



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 Sept-Oct 2019



Commander Corner,

This will be a short one this time, as I am leaving on September 4th to go back to Utah to spend some time with our son Todd and his battle with cancer! He is doing better but starting to end his chemo infusions 23 down, 4 more to go!

This last month we had our annual picnic at the Elks Club and as usual the Elks went out of their way to work for us. We have a real friend in the Elks. Thanks to all the Elk members for all they do for us!. Also thanks to those members who cooked the burgers and the brats. Watch for their pictures inside this issue.

Chapter 1054 VVA also worked the State Fair in Huron for all the days of the fair. I guess that sort of settles the argument of who represents the Vietnam Veterans of America in South Dakota! I will also add we picked up some members while we were there. Not sure how many but Friday when Randy Holiday and I worked we got 4 persons applying and I brought one of their checks back with me and gave to Dennis Solberg, our membership chair.

This coming Monday, the 9th of September is a big day for all Veterans in South Dakota! The state is having the ground breaking ceremony just outside Sioux Falls with almost everyone of the Rushmore State Governmental dignitaries. Stephan Annett will be our Representative in the Color Guard for the ceremonies. I hope everyone who can attend will. It is scheduled for 9 AM the 9th of September and Jim Hanson is taking the VVA bus down for those who want to ride, wear your VVA shirts and caps!

Another big day is the members trip to Washington DC which takes place on Sept. 28th. Hope you all have a memorable trip!

Well that's about it for me this month. See you again in October when we start making our plans for our Holiday gift giving, and this is what we are all about. Veterans helping Veterans!

May God Bless our Veterans and May God Bless the United States of America.

Phil Braeger
First Vice President



And we are off.....

51 individuals (Veterans, spouses & friends) are taking to the skies to travel to Washington DC. on Sept 28 and returning Oct 3rd. We will be the first group flight out of Watertown, (at least 35 of us will) on United Airlines. No matter where we fly into we join up for a great time. We plan to see the Vietnam Wall, American History Museum, Arlington Natl. Cemetery, Holocaust Museum, WWII Memorial, Korean Memorial, Adams Morgan, a Play at the Kennedy Center, Gettysburg, the Capital, Library of Congress, and more. Next issue we will share photos of our trip.....

VVA Board of Directors:

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605-873-2312

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.

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Pictured above is the future home of the new VA Clinic on 19th St SE in Watertown. They are slated to open the end of October offering several new services for all the Veterans in the NE area. Watch upcoming issues on changes that will be involved.

John Sneden, MD



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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:

July 4th Parade Celebration.



The VVA Chapter 1054 had their bus along with a few of the members in this year's parade. The parade was lead by the VFW this year.

Veterans/First Responders 6th Annual Appreciation Dinner

Sept 19th 4:30-7:30 pm

Ernie Edwards Rediness Center

Over 40 booths will be set up with information on services available to all veterans.

Meal served at 6 pm

SD Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg will be the keynote speaker.

Music by the Glacial Lakes Harmonizers

Sponsored by the Sea of Goodwill



Warriors Never Give up held a fishing trip this spring. Pictured above are Larry Longstreet, Bob Frink, Steve Wicks, Earl Cass, Gordie West and Roger Skatvold.



Steve Wicks is proud of the fish he caught!

Free Redlin Print
to all Veterans donated
by the Redlin Art Center
to all Veterans during the
Canadian Wall display.

Visit the
Canadian Vietnam Wall
Fri. Nov 8- Mon Nov 11
at the **Redlin Art Center** Watertown, SD



Nov 9th Veterans Appreciation Dinner noon, County Fair Banquet Hall sponsored by Thrivent Financial, Heather Venenga

Nov 11th Veterans Day Program, Extension Bldg Keynote Speakers, 10 AM


Speaker: VVA Veterans From Canada

Free lunch following at the VFW, 808 S Bdw

Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1054, VFW Post 750, American Legion, Wtn BID District, Milbank DAV, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1121, Glacial Lakes Energy, Doc's Bar, & Redlin Art Center

