



# 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) May-June 2022

## Commander's Corner,



A new year has come again to our Chapter. The board & I want to thank everyone that volunteered your time for our Chapter. It is greatly appreciated.

At the April meeting we held

our election of Officers & new board members. We'd like to thank Dean Halajian, Ed Timm and Glenn Folk for their past three years of service on the board. Our new board members include Sherry Janssen, Jim Hanson and Dennis Solberg. Bob Syring moved from a board position to Sr. Vice Chair so Herb Carstens will fulfill his spot on the board. The board officers for the upcoming year will be myself as President, Bob Syring, Sr Vice, Gordie West Jr. Vice, Earl Cass, Secretary, Bob Frink, Treasurer and Troy Foster chaplain. Thanks to all who stepped up to run and allow us to complete our board of directors.

We have several things coming up in May & June we hope you will be able to help us out with. We will be putting flags on the grave sites of all the Veterans on Thursday May 26th @ 12:30 meeting at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Thanks to Dean and Lori Halajian for organizing this for us. If any of you in the outlying communities need flags to put out, you can pick them up at the Classroom Connection.

Memorial Day Service is planned by the American Legion. It will be on Monday May 30. At 9:30 am we will have a service at St. Mary's, followed by the main service at Mt. Hope starting at 10:30 am with Governor Kristy Noem as our keynote speaker. Color guards will be from all the organizations.

Flag Day is Tues June 14th, so we will be passing out flags on Sat June 11th. We need volunteers for 2 hour shifts. If you can help out give Kay a call @ 886-3040 or 886-9632 so we can get all the times filled in.

The Elk Hunt tickets are almost all sold so we will be having our drawing at the June meeting.

We have lots of articles in this newsletters about the things we have been doing and upcoming. Congratulations to the Veterans honored at the pinning ceremony, especially those that are members of our Chapter.

Enjoy the spring weather and thanks for all your help to make our Chapter so successful.

Jerry Denman  
President of Chapter 1054

## Remember Memorial Day Service

Monday May 30 9:30 at St Mary's Cemetery  
10:30 at Mt. Hope Cemetery

### VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman Wtn, 605-880-3630  
Vice President: Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010  
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 605-881-5569  
Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821  
Randy Holiday, Hayti 605-881-1601  
Sherry Janssen, Wtn 605-237-3236  
Jim Hanson, Wtn 605-880-5029  
Herb Carstens, Wtn 605-520-9798  
Dennis Solberg, Wtn 605-880-4225  
Floyd Hermans, Milbank 605-880-2711  
Greg Overby, Clark, 605-532-5218  
Phil Braeger, Wtn (Past Pres.) 605-881-6782  
Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain 605-268-4673

## New Board Members for 2022

### Membership Report

Membership Chairman, Dennis Solberg, reported to the Chapter that we are now at 495. Within the last 60 days we have lost 7 members and have only gained one. If you know a Vietnam Veterans, invite him to a meeting or activity of our Chapter. We are here to help all Vietnam Veterans.



Three new board members were elected at our April meeting. Jim Hanson, Sherry Janssen, and Dennis Solberg. Because Bob Syring is now going to be Sr. Vice, Herb Carstens was elected to serve out his term. Pictures above are Herb Carstens, Sherry Janssen and Dennis Solberg. Not pictured is Jim Hanson.

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Fax: 605-886-9356  
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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



The new officers for this year will be as show above: Jerry Denman, Wtn, President, Bob Syring, Willow Lake, Sr. Vice, Gordie West, Wtn, Jr Vice, Bob Frink Milbank, Treasurer and Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain. Not pictured is Earl Cass, Spearfish, Secretary. Thank you to Denny Brenden for serving as Sr. Vice.

### Electric Wheel Chairs available for members!



We now have 2 electric wheelchairs. If you are a Veteran or your spouse is in need of an electric wheelchair to get around, contact Bob Syring 605-625-5010 or Phil Braeger 605-881-6782



# DAKOTA SIOUX CASINO & HOTEL

# Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Come celebrate with us **On Friday May 20th from 11:30-1:30 pm** for a free meal

(The menu will be prime rib & fish, salad, potatoes & gravy & green beans & cake.)

