



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 Mar-April 2021



Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1054 Continues Helping Others

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1054 continues to help Vets in need and salutes Hospital Personnel and First Responders. In 2020 this chapter has given \$26,000 to Vets in Need and organizations that support Vets in addition to money for ROTC scholarships, the State Veteran Cemetery in Sioux Falls, and the Salvation Army. In addition to serving veterans of NE SD and their families, the chapter recognizes the "unsung" heroes of today-Healthcare

workers and First Responders. Taking every effort to be responsible and generous, this group not only donates their time and support beyond the Color Guards and Honor Guards to outreach in 9 counties of NE SD. Visit the Chapters website at: www.nesdvva.org

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Commander Corner,



Hello Brothers and Sisters,
Well spring will soon be with us and we can all go back outside and enjoy our outside activities. I hope all of you are still in good health and still staying safe with the covid stuff. Hopefully you will either have received your vaccine shot or on the list to be about to get yours.

This past month we finally had a face to face meeting and pretty much everything went well. As more of us get vaccinated we will see more activities open up.

We have been selling our Elk Hunt Tickets. You can still pick some up to sell from either Randy Holiday or at the Classroom Connection. The more we sell, the more Veterans we will be able to help throughout the year and at Christmas time. Please help out as much as you can.

In April we will be again holding out Elections. We will have 3 board members going of, Bob Syring, Jim Strom and Jim Hanson. Phil Braeger is on as Past President, so all 4 positions are up for election. These members can rerun but any of you can run also. Please let me know if you are interested. We will also be taking nominations from the floor that night. All of the officers are up for re-elections also. That includes President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you could help us out by serving as an officer or board members we would really appreciate it.

A big thanks to Gerry and Clark Likness for nominating our Chapter for the Arts of Excellence Award given by the state to organization and individuals who do things to help others. We will keep you in touch as to what all this will be involve but we do know that a display in the Captial will feature our group. This is truly a great honor and we appreciate being nominated for this.

Thanks to all of you that helps with the Honor Guards and Color Guard for our fallen soldiers. It makes things so much easier when you make the calls and you guys step up to help us out.

On March 29th we will be again celebrating Vietnam Veteran's Day. The day the last Veteran came home from Vietnam. As our numbers are dwindling there are still over 550 in NESD that we want to say "Thank You for your Service".

Take care and watch for our activities that hopefully will be returning soon.

Jerry Denman
President of Chapter 1054



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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

Notes from Todd Rose Veteran Service Officer in Watertown



I am going to introduce you to the recently passed congressional bill HR 7105, Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020. Regulation and guidance are still forthcoming, and I am sure it will take a while to work out the details. There are too many areas to cover, here are just a couple for the Vietnam Veterans. If you want to read more about the bill just google search HR 7105.

* It increases the time frame of the Vietnam war Era of military service, stating that the Vietnam Era began on November 1, 1955, instead of February 28, 1961.

* They also recognized three more illnesses stemming from exposure to Agent Orange during service. Parkinsonism, Bladder Cancer or Hypothyroidism- conditions now acknowledged as service-connected presumptive conditions.

Are you enrolled in VA health care? Has your income status changed? Since it is tax season it is a great time to check on it since some veteran's eligibility can be tied to income. Some of you might have tried in the past but sometimes things change. Never hurts to check again.

I would ask that you help us spread the word to those that might not get this newsletter. If you know of someone that might be a veteran or a dependent of a veteran, give them our office information and tell them to call or stop in. Benefits and personal situations change and that could make a difference in eligibility or benefits. If you filed 5, 10 or 20 years

1. and your condition has stayed the same, hopefully

but if it has not or it has gotten worse maybe it is time to apply for an increase. You never know what has changed since the last time you talked to a VSO.

Codington County VSO office is open Monday- Friday, 8:00-5:00, our office number is 882-6289. We are in the Watertown City Auditorium (125 S Bdwy) just west of the Codington County Courthouse.

Todd Rose
veteran@codington.org

Helpful Phone Numbers

Veteran Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255
press 1 (text 838255) or Chat online
@online @www.veteranscrisisline.net

Watertown VA Clinic 1-605-884-2420

Sioux Falls VA Medical Center
1-800-316-8387

VA Billing Questions: 1-800-316-8387
press 5

Care in the Community Questions:
1-800-316-8387 Ext 6800

Emergency Room Admission Notification
1-844-724-7842 Notification should
be made within 72 hours of admission.

South Dakota Veterans Administration's Employee of the Year is from Watertown VA



The VA has presented their employee of the year to Watertown's Jeanne Vanderweide. Next time you are at the VA tell Jeanne hi.

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 Mary Modica, Wtn 605-868-4577
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
Glen Folk, Milbank, 605-880-1712
Ed Timm, Elkton 605-695-2960
Dean Halajian, Wtn 605-882-2678
Jim Hanson, Wtn 605-880-5029
Greg Overby, Clark, 605-532-5218
Phil Braeger, Wtn (Past Pres.) 881-6782
Chapter 1054 Chaplain

VVA Chapter 1054 Scholarship Given at SDSU

Chapter 1054 has been awarding scholarships to students at SDSU that are enrolled as students in the ROTC program. This year's scholarships have been awarded to Cadet Eli Fink, \$375, Cadet Jessica Gile, \$750, Cadet Stacy Anderegg, \$750, and Cadet Tanner Deloy, \$375. Congratulation to these 4 young people who are students at SDSU.



