



## 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](mailto:vets@NESDVVA.org) Website: [www.NESDVVA.org](http://www.NESDVVA.org) May-June 2021

### Commander Corner,



Spring has finally arrived & the golf courses will be in full swing.

We have a lot going in the month of May & June. The American Legion is planning Memorial Day. It will be live stream through KXLG at 10 am

with Major Cody Becker as the Keynote Speaker. We will help with the firing squad. To get the cemeteries ready, we will be meeting at 1 pm on the Thursday before at Mt. Hope, putting flags out on all the fellow veterans grave. Bring anyone that would like to help out, the more hands the better. Several of our members are taking care of the smaller cemeteries in the area. Thanks to Dean & Lori Halajian for organizing this and to all of you for helping paying respect to those who gave all.

Flag day is on Mon June 14th so we will be passing out flags on the Sat before, the 12th. We will have 2 hour so contact Kay or myself & Bob in Milbank if you can help out. We have over 5000 flags to share with everyone.

We are working on a meal for law enforcement and first responders. We'll give you more information when it comes to be.

Bob Syring is writing our Trans Canada grant. The board decided to request funds for live streaming our meetings & funds to purchase 3 motorized wheel chairs that our members can check out & use.

At the last meeting Red Wilk & his daughter drew the members names that will be honored at this year's State Fair. Congratulations to them & we look forward to the ceremony in Sept.

Several of us attended the Arts of Excellence at LATC. Thanks to Gerry & Doc Likness for nominating us for this award. Nine organizations and individuals were honored that evening. It was nice to be recognized by those in South Dakota.

Remember our "MOM" Award. (Member of the Month) given each month to someone who has helped our club or members in our projects & activities. If you know someone that goes up & above to help Vets or our organization let myself know.

The state of South Dakota is starting a program of dedicating bridges in honor of our Veterans. This will be the first year and the Vietnam Veterans will be selected for many of the bridges. Watch for more information on this.

The VFW in Madison held a free dinner for Vietnam Veterans this past month. Several from our club attended. Food was great, and the speaker was very good.

Have a great spring, stay safe, get your vaccinations and see all of you at our monthly meeting.

Jerry Denman  
President of Chapter 1054

### VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman Wtn, 605-880-3630  
Vice President Denny Brenden, Wtn 881-3179  
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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

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.



**Notes from Todd Rose**

**Veteran Service Officer in Watertown**  
 With Memorial Day soon approaching, here is an opportunity to show veteran status on a privately purchased headstone. Please help spread the word to families

of deceased veterans. The Medallion is only for eligible Veterans who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917, regardless of their date of death.

Furnished upon receipt of claim for affixing to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker placed at the gravesite of an eligible deceased Veteran who is buried in a private or local Government cemetery. The medallion is made of bronze and available in three sizes. Each medallion is inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. An eligible deceased Veteran may receive a Government furnished headstone or marker, or medallion, but not both. The VA Form 40-1330M is used to claim this benefit.

Who is Eligible- Any deceased Veteran discharged under honorable conditions, who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917, and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Any service member of the Armed Forces of the United States who served on or after April 6, 1917 and died on active duty and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Please attach a copy of the ceased Veteran's discharge paperwork. Service after Sept 7, 1980 must be a minimum of 24 months continuous active duty or be completed under special circumstances, eg death on active duty. Persons who have only limited active duty service for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are circumstances, eg death while on active duty, or as a result of training. Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay. or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60, are eligible; please submit a copy of the Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter with the claim. Reservists called to active duty other than training and National Guard members who are Federalized and who serve for the period called are eligible.

Who can Apply-An "applicant" for a medallion may be any of the following: A decedent's family member, which includes the decedent's spouse or individual who was in a legal union, a child, parent, or sibling of the decedent, whether biological, adopted, or step relation, and any lineal or collateral descendant of the decedent. There are some additional procedures to acquire a medallion if there is no one to apply for a deceased veteran's headstone.

It is probably too late to get one on the headstones by Memorial Day but hopefully you can identify your veteran that might be eligible for a medallion and get it there before Veterans Day. If you need assistance or you have questions, please contact Codington County VSO Office at 605-882-6289 or your local VSO office. Thank you for your service.

