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America of Northeast
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Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota

(Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans)

Chapter 1054

PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

605-881-9027 or 605-753-0200

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 Website: www.NESDVVA.org July-August 2021

Commander Corner,



With the 4th of July here, we know that summer is already half over. Not sure where it went but it was fast. Thanks to everyone who helped this year with the "Flag Day" promotion. We raised over \$7600, the most we have ever raised

and gave out almost 5000 of flags to Wtn & Milbank families. We couldn't do this without volunteers so, we appreciate your help.

The State of South Dakota has set up a program to dedicate the bridges in SD to Vietnam Veterans, 10 have been dedicated so far. In honor of Mark Horner, husband to our member Connie Miller, the bridge located on Hwy 20 right at the inlet of Lake Kampeska will bear his name. The ceremony was July 3rd at the Ernie Edwards Rediness Center. Pictures are in this newsletter.

We will be having our Annual picnic on Aug 14th at 1 pm at the Elk's in Wtn. Gordy West and Darrell Boyle have volunteered to chair this event but could use some help with food, cooking and organizing the day of. Let them know if you could help out.

Our Blue Lives Matter dinner has been canceled because of scheduling problems just didn't allow enough members of the police, sheriff's departments & etc to be able to attend. We certainly do appreciate what they do for our communities and want to thank them for their service.

The 4th of July parades were again held in Watertown. Last year, because of covid, we joined forces with the VFW, American Legion and the Marine Corp to provide the Color Guard. Each organization took a fourth of the parade. The VVA also provided our bus to the Veterans as they finished each segment. This seemed to work out very well as you know we aren't getting younger.

Our May & June MOM's Awards (Members of the Month) were presented at our meeting. May's went to Barb Strom and June to Kay & Dennis Solberg. Their photos are in this newsletter.

The National VVA convention will be the first week of November. Because our Chapter is up for the "Chapter of the Year" Award and "Best Website", we will be sending 10 delegates. The board chose the delegates based on activity in our Chapter, serving on the board or Chairing committees, both past & present involvement in the Chapter.

The Red Wilk State Fair Activity is fast approaching. They will be contacting those from our Chapter that will be honored. Any of our members can get tickets to attend. Let us know if you'd like one.

We hope all of you are healthy and being able to take the heat. Stay cool, enjoy life, befriend other Veterans and hope to see you at a meeting or the picnic soon.

Jerry Denman
President of Chapter 1054

VVA Board of Directors:

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Vice President Denny Brenden, Wtn 881-3179
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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
323 1st Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201

Bridge Dedicated to Mark Horner



South Dakota has started a program to dedicate various bridges throughout the state to Vietnam soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. On Sat July 3rd, Mark Horner Memorial Bridge was honored with a ceremony at the Ernie Edwards Rediness Center. Pictured above is SD Veterans Secretary, Greg Whitlock, Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden, and wife to Mark Horner, Connie Miller.



The bridge at the inlet/outlet of Lake Kampeska on Hwy 20 will have the sign displayed.

Color Guard included: Jim Hanson, Jerry Denman, Ray Feist, Greg Dubois, & Darwin Clyde.

VVA Color Guard in July 4th Parade



The Watertown July 4th Parade hosted 4 color guard units. The VFW started the parade out, followed by the American Legion, then the Marine Corp League and the last group was the Vietnam Veterans.

Representing our Chapter is Jerry Denman, Darrell Boyle, Carter Kneeland and Ray Feist. A little warm, hitting 99 degrees but July 4th Celebration is an important event.



2021 Salute to all Veterans who have passed away.

Thanks to all the Veterans who, on a rainy day came out to Mt. Hope, & St. Mary's to put flags on the Veterans grave sites. Several members also placed flags on the small cemeteries in the area.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans, VFW and American Legion all helped with this project. It was headed up by Dean and Lori Halajian. The Cemeteries looked beautiful and hundreds of Veteran were honored with a flag. Memorial Day Services were held at Mt. Hope with Major Becker as the Keynote speaker. Hopefully, next year we will return to the complete



ceremony that has been held in the past. Thanks to all of you who helped to place the flags and removed and clean them for storage, so they can be placed again next year.

Flag Day Huh Success!



Roger Skatvold & Ed Timm

Our Chapter raised over \$7600 by passing out flags at HyVee, Runnings, Walmart, County Fair, and in Milbank at Berens, Casey's & Runnings. Thanks to everyone who helped with Flag Day and enjoyed the day.



Connie Miller & Gordy West



Lynley Halajian & Cindy Lenard



Phil Laumeyer



Todd Rose, VSO Officer and Darwin Clyde

Thank you to all those who worked Flag Day handing out Flags!



Dave Wicks & Herb Carstens



Doc & Gerry Likness



Bill Cunningham & Brian DeBoer



Galen Bauman & his daughter Alissa

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as the official date for Flag Day. While it is not a Federal Holiday we honor the flag as a symbol of our Nation. The Nation that our Veterans fought for.



Greg Overby & Don Pasch



Dennis Solberg & Darrell Boyle



Ray Feist & Denny Brenden



Jerry Denman & Don Pasch



Vern Wiedeman



Paul Ramse & Doug Modica



Al Janzen & Larry Longstreet



Barb & Jim Strom



Harley Gulbraa & Paul Day



Bill Schumacker & Noel Cummins



Anita & Ron Faehn



Bob Frink & Dave Preller hand out flags in Milbank.



Dean Halajian & Dennis Solberg

Each issue of the newsletter is downloaded to our website nesdvva.org for a copy in full color.

July 2021

- 3 DAV Milbank
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 American Legion Auxiliary
- 6 Vets Council
- 7 Vets Council Radio Program
- 8 American Legion
- 12 American Legion Riders
DAV Monthly
- 14 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 15 **4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting**
7pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 19 Marine Corp Auxiliary
Sons of the American Legion
- 20 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 21 VFW Monthly Meeting



August 2021

- 2 American Legion Auxiliary
- 3 Vet's Council
- 4. Council Radio Program
Coast Guard Day
- 7 Purple Heart Day
Milbank DAV
- 9 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 11 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 12 American Legion
- 14 VVA Picnic
- 16 Sons of the American Legion
Marine Corp League Auxiliary
- 17 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 18 VFW
- 19 **4:30 VVA Board of Directors**
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting



VVA Picnic

**Saturday
August 14,
1 pm
Elk's Lodge**

Brats, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers,
and salads will be furnished.
Please feel free to bring a dessert!

Thanks to Gordy West & Darrell Boyle
for chairing, if you would like to help
please contact either of them.

Honoring our fellow Brothers!



Over the past few months the VVA Chapter has stepped up for several members funerals. Orrie Swayze brought members from several communities to honor him. He was an active member in the Ethanol Industry along with our Chapter. RIP

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
VVA Chapter 1054 monthly meeting Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month

May & June Member of Month Awards



May's member of the month went to Barb Strom. Barb helps out designing our Birthday cards, and other signs & etc. we use in our activities. She also does a lot of the quilting for the quilts that are given to the Veterans.



June's member of the Month goes to Denny & Kay Solberg. They organized our Flag Day but has helped the Chapter with other activities as well. Denny serves as the Membership Chair and Kay does our newsletter.

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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