Michael J Fitzmaurice, US Army C Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient will be our honored guest. We are very proud to have him come and enjoy the day with you all! United Veterans Association of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate will be hosting a Vietnam Era Veteran Celebration by serving a meal to the Vietnam Era Veterans and a guest at Dakota Sioux Casino Convention Center. We will have Era Music played and Vietnam Veteran Butch Felix also sharing some music.

If you are a Veteran of the Vietnam Era conflict, please take the time out of your day so that we can Honor you for your service. Bring a guest and a photo of yourself in your uniform, so we can display it on this day.

For more information Contact Geri Opsal 605-698-3388



## Scholarship Awarded to ROTC students!

Chapter 1054 awarded 4 scholarships at SDSU. Connor's story is on p 7 More pictures will be in the next issue.

Cadet Connor Starrett and Jerry Denman

## Weekend in Watertown

Ralph Wamsher is putting together a photo collection about Watertown and invites any members o submits photo. It would be great if there were some of our group that would show our involvement of Watertown.

For more information call Ralph 605-520-5159 or email: [rwamsher@outlook.com](mailto:rwamsher@outlook.com)

## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans



The last troops left Vietnam on March 29, 1973. We had a total death count of 58,220, 28,000 plus served in Vietnam from South Dakota. 195 servicemen from SD were killed. 30 of them were from NE SD. We have 7 servicemen from SD that are still MIA.



Many of us Veterans came home & shed our uniforms and went back to life as normal. But it wasn't like that for many more.

PTSD, Agent Orange exposure, heart disease, diabetes and complications from diabetes plaque many of us today. But we endure and keep on going.

We as Veterans, when called up were ready to serve our country with no questions asked, but to serve.

We want to Thank you for your service and Welcome you home.

God Bless America!



Cindy Lenard sang God Bless America



Gordie West on Taps



**Notes from Todd Rose**  
(Veterans Service Officer  
for Codington County)

I would like to bring attention to HR 3967 “Honoring Our Pact Act” that was passed by the House and moving to the US Senate. If this bill was to pass it would bring additional support to several issues, a couple would be to add agent Orange Presumptive Conditions along with adding Thailand, Laos and Cambodia to a list of where exposure to Agent Orange. Please research and find out for yourself about this legislation, you might want to contact your senators and tell them to vote and support this bill.

May is National Military Appreciation Month, it includes Loyalty Day on May 1st, Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 6th, Victory in Europe Day on May 8th, armed Forces Day on May 22nd, and Memorial Day on May 20th. May is also Gold Star Awareness Month and provides us the opportunity to pay tribute to the families of our fallen heroes. Thank you for your service!

As always if you have any questions or concerns about Veterans Benefits, please contact your VSO. Codington County Office is open 8-5, Monday thru Friday, located at the Watertown City Auditorium on 125 S Broadway 605-882-6289.



**Flag Day**

Flag Day is on June 14th. Chapter 1054 will again be passing out small flags to everyone that wants one at HyVee, Walmart, Runnings and County Fair. If you could spare a couple hours let Kay know at 886-3040 so we can set up a schedule. This is a great fund raiser for our Chapter and a great way to help spread patriotism by sharing the US Flag with several.

**St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations**



On special occasions our Chapter is asked to provide the color guards. Henry invited us to their St. Patricks Day Parade. Above is Dennis Anderson, Brian DeBoer, Darrell Boyle and Darwin Clyde

**Vietnam Veterans Recognized for Service**

Congressman Dusty Johnson was passing thru Watertown on April 19 and was able to recognize a few Vietnam Veterans, it was a short but great little event. Rep. Johnson holds these quick ceremonies throughout the state when he can. His staff does the coordination and will reach out to veterans to see if they can attend a ceremony on a certain day and location. On this page and the one adjoining are some of the Veterans from Chapter 1054 that were pinned on that day.