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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



## Memorial Day Service

Monday May 31st at 10 am at Mt. Hope Cemetery will be this year's Memorial Day Service. (no service at St. Mary's) There will be a mixed firing squad.

It will be live on KXLG livestream again this year as it was last year.

Keynote speaker will be  
Major Cody Becker  
SD National Guard

The program is planned by the American Legion. No lunch will be served following.



We will be putting out the flags on Thursday May 27th 1 pm at Mt. Hope cemetery. Members from other Veterans groups will be joining us. Dean and Lori Halajian are in charge of the days events.

Recently we have had 2 members passed away and their funerals will be as followed:  
David Leonards will be May 7th 9am St Mary's  
Orrin Swaze will be on June 8th

## South Dakota Hall of Fame Acts of Excellence



Accepting the award were officers and members of our Chapter.

On Thursday April 15, nine organization and/or individuals were honored for Acts of kindness that were given to others within their communities. Amongst those honored was our own Chapter 1054. Each organization was interviewed as to activities that had been accomplished in the past. Jerry Denman, Denny Brenden and Phil Braeger were interviewed telling the group of the Honor and Color Guard provided at funerals, parade and other activities/ They shared about the fund raising to be able to raise over \$26,000 that was given this past Christmas season to needy vets. And or activities of passing out flags and putting flags on the grave sites of military Veterans. Hats off to all the members in Chapter 1054 for sharing your time and energy to help others.



## May 2021

- 1 DAV Milbank
- 3 American Legion Auxiliary
- 4 Vets Council
- 5 Vets Council Radio Program
- Chapter 1054 Aniversary**
6. Ntl. Day of Prayer
7. Military Spouse Appreciation
- 9 Mother's Day
- 10 American Legion Riders  
DAV Monthly
- 12 VFW Auxiliary  
Milbank VFW
- 13 American Legion
- 15 Armed Forces Day
- 17 Marine Corp Auxiliary  
Sons of the American Legion
- 18 Milbank American Legion
- 19 VFW Monthly Meeting
- 20 4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting  
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 29 Nation of Patriots Parade

## June 2021

- 1 Vet's Council
2. Council Radio Program
- 5 Milbank DAV
- 6 D Day 1944
7. American Legion Auxiliary
- 9 VFW Aux  
Milbank VFW
- 10 American Legion
- 12 VVA to hand out Flags
- 14 Flag Day  
Army's Birthday  
American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 15 Milbank American Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 16 VFW
- 17 4:30 VVA Board of Directors  
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 20 1st Day of Summer  
Father's Day
- 21 Sons of American Legion



## Message from Dr. Sneden

I hope this finds everyone enjoying a safe and healthy spring. Warmer days are ahead for sure.

Please make an effort to stay healthy into the summer months. Remember to wear sunscreen and your cover when outdoors. Stay hydrated with plenty of water. Use insect repellent to prevent mosquito borne infections. No excess of

alcohol or calories for that matter. Make a resolution to burn more calories and be active shedding those winter pounds.

Reach out to an old friend who may need some attention. enjoy time with family and friends. Continue to social distance and get immunized if you haven't already.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy future and thank you for your service.

Dr. John Sneden



**Flag Day is  
June 14th**

We will be handing out flags again on Sat June 12 in Watertown and Milbank. If you would like to work a 2 hour shift let Jerry Denman 880-3630 or Kay Solberg 886-9632 or 886-3040

## 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



## Member of Month Awards



Member of the Month for March is Herb Leeseberg and his wife Teri. They live in Madison Mn and never miss a monthly meeting here in Watertown. You will usually see them at our other activities put on by our Chapter.



Member of the Month for April was presented to Darwin Clyde from Garden City. Darwin is very active in the Color Guard and the Honor Guard and volunteers for most activities including passing out flags, ringing the bells for the Salvation Army, putting flags on the cemeteries close to Garden City and all the social activities.