Codington County Veteran's Services to get a new Bus!

Todd Rose, Veterans Service Officer told the Veterans groups a new bus was needed to take Veterans back and forth to Sioux Falls for medical appointments. While the county will be paying for part of the new bus the VFW, American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1054 have all agreed to chip in and help to pay for the bus. So now we have new wheels, we are still looking for some individuals that might be willing to volunteer to take veterans to their appointments. If you could give us some of your time let Todd Rose know at 882-6289.



\$10 for the sturdy metal frame
\$1 for each organizational plate decal

Chapter 1054 still has license plate holders for sale. Display proud that you are a member of our organization. You can purchase these at our monthly meeting from Doug Modica.

Message from Dr. Sneden:

We have some exciting news to share!! We will be having a Covid Clinic for ALL ages of Veterans!

Date: Saturday March 27th.
Please call the clinic at your earliest convenience to get your appointment time set up!
Watertown VA Clinic
605-884-2420



If you have not yet received your COVID-19 vaccine, call our clinic for details on upcoming vaccination clinic dates"

Election of Officers & Board Members

In April we will be holding Elections for our Chapter. All officers positions are open and 3 board members. Those going off will be Bob Syring, Jim Strom and Jim Hanson. Phil Braeger, will be going off too as he was in the Past President spot.

If you are interested in one of the board positions or in the officers of President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer please contact: Jerry Denman at 880-3630.

A slate of individuals that are interested will be presented and nominations will also be taken that night from the floor. Become involved. Bios can be seen after April 1st on our website

Membership Committee. If you have someone that would like our group please fill out the form and submit it to Dennis Solberg and not directly to Ntl. Send form to Dennis Solberg, 323 1st Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201



Thank you to Chapter 1054 Color Guard and Honor Guard

One of our missions is to give our fellow veterans a burial to be proud of. We would like to THANK those who have given their time especially during this pandemic time. Jerry Denman, Darrell Boyle, Darwin Clyde, Greg Dubois, Dennis Solberg, Stephen Annett, Faye Annett, Dennis Anderson, Floyd Hermans, Bob Frink, Gordie West, Steve Strege, Denny Brenden, Clayton Ellingson, Darrell Berning, Carter Kneeland, Ed Timm, Don Pasch, Bob Syring, Jim Hanson, Jim Strom, Glen Folk, Greg Overby, Don Zafft, Connie Miller, Neal Larson, Rodney Stormo, Ray Feist, Eugene Schmig, Dave Peller, Bill Tostenson, Rich Olson, Tim Jurgens, Bill Schmacker, Noel Cummins and Harley Gulbraa. Our apologies if someone was not listed. Your time and service is appreciated.



Members Pass Away.....

During the pandemic it has been sad to see those that passed away due to covid. While being cautious, we provided what we could for honor and color guards. Sometimes others joined us from different military groups. This is Ken Kubat's daughter who has played taps at several hundred funerals, joining us for her fathers funeral. RIP



While there are not many Gold Star Mothers, Father's and Wives left in our area we provided the color guard for a Gold Star Father this past month. Clifford Dexter of Milbank was honored at the age of 96. His son Ron was in Vietnam for only 3 days before being shot. Rest in Peace.

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

If a Veteran you know or a close relative of a veteran passes away please call Kay at 886-3040 to send the family a sympathy card on behalf of Chapter 1054.

March 2021

- 1 Am Leg Aux
- 2 Vets Council
- 3 Vets Council Radio Program
6. DAV Milbank
- 8 American Legion Riders
DAV Monthly
- 10 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 11 American Legion
- 14 Daylight Savings Time
- 15 Marine Corp Auxiliary
Sons of the American Legion
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
VFW Monthly Meeting
- 18 4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 28 Palm Sunday
- 29 Vietnam Veteran's Day

April 2021

- 1 April Fool's Day
2. Good Friday
3. Milbank DAV
- 4 Easter
5. American Legion Auxiliary
6. Vets Council
- 7 Council Radio Program
8. American Legion
- 12 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 14 VFW Aux Mtg
Milbank VFW
- 15 4:30 VVA Board of Directors
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 19 Marine Corp. Auxiliary
Sons of the American Legion
- 20 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp.
- 21 VFW

Mom Award Given in February to Bob Frink of Milbank



Bob Frink of Milbank was named our Member of the Month for February. Bob has helped out the Chapter in many areas but the one most known for was being the Chapter's Treasurer for the past couple of years. Anyone wanting to have a complete slide show of your accounting system, Bob's the man to help you out. Thank you Bob for your hard work and dedication to our Chapter.

If you know of a member that should be honored for what he does to help out the Chapter, or help out other veterans. Contact Jerry to be considered for the award.

Watertown Home Show Hosts VVA Booth



For almost a year now we have not been able to take part in very many shows and activities to be able to sell our Elk Hunt Tickets. March 6th & 7th.

Thanks to those that helped us sell the tickets and to those that helped us set things up.

Those interested in buying or selling tickets contact Randy Holiday at 783-3031 or they can be gotten at the Classroom Connection 323 1st Ave NE.

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



**VVA Presents Color Guard
at this Year's Winter Farm Show**

This year the Watertown Winter Farm Show did a scaled down version holding only their livestock shows. Chapter 1054 was again asked to present the colors at the beginning of the program. Those carrying the colors included: Greg Dubois, Jerry Denman, Dennis Solberg and Dennis Anderson.

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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Light _____ Medium _____ & Heavy Duty _____

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