



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 May- June 2019



Greetings everyone

Jack Kempter, our newly re-elected Chapter President is not available to write this so as VP he asked me to write the Presidents corner for him. Jack is still having a lot of medical problems and is hoping to get them resolved as quick as possible so he

can get back to his Presidential duties. I hope so too, but until then I will continue to help him and the club as much as I can.

Well VVA Chapter 1054 members, we have just had our Yearly "Annual Meeting". Elected officers and some new board members which Kay will publish in the newsletter. We reviewed and passed the new "Bylaws" for the chapter. Much work and long hours of review by the Board of Directors and committee members have resulted in these new Chapter by laws. Many thanks to Earl Cass and Don Zafft for their work on these and help in the why's and wherefores of all the changes and why they are necessary. Personally Earl I don't think we could have gotten it done in such a timely manner without your guidance and work on them.

The ROTC scholarships for the Army ROTC at SDSU and SDSMT have been given out and the AFROTC scholarships at SDSU have also been presented. You have never met a more grateful group of young men and women. Their voices asked that you hear their thanks.

We now are in the major fund raising activities of the year, and this is necessary for our mission to help needy veterans in Northeast South Dakota or whenever and whomever it is appropriate to help. The Elk Hunt chaired by Randy Holiday is down to the last 100 or so tickets out by members that we need to get in so we can hold the drawing in June. Make sure you turn them in to Randy.

In June, we have the Flag Day flag give away at the various locations in Watertown and Milbank. This is a big fund raiser for us and it promotes a lot of patriotism and good will all over the area so when asked to help please make the effort to volunteer, we need all the help we can get. We also have the Ford Ride and Drive program in June and we need everyone who is licensed to drive to fill out the form and come in take a drive in the Ford vehicles, cars, trucks and SUV's in June at Montgomery Furniture parking lot on Saturday June just as in the past years. Again we need volunteers to help with this activity so come out and help the club.

Well that about ends this article except to say that I hope the snow is finally over! Been a long winter. And if you think I forgot the dates of all these activities....wrong, Kay will have more on them in the rest of the newsletter and now you have to read it to find them. Sneaky eh.

Phil Braeger
First Vice President

VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jack Kempter, Waubay 881-9027

Vice President Phil Braeger, Wtn 881-6782

Second Vice Pres. Darrell Berning, Wilmot 237-9754

Secretary Mary Modica, Wtn 605-868-4577

Treasurer, Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950

Board Members:

Jerry Denman, Wtn 605-880-3630

Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821

Randy Holiday, Hayti 605-881-1601

Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010

Earl Cass, Wtn 605-237-4419

Glen Folk, Milbank,

Ed Timm, Elkton 605-695-2960

Dean Halajian, Wtn 605-882-2678

Floyd Hermans, Milbank 880-2711

Chapter 1054 Chaplain Don Zafft, Estelline
605-873-2312

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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

Message from Dr. Sneden:

Eating for Whole Health

Have you ever noticed if you have a pet that isn't feeling well and you take them to the veterinarian, one of the first questions they ask is: "What kind of food are you feeding it?" If you take your house plant to the nursery, one of the first questions they ask is: "What kind of plant food are you using? This is a good question to ask ourselves when we find that we just don't feel as well as we'd like to. Recently, several staff members from the Watertown Clinic attended an Eating for Whole Health course. They came back with a new perspective on how what we eat affects our overall health. Small healthy changes like increasing our intake of green, leafy vegetables and cutting back on sugars and starches can make such a difference. We often offer consults to dietitians when Veterans are in for appointments. Dietitians can help.

John Sneden, MD



Greg Whitlock, Veterans Affairs Department in SDak

At the March meeting of the VVA the Secretary for Veterans Affairs Greg Whitlock spoke to the group about things going on within the state dealing with Veterans. He highlighted several Veterans bills that were in this year's legislator session. Including bills increasing the number of beds at the Veterans Home in Hot springs to payments available for services for Veterans. He requested that if any Veteran has questions about eligibility of programs and services available in the state of South Dakota Veterans should contact his office in Pierre. 1-877-579-0015

Greg is originally from Watertown and was appointed at the beginning of this year to be the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He served in the SD National Guard. Welcome Greg to this position and our club looks forward to working with you.

SD & Minn Enhance Carry Permit will be holding an informational and training on June 15th at 9 am at The cost is \$150. If you have any questions call Floyd Hermans at 605-880-2711.