Thanks to these two members for their dedication to our Chapter. If you know any member that you think deserves some special recognition, contact Jerry Denman and nominate them. 880-3630

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

## Scholarship give to School of Mines Student



On April 6th, Earl F. Cass presented a scholarship to a deserving Cadet attending South Dakota School of Mines in the ROTC program. His sentiments and information is as follows  
My name is Cameron Kor, and you have recently awarded me with the 1054 scholarship at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology ROTC awards ceremony. I would like to thank you for presenting the scholarship opportunity to the Rushmore Battalion. I understand how much this scholarship means to you and would like you to know that it means a lot to me as well. I am proud to see that the efforts and commitments of this ROTC program are being highly rewarded. I thank you again for the opportunity on behalf of the Rushmore Battalion.  
I am 20 years old, born and raised in Piedmont, South Dakota (a small town north of Rapid City). I joined ROTC for several reasons. I have always been fascinated with the military, its functions, and its technology. I am currently a Mechanical Engineering major at SDSMT. As for hobbies, I enjoy riding horses, flying, golfing, and being outdoors in general. When I graduate from SDSMT, I plan on commissioning active duty into Aviation, Armor, or Infantry.

### Bridge Dedication

The State has started a program of dedicating bridges in South Dakota and those honored will be Veterans. Six have been chosen for 2021. Mark Horner will be honored from here. On July 3rd a dedication ceremony will be held at the SD Ntl Guard Armory, time to be announced. Mark was married to Connie Miller, a VVA member of Chapter 1054. More information will be shared in the future.

## Red Wilk Honors Vietnam Veterans

Red Wilk, a Vietnam Veteran from Huron SD has been honoring Veterans each year at the South Dakota State Fair. Last year he had decided he wanted to honor 7 veterans from Chapter 1054 but because of covid it was canceled. At the April meeting, Red and his daughter Jenny came and did a drawing of 8 members that would be honored at this year's State Fair, Thursday during the Bull Bash. The following applied and their names were drawn to be introduced on behalf of our chapter.

1. Herb Carstens, Watertown
2. Wm (Bill) Cunningham South Shore
3. Ken Raasch, Pierre
4. Ken Tarbox, Bradley
5. Bern Scheller, Clark
6. John Thomas, Sioux Falls
7. James Schmidt, Kennebec
8. Alternate Richard Ruble, Dallas.

These members will be contacted and instructions as to what needs to be done. All other members that would like a free ticket to the Bull Bash Show on Thursday call him to let him know. Chapter 1054 currently has 565 members and associate members.

## Election of Officers & Board Members



Pictured here are the new officers for this coming year. Troy Foster, Chaplain, Bob Frink, Treasurer, Jerry Denman, President, Denny Brenden, 1st Vice Pres. Gordy West, 2nd Vice Pres. and Paul Hermans, Secretary.



Three new board members were elected to serve a 3 year term. They are Bob Syring, Jim Strom and Floyd Hermans.

## VFW in Madison MN Honors Vietnam Veterans



Herb & Teri Leeseberg, Myron & Judy Rosendahl, LuVern Underhill, Bud & Diane Walkins, Dave Jerpsett, Rich Kools, Josh Beninga, and Jerry Osteraas. We apologize if anyone was left off.

It was a great evening and hope a tradition that can be continued.

The VFW in Madison Mn, held a Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. David Hanson was the keynote speaker and spoke about his struggles with PTSD. Several members of Chapter 1054 were present: Jerry & Carol Denman, Mike & Cheryl Kahloff, Ron Hay, Lyndon & Diana Fitzpatrick, Eugen Schmig,



Photos courtesy of The Western Guard

Each issue of the newsletter is downloaded to our website [nesdvva.org](http://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.



## Thank you

Chapter 1054 would like to say a special thank you to

### **Bob Buysee**

for your donation you have made the past 2 years. We appreciate your support of Veterans and our Chapter.



## Special Thank you!

Chapter 1054 would like to specially thank Dennis Weise and his wife Shirley for the cash donation and for the exceptional Elk Hunts we do as a fund raiser every year. With your help we can meet our goal of helping needy vets each year. Thank you for your kind support.

## 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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