



## 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) Nov-Dec 2020

### Commander Corner,



Hello Brothers and Sisters,  
I hope this message finds everyone  
safe and healthy. I know that  
everyone has heard this many times  
but, wear a mask, social distance,  
and wash your hands. Now that I've

given you my Covid lecture lets proceed with other  
information. As most of the local members that regularly  
attend our monthly meetings know, in October we did not  
meet. Meetings for the upcoming months will be  
determined by the spread and severity of the virus so we  
will send a robo call or email on the Monday before the  
meeting to let you know if we are going to have one or  
not.

We are entering the holiday seasons in the next few  
months. I know sometimes we think this year hasn't had  
a whole lot to be thankful for but most of us have family  
and friends that mean a lot to us. Keep in touch with  
them and make sure they are safe and healthy. For  
our members who know someone that is by themselves  
during the holidays give them a call, go see them and  
give them a little light for the day. The Holiday season  
is full of hope, happiness and love. We will get through  
this. We've been thru this many times in our lifetimes  
and we will face other bumps in the road in the future.  
Keep the faith, hug family and friends (maybe an elbow  
bump), spread the love of the upcoming seasons and  
have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas!

Thanks all for what you do for our Chapter.

Jerry Denman

President of Chapter 1054



Brothers  
Forever



**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
from the Officers  
and Board of Directors  
of Chapter 1054**

### **VVA Board of Directors:**

President: Jerry Denman Wtn, 605-880-3630

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Dean Halajian, Wtn 605-882-2678

Jim Hanson, Wtn 605-880-5029

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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:

With the flu season upon us we encourage all Veterans to have a flu shot. Give us a call here at the clinic and we will set things up for you to come in for your annual shot.



Stay safe, social distance, wash your hands and wear a mask are all guidelines for you to stay safe in this covid times. Let us know how we can help you in anyway.

Dr. John Sneden  
VA Clinic in Watertown



Happy  
Thanksgiving  
to All!



Member of the Month "MOM" Award  
for September

This month Herb Carstens was honored for what he has done to help out our chapter. Herb handles all our merchandise at meetings, helps with flag day, and cooks at our picnics. He is always ready to help with anything that needs to be done, and we appreciate what he does with our chapter. Thank you Herb!



## Notes from Todd Rose Veteran Service Officer in Watertown



VA Pension helps Veterans, and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veteran Pension and

Survivors Pension benefit programs. Payments are made to bring the Veteran's or Survivor's total income including other retirement or Social Security income to a level set by Congress. Unreimbursement medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes.

First thing is Pension claims take on average a year to process once it has been submitted to the VA. There is a significant amount of responsibility and paperwork needed from the claimant to start the process: all income, assets and reimbursed medical expenses figures along with supporting documentation. This information is needed for both veteran and spouse if married.

Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a VA--recognized wartime period to qualify. The 90 day requirement does not apply if the Veteran was discharged due to service-connected disability.

Current maximum total assets allowed is set at \$129,000 to be eligible to apply (this does not include your house and a 2 acre lot it is on, if you have more land than that, that will be considered an asset).

Rule of thumb if the veteran and/or spouse are living only on social Security and they have a fair amount of unreimbursed medical expense (out of pocket) it might be worth asking a few more questions about if eligible to file a claim.

Survivors Pension is a tax-free benefit payable to low income surviving spouses or children who have not married/remarried since the death of the Veteran. Eligibility is based off the Veterans eligibility and follows the same claim requirements.

Again, this is just the very basics to get you thinking or asking questions. Please see the attached link for more information:

<https://www.va.gov/pension/eligibility/>  
or contact CCVSO at 605-882-6289

Todd Rose  
VSO for Codington Count



## And the Winners Are.....

The Lake Area Pigeon Club in Watertown again held a pigeon race with the proceeds going to the VVA Chapter. Tickets were sold for \$10 each and 5 pigeons were the winners of 1/2 of the dollars sold. The winners this year include: Dean Halajian, Greg Overby, Bob Frink, Ron Hays and Glen Folk.

Thank you for supporting the pigeons and the races.



## Trans Canada Grants Monies to Chapter 1054

Chapter 1054 again received funds for the purchase of medical items that Veterans in our Chapter and in this area.

They have a office in Brookings. Jerry Denman, Bob Syring, Ray Feist and Clayton Ellingson went to the office and presented TransCanada with new flags from our Chapter to be flown. Thanks to TransCanda for all the help they have given our Veterans.

## Veterans invited to Free food and others for Veteran's Day

**HyVee Food Stores** 6 am- 10 am Curbside  
Breakfast free for Veterans

**State Farm Steve Gales** Free Car Wash

**Perkins Restaurant** Free Pancakes

**VFW** Free lunch following the program

**Redlin Art Center** Free unframed Terry  
Redlin Print

**Buffalo Wild Wings** Boneless Wings

**Applebee's** Free meal from special menu

**Great Clips** Hair cut special

Enjoy your special day

Thank you for your Service.