Purple Heart Vets Get New Benefits



Purple Heart recipients will start receiving one additional benefit in April—priority processing for initial disabilities claims. Department of Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie announced at a Senate subcommittee meeting that beginning next month, Purple heart recipients will get priority processing when it comes to getting their disability benefits on claims received on or after April 1.

This is in addition to existing medical benefits: No co-pays for medical care and priority treatment at VA hospitals, meaning that the veteran will go into at least Group 3 when it comes to medical care.

Outside the medical area, Purple Heart recipients don't need to serve a certain length of time to get full education benefits. They'll be able to shop on base and use the recreation areas starting next year. In some states, their children will be eligible for free tuition at in state colleges. When it comes to work, Purple Heart recipients are given a 10 point preference in hiring for government jobs.

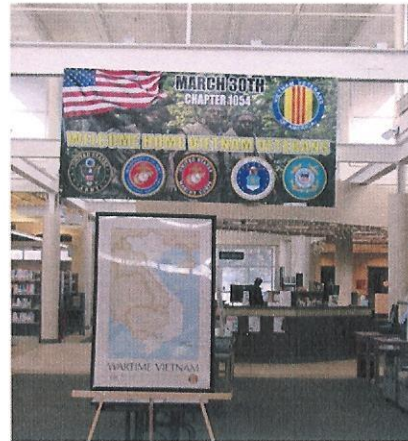
Under certain circumstances a Purple Heart veteran can receive extra money (over the standard disability benefits). Call to inquire at 1-800-321-1080

These benefits have been earned, and there's no big dispute about that. If you're wounded in combat you get a medal. But when it comes to going to the head of the line for initial claims...that's where opinions are running hot. It's possible to get a Purple Heart medal for a relatively minor combat wound that healed long ago, while some with much more serious non-combat injuries are still awaiting claims.

Some things to think about: If a serious injury happens in non-combat area, does it deserve a Purple Heart? If a combat injury happens but it's mild enough that the service member can be patched up and go back into combat, does it deserve a purple Heart?

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Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans was March 30th



Chapter 1054 had a display at the library for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans on March 30th. The display included photos of local veterans, books about Vietnam, Uniforms



of Doug Modica and Phil Braeger, maps and the Vietnam Flag.

The library let us set up the display from March 15th through April 15th. They told us that they had people come specifically to see the display and see what they could learn about the war.

Thanks to the Watertown Regional Library for letting us set things

up and to welcome the Veterans in this area to share with others what they experienced.



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.



Test Drive a Ford!

The Ford Motor Company has again asked the Vietnam Veterans to help them test drive their cars. For each



car that is taken for a test drive our club will get \$20. They will not pressure anyone into buying the cars but a Veteran must ride along with the individuals that is driving. This will take place on Sat June 15th at Montgomery's parking lot. Please come out and test drive while raising money for the VVA.

Flag Day is June 14th



June 14th is Flag Day--We will be handing out flags on Sat. June 8th from 9 am to 5 pm. Saturday has the most foot traffic at the retail stores that we give out flags. We do much better with donations on a Saturday. Here is the pitch: "June 14th is Flag Day. We are handing out flags today so you can display or fly them on June 14th." Thank you. We will need about 36 workers to hand out the flags which will give us 2 person teams for the hours of handing them out. It is a rewarding and enjoyable time meeting people by handing them out. Give Dennis or Kay a call 886-3040 or 886-9632 to fill in a time. Your help is much appreciated.

ROTC Scholarships Awarded for Air Force and Army Students.



Pictured above are recipients of this years ROTC given by Chapter 1054. These two students go to SDSU. the one to the right is Caleg Goergen and received \$200 and is in the Air Force. On the left is Phillip Zamora receiving \$500 and is also in the Air Force. Pictures with the two is Phil Braeger, Vice President of Chapter 1054.

Pictured to the right are the ROTC Army scholarships. These are partly sponsored by Jerry Caulfield's family and Chapter 1054. To right picture is Jadin Rudenbusch receiving a \$500 scholarship and below that is Parker Young receiving a \$200 Army Scholarship.



Not pictures is Bradley Ware who received a \$200 Army Scholarship and he attends Black Hill State. Congratulations to all.



Monday May 27th Memorial Day Services

St. Mary's Cemetery 9:15 AM
Mt Hope Cemetery 10:30 AM

Speaker will be: Jerry Hanson, Arlington
Wtn City Band led by Jackie Stacey
All Military Organizations will be participating.
Lunch will be served at the American Legion
following the services.