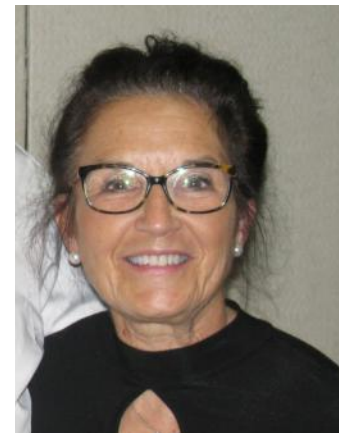
**Bob Graf**



**Bob Lantgen**



**Larry Longstreet**



**Gerry Likness for her sister**



Glenn Folk



Will Snittzer (wife Mazie)



Dale Christianson



Earl Grover



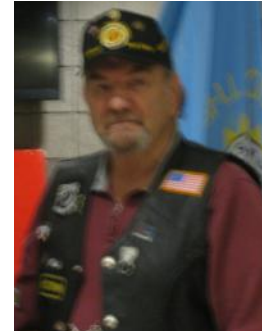
Greg Overby



Al Wentzell



Doug Modica



Brian Johnson



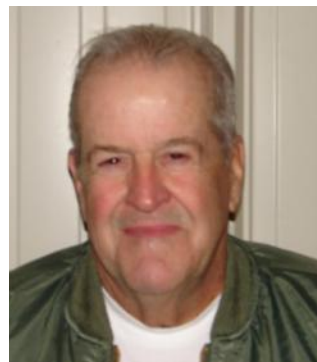
Pictured above is the whole group that were pinned that day. Some were members of Chapter 1054 and some are fellow Vietnam Veterans



Dave Wicks



Mark Schroeder



Dave Brandriet



Tom Braley

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

## May 2022

- 1 Military Appreciation Month  
Loyalty Day
- 2 American Legion Aux.
3. Codington Co Vets Council
- 5 Vets Council Radio Show  
1054 Chapter Anniversary
6. Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 7 DAV Milbank
- 8 Mother's Day
- 9 American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 11 VFW Auxiliary  
Milbank VFW
- 12 SD VVW Mini Conference  
American Legion
- 16 Marine Corp Aux  
Sons of the American Legion
- 17 Milbank American Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 18 VFW
- 19 **4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting**  
**7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting**
- 21 Armed Forces Day
- 26 Put flags on Veterans Graves
- 30 Memorial Day

## June 2022

- 4 Milbank DAV
- 6 D Day 1944  
American Legion Aux.
- 7 Codington Co Vet's Council  
Election Day
- 8 VFW Aux  
Milbank VFW
- 9 Vets Council Radio Shows  
American Legion
- 11 Pass out flags for Flag Day
- 13 American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 14 Army's Birthday & **Flag Day**
- 15 VFW
- 16 **4:30 VVA Board of Directors**  
**7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting**
- 19 Father's Day
- 20 Marine Corp Auxiliary  
Sons of American Legion
- 21 Milbank American Legion  
Marine Corp League



## Flags for Memorial Day



The VVA along with the VFW and the American Legion will be putting Flags on the grave sites of Veterans at Mt. Hope Cemeteries followed by St Mary's on Thursday May 26th at 12:30 pm. Dean and Lori Halajian are in charge and will have the flags at Mt. Hope for all of us to help put them out. If any of our members need more flags for the outlying cemeteries they can be picked up at the Classroom Connection.



## Vietnam Vets Visiting Vets

Jay Trepanier has got things up and organized for our group of Veterans that will be visiting Veterans in the nursing homes. But it's not too late if you would like to still come joining in. The training is simple so if you might still be interested get a hold of Jay at 605-880-2555 or 1tjayt@gmail.com. For emails please us 4Vs in the subject line. Remember we will all be in their spots some day down the road.

## 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 Legion 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 1054 Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge  
300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month

Thank You.....

Thank you so much for selecting me to be the recipient of your Excellence Scholarship. It is a tremendous honor, and the monetary support will be used to help with the cost of attending school at Dakota State University. There, I am currently majoring in cyber operations and computer science with the hopes of becoming a Cyberspace Operations Officer in the Air Force. Scholarships like these truly help benefit cadets b y allowing us to think less about the costs of school, and focus more on our studies and becoming the best leaders we can be in the AFROTC program, to ultimately make us

better officers. The AFROTC program has allowed me to have incredible opportunities to hone my leadership skills through Field Training, where I finished as a distinguished graduate, and the positions I have held within our own cadet wing. The decision to serve our country was one I made due to my family, which includes veterans from every major world conflict since the revolutionary war, including my grandfather, a Korean War veteran, and my parents who are both Gulf War veterans. Thank you again for this opportunity to further my education while continuing on the path towards officership Connor Starrett

### 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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