## November 2020

- 2 Am Leg Aux
- 3 Vets Council
- 4 Vets Council Radio Program
- 7. DAV Milbank
- 9 American Legion  
DAV Monthly
- 10 Marine Corp Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day 10:30 Ext Bldg  
VFW Aux. Canceled
- 12 Milbank VFW
- 13 American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 16 Marine Corp Aux  
Sons of Amer. Legion
- 17 Milbank Am Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 18 VFW Monthly Meeting
- 19 4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting  
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 26 Thanksgiving

## December 2020



- 1 Vets Council
- 2 Council Radio Program
- 5 Milbank DAV
- 7 Pearl Harbor  
American Legion Aux.
- 9 VFW Aux Mtg canceled  
Milbank VFW
- 10 American Legion
- 13 Ntl Guard Birthday
- 14 American Am Legion  
DAV
- 15 Milbank Am Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 16 VFW monthly meeting
- 17 4:30 VVA Board of Directors  
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 21 First Day of Winter  
Marine Corp.  
Sons of the American Legion
- 25 Merry Christmas
- 31 Happy New Year

## 2019 Chapter Remembers



The lives of all of us have changed so this past year. While we try to be safe and watch out for each other, we think of the things our Chapter has been involved in throughout the few years we have existed. Probably a couple of the biggest projects were our Veteran's Day Service with our Canadian Veterans which turned into a fantastic weekend for all Veterans. What a salute to all those that have served.

The other big undertaking are the 3 trips to Washington DC to see the fabulous history and statues and museum that shares what the Veterans has been thorough. Congratulations Chapter 1054!



### 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





**Kyle Whitmyre was 2020 winner of this years Elk Hunt!**  
 Kyle was successful in his hunt and happy with the Elk that he was able to shoot that day.

### **New Laws to Benefit South Dakota Veterans**

Veterans in South Dakota will have access to improved education benefits this year with the passing of House Bill 1069 during the 2020 legislative session.

“Many skills military service members acquire translate well into the technical trades,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “HB 1069 helps veterans continue their education, tuition free, at one of South Dakota’s technical colleges.:

Veterans wishing to use this benefit are encouraged to visit with the technical colleges school certifying officials.

Additional law changes include lowering the threshold requirements for disabled veterans participation in special group pheasant hunts from 40% service-connected or higher to 20% service connected and higher.

Also, as part of an ongoing red tape review, the South Dakota Veterans Commission was determined archaic and all statutes pertaining to the Commission were repealed.



### **VVA Chapter 1054 Sets up Scholarship Fund**

So when the drawing for the Elk Hunt took place this year Laird Larson from Clark

won the 1st place, which they can either take the Elk Hunt or take \$2000 cash. Laird opted for the money and then turned around and donated it back to the Chapter. The board then decided to do some thing special with that and set up a special scholarship to someone at LATC that would have some ties to the military. Each year we will be presenting a scholarship to one individual attending LATC in Watertown. Watch coming issue for the first presentation for this scholarship. If anyone has someone interested in applying have them get a hold of Jerry Denman for specifics.

Pictured above is a picture of Jerry Denman presenting a plaque of thanks to Laird Larson for making the set up of this scholarship possible. Supporting veterans and their families is what our chapter strives to achieve with all the activities and events that we take part in. Thank you Laird.



Prayers go out to Merle and Deanna Nieman who lost their grandson this week to Juvenile Huntington’s Disease. Wyatt was a Junior at the Watertown High School.

If we plan to cancel our Chapter’s meeting a robo call will go out the Monday before the meeting. With Covid our numbers continue to go up so we will evaluate each situation.



This year's program, sponsored by the VFW, will be live or livestream on KWAT.

Speaker will be Lee Gable,

Lehia Pietz will provide music

and one color guard will be present from each of the Military Groups here in Codington County.

Chairs will be set 6 ft apart for social distancing



Because of Covid our Annual Christmas Party will not be held this year.

Remember if you know of any Veterans that could use some help this holiday season let one of the officers know and Chapter 1054 can help out.

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.



## License Plate Frames



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

We were out of VVA license frames at the last meeting, but 36 new ones have arrived. You may get these sturdy metal frames for only \$10. (Medals of America Catalog charges twice that!) or contact 605-838-1819 to have them shipped to you.

Plus, you can purchase what are called "organizational Plates" at any county courthouse. Then you can affix our state-authorized VVA decals to those plates. We sell these round, water-proof decals for \$1 each and will be good until 2023 when all SD license plates will be redesigned. You do NOT have to be a VVA member to display the frame nor the plate, so they'd make great gifts. The photo shows one of our frames surrounding an organization plate.

## 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 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.

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