VVA Chapter 1054, VFW Post 808
and American Legion Post 17 are
joining forces to put flags on Veterans
graves this Memorial Day. We can
use some help to get these placed. Let
us know if you can help. Also if you are
putting them on some of the small town
cemeteries around Watertown and
need some flags get a hold of Dennis
880-4225.

We are planning a fall trip to Washington DC
at the end of Sept. If you are interested
please contact Kay or Denny Solberg.

We need to know how many are interested
as it effects our prices. Members of the club
will be doing some fund raising to help with the
costs of the Veterans. Call Kay at
886-3040 or Denny at 880-4225 to put your
name on the list or for any other questions.

Election of Officers and Board Members



Chapter 1054 held their annual elections with
the following officers elected for this next year.
They include Jack Kempter, President, (not
pictured above) (left to right) Don Frink, Milbank
Treasurer, Phil Braeger, Wtn 1st Vice, Mary
Modica, Wtn Secretary, Don Zafft, Estelline
appointed Chaplain, and Darrell Birney, Wilmot,
2nd Vice President.



Three positions were filled on the board of
Directors (left to right) Ed Timm, Elkton,
Dean Halajian, Wtn and Glen Folk, Milbank.
Special thanks to Steve Strege for serving
on the board but did not rerun. We appreciate
your work and support of the VVA.

Trading Coins Available through Chapter 1054



The Chapter has purchased
1000 trading coins that you
can purchase for \$3 each.

They are imprinted on both sides. The VVA
emblem is on one side and the orange Vietnam
symbol is on the back side. See Darrell Berning
if you would like to purchase some of these
coins. or call him 605-237-9754.

May 2019

- 1 Vets Council
Military Appreciation Month
- 4 DAV Milbank
- 5 1054 Chapter Anniversary
- 6 American Legion Aux.
- 8 VFW Aux.
Milbank VFW
- 9 American Legion
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 American Legion Riders
DAV
VVA Board of Directors
- 15 VFW
- 16 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 17 Armed Forces Day
- 20 Marine Corp Aux.
Sons of American Legion
- 21 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp.



June 2019

- 1 DAV Milbank
- 3 American Legion Aux.
- 4 Vets Council
- 5 Vets Council Radio Program
- 8 Pass out flags for Flag Day
- 10 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 12 VFW Aux
- 13 American Legion
- 14 Army Day
Flag Day
- 16 Father's Day
- 17 Marine Corp Aux.
Sons of American Legion
VVA Board of Directors
- 18 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp.
- 19 VFW
- 20 VVA Chapter Meeting

Pigeons Flying High for the Vietnam Veterans



Thanks to the
Lake City Pigeon
Racer Club.

We are doing a fund raiser with the Lake City Pigeon Racers. The numbers are \$20 and on Memorial Day the numbered birds will be released in Sioux Falls and fly back to Watertown. The first 5 birds flying home, if you have those numbers will receive a \$100. The board is at the Classroom Connection if you would like to pick your number.....



Thank you

This past winter we have sold Elk Hunt tickets at several events including Brookings and Watertown' Gun Shows and the Home Show in Watertown.

Thank you to all of you who helped out:
Dean Halajian, Gordie West, Randy Holiday,
Don Pasch, Connie Miller, Herb Carstens,
Dennis Anderson, Dennis Solberg and Phill Braeger.
We apologize if anyone is not listed here.

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 Cliffords in Wtn
(1 st Mtg of the quarter) 1054 meets in Milbank
VVA Chapter 1054 monthly meeting Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month

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 under 60 years of age and \$100 over 60. 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 Feb. 28, 1961 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.

Re-Up as a Life Member

Please turn in any remaining Elk Hunt Tickets to Randy Holiday. Our drawing will be held at our June Meeting.

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Light _____ Medium _____ & Heavy Duty _____



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301 20th Ave SE Watertown.SD 57201
605-882-8480

Do you know a Veteran thats been ill?
Contact Don Zafft at 605-873- 2312
and he will send a Get Well card.



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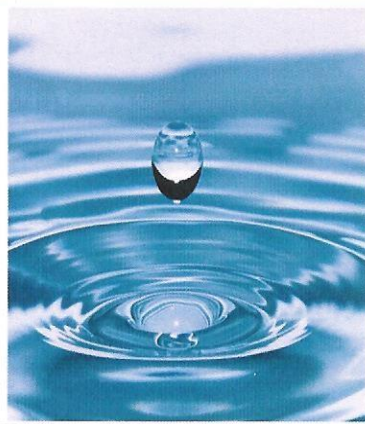
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