k\_solberg@yahoo.com or VVA Newsletter PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

## Program for Retired Teachers



The Retired teachers of Watertown invited the VVA to put on the program on Veterans Day about the Veterans in this area. Sherry Janssen and Kay Solberg presented a program involving the Vietnam Veterans along with other Veterans organizations and services available to them. We also covered the trip to Greensboro, North Carolina and the "Chapter of the Year" Award. It was a fun group and we were excited to share with them what the VVA is all about.

## Past Active Member Passes Away



Don Reconnu recently passed away in Florida. Don was a member of our Chapter for many years and did a lot of things to help our chapter grow. He moved from here to South Carolina and then to Florida to be with family.

Rich Olson, a member of our Chapter presented the flag to Mark Reconnu, Don's son on behalf of our Chapter.

Thank you Don for all you did for our members. RIP  
1944-2021



## Jerry Denman named Veteran of the Year!



Congratulation Jerry Denman, Chapter President on being name 2021 Veteran of the Year!. The Codington County Council each year present this honor to one Veteran that has gone above and beyond for Veteran activities, help to Veterans and involvement of Veterans affairs.

This year Jerry Denman was selected for this award. While he was presented a plaque at our Oct meeting on Veterans Day he was also presented with the Eagle Statue at the Veterans Day Program.

Jerry has helped with many of the activities of Chapter 1054 including being part of the Honor Guard, and Color Guard.

Thank you Jerry for what you do for all Veterans.  
Pictured with Jerry is Todd Rose, VSO.

## 2021 Elk Hunt Winner



Terry Janssen was this year's Elk Hunt winner. Since he is not a hunter he sold his trip to Gordie West who set up a drawing within his family of who got to make the hunt. Simon Thiele, originally from German and now lives in Colorado with one shot landed the Elk. DC Bailey a SD cousin accompanied him along with Gordie West. The Elk Hunt each year is held at Marvin Gulch where Kenny Wiese has been raising Elk since 1980.

Because of all our activities we did not have enough space for reports of the Convention and also photos from 2021 Veterans Day. Please check out the next issues for more details.

Thank you to  
Dr. Likness



At the Oct. meeting Dr. Likness shared with everyone some medical procedures that will help if a fellow veteran is in need of attention. With the Trans Canada grant the Chapter purchased medical supplies that are at the Elks for our use. Our health is in good hands.

# Honor Guard Training Held Oct 6th in Marrietta Mn.

## Stephen Annett Heads up Training for Area Vets



Chapter 1054 held a training session for those helping with the Honor Guards at Veterans funerals. Those from Milbank include Noel Cummins, Glenn Folk, Bob Frink, Floyd Herans, Tim Jurgens, Rick Olson, Dave Peiker, Steve Strege, From Watertown are Dennis Anderson, Darrell Boyle, Denis Brenden, Brian DeBoer, Gerry DeBoer, Jerry Denman, Greg Dubois, Clayton Ellingson, Ray Feist, Harley Gulbraa, Jim Hanson, Carter Kneeland, Don Pasch, Dennis Solberg, and Gordy West. Also included is Faye Annett, and Stephen Annett of Revillo, Ron Beninga, Marietta MN, Darrell Berning, Wilmot, Darwin Clyde Garden City, Dale Fonken, Willow Lake, Ron Hay Revillo, Eugene Schmig, Big Stone City, Rodney Stormo, Hayti, Jim Strom, Goodwin, Bob Syring, Willow Lake, Ed Timm, Elkton, Don Zafft Estelline and Bill Schumacker,



Good discussions on how to work together in the formations needed.



Demonstrations on how to fold the flag in a proper way and then present it to the families.



Steve Annett works with the 21 gun salute.



Jerry Denman is showing how you determine the amount of distance you have from one another.

Each issue of the newsletter is  
downloaded to our website  
[nesdvva.org](http://nesdvva.org) for a copy in full color.

# *Congratulations!*

## To Chapter 1054 **“Chapter of the Year!”**

At a National Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, NESD Chapter 1054 was named 2021 Chapter of the Year!

Delegates to this year's conference included Jerry Denman, Chapter President, Gordie West, Chapter 2nd Vice, Dennis Solberg, Membership Chair, Darrell Boyle, Board of Directors, Sherry Janssen, representing Women Vets, Bob Frink, Treasurer, Earl Cass, Secretary and Phil Braeger, Past President. Also attending were AVVA members, Rhonda Boyle, Terry Janssen and Kay Solberg.

The Conference went from Nov 2nd through Nov 6, with the several meetings about members concerns, including the VA Secretary Denis McDonough sharing with everyone goals of the VA in the upcoming year.

Chapter 1054 was recognized because of the many projects & activities they participate in. Some included are \$17,000 to Vets at Christmas time, free Flags for Flag Day, flags on grave sites on Memorial Day, Color Guards for parades and programs, Honor Guard at Veterans funerals, support of Salvation Army to help needy Vets, 3 Honor Flights to Washington DC, Canadian Vets visit, Annual Christmas party, Annual Summer picnic, cards to Veterans for birthdays and more.

Congratulations to all the Vietnam Veterans helping with any of the projects and activities of Chapter. Chapter 1054 has 500+ veterans and 70 associate member in North Eastern SD and into Minnesota for members.



Jerry Denman, President of Chapter 1054 and John Rowen, National Pres of the Vietnam Veterans of America



Pictured above are Gordie West, Jerry Denman, Earl Cass, Dennis Solberg, Darrell Boyle, Bob Frink, Kay Solberg, Sherry Janssen, Rhonda Boyle, Phil Braeger and Terry Janssen.

**Never Again Will One Generation  
of Veterans Abandon Another!**

## Nov 2021

- 1 American Legion Auxiliary
- 2 Codington Co Vets Council
- 4 Vets Council Radio Show
- 6 DAV Milbank
- 8 American Legion Riders  
DAV monthly
- 10 Marine Corp Birthday  
VFW Auxiliary
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY  
American Legion Mtg
- 15 Marine Corp. Aux  
Sons of American Legion
- 16 Milbank American Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 17 VFW
- 18 4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting  
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting



## December 2021

- 4 Milbank DAV  
VVA Christmas Party
- 6 American Legion Auxiliary
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day  
Codington Co Vet's Council
- 8 VFW Auxiliary  
Milbank VFW
- 9 Council Radio Program  
American Legion
- 13 National Guards Birthday  
American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 15 VFW
- 16 4:30 VVA Board of Directors  
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 20 Marine Corp Auxiliary  
Sons of the American Legion
- 21 First Day of Winter  
Milbank American Legion  
Marine Corp
- 25 *Merry Christmas*
- 31 Happy Happy New Years

Thanks to all that helped with Veteran's Day, if you would like to watch the service you can by going to [utube](#) and then to Veterans Day 2021. Breanna Solberg taped it for us.



Governor Kristy Noem stopped in at our October meeting. She thanked everyone for their service and asked if there was anything the state of SD could do for the Veterans. If you have any concerns contact Todd Rose or the State Veterans Office in Pierre.

## Help us with phone numbers and emails

We have some members that we are missing phone numbers and or emails so are unable to send them robo calls or notification of things that we can't wait for the newsletter. Following is who we are looking for this month:

1. Robert Berg, Buckeye Az
2. John Cooper Pierre
3. Robert Graf Wtn
4. Dan Jensen, Wtn
5. Troy Lambert, Sioux Falls
6. Stephen Munson Sioux Falls
7. Wayne Pulfrey Doland
8. Jeffrey Thronson Wtn
9. Randy Ward, Wtn

Call Doug Modica with any information you might have 605-838-1819

## Monthly Meeting Locations (alphabetical order)

American Legion-American Legion in Watertown  
Codington County Veterans Council VFW Wtn  
DAV American Legion in Watertown  
Marine Corp League VFW in Watertown  
Milbank American Legion American Leg in Milbank  
Milbank DAV the American Legion Hall in Milbank  
Milbank VFW VFW in Milbank  
VFW VFW in Watertown  
VVA Chapter 1054 Board of Directors 4:30 pm at Elk's  
VVA Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge  
300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month



## Member of Month Award

August MOM award went to Glenn and Barb Folk. Glenn serves on the board and they have traveled to be in many parades in the area representing our chapter.

Sept MOM award goes to Paul Ramse. Paul is always there to help with flag day, ringing the bells at Christmas, putting flags on graves and whatever else is needed.



If you know someone who deserves to be recognized, nominate him or her for the MOM Award.

## Application for Membership Chapter 1054

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ work/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (Please check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 (Lifetime Membership) \_\_\_\_\_ AVVA Membership is \$175 for those under 60 years of age. AVVA Membership is \$100 for those over 60 years

Must submit copy of Drivers license.

Method \_\_\_\_\_ check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Pin # on back \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility: Membership is open to US Armed Forces Veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 7, 1975 or any duty location between Aug. 5, 1964 & May 7, 1975. You must submit a copy of your DD-214 with this membership. VVA is a non-profit, Veterans service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations. Please send application to Dennis Solberg, 1323 Grandview Dr, Watertown, SD 57201

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