Ford Test Drive Fundraiser High Success

Sept 2019

- 2 Labor Day
- 3 Vets Council
- 4 Vets Council Radio Program
- 7. DAV Milbank
- 9 SD Vets Cem Ground Breaking
- 11 911 Ceremonies
 - Patriot Day
 - VFW Aux.
 - Milbank VFW
- 12 American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 16 Marine Corp Aux
 - Sons of Amer. Legion
 - VVA Board Meeting**
- 17 Constitution Day
 - Milbank Am Legion 
 - Marine Corp League
- 18 Air Force Day
 - VFW Monthly Meeting
- 19 **VVA Chapter Meeting**
- 20 Annual POW/MIA Program
- 24 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 27 Gold Star Mother's Day
- 28 Washington DC Trip Leaves

Oct 2019

- 1 Vets Council
- 2 Council Radio Program
- 5 Milbank DAV
- 7 American Legion Aux.
- 9 VFW Aux Mtg
 - Milbank VFW
- 10 American Legion
- 14 American Am Legion
 - DAV
 - VVA Board of Dir. in Milbank**
- 15 Milbank Am Legion
 - Marine Corp League
- 16 VFW monthly meeting
- 17 **VVA Board of Directors**
- 21 Sons of American Legion
 - Marine Corp.
- 27 Navy Day
- 31 Happy Halloween



The Ford Motor Company (Wtn Ford) held a test drive with the VVA and paid each person that test drove a Ford per car as a fundraiser. The total was \$3620 for this event. Pictured above are Joe Casavan, Darrell Berning, 2nd Vice, Jason Karpenski, Sales Mgr for Wtn Ford, Randy Holiday, and Dennis Solberg.

The American Legion Ford Test Drive will be Sept 21st 10 am -2 pm Help with this Ford fundraiser as the Legion and the VFW helped to bring the Canadian Wall to Wtn.



VVA helps with Deployment

Another 56 veterans from the Wtn Readiness Center were present for the roll call and ceremonies before leaving for overseas duty. VVA, VFW and American Legion were present and provided cookies and drinks for soldiers and their families. They will deploy in September.

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

VVA Chapter 1054 holds Summer Picnic

Over 100 came for good fellowship and good food.



Our faithful chefs....Steve Strege and Jerry Denman



Just waiting for the food to get ready....



Thanks to Jim & Cathy Hanson, Ray & Jill Feist for organizing this year's picnic. We had a beautiful day for a picnic and the food was as always very good.

Our gold star mother, Rosalie Horner joined us for the day. Also pictured is Connie Miller Gold Star Wife.



Good Food, Good Company on a beautiful day



Chaplain Letter

“Thank you for your Service”

You’ve heard that comment a few times, maybe not as much as we would like, but when said to us it does make us happy and bring us a smile as we answer with “you’re welcome”.

Throughout the world, the US military has a mission to bring “peace”. In the Bible, it states “Blessed are the Peacemakers” for they will be called the children of God. As Vietnam Veterans, we have shared that mission and even today we continue to help others towards a better life, especially our veteran “brothers and sisters”.

In the Bible it also speaks about greed, jealousy,

negativity, division and how they can change so much good to bad and unhappiness so much.....you can see it everyday in our world, nation, and person’s life and to me, I am starting to see it in our chapter.

The last chapter meeting caused disappointment to me on how adults, in their seventies acted. Seems to me there needs to be more control and respect in our meetings to achieve the good of the order.

Projects to be worked out together and information shared and communicated. Updates on all projects need to be known. Decisions and approvals are what the board and membership works with for the betterment of the chapter.

We have some strong “by-laws” to guide us in certain areas, but really, think we’re lacking self discipline and prayers from each for guidance. When the Chapter was born in 2011, there were no cliques as it seems to be growing with now. Reach out and continue to serve others, for some day, others will be serving you.

Let’s pray for the chapter, it won’t hurt.

Thank you,
Chaplain Don

Photos from the picnic



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

Chapter 1054 Mens Vietnam Veterans Booth at State Fair



Thanks to the following for spending a day in the Veterans Building at the SD State Fair.

Dale Fronken, Bob Syring, Jack Kempter
Randy Holiday, Phil Braeger, Jim Hanson
Cathy Hanson, Jerry Denman, Lori & Dean Halajian, and Dennis Solberg. We featured photos, and information on the VVA.

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.

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.

Re-Up as a Life Member

Best Wishes to Earl & Deb Cass as they move the Lead, SD



Earl Cass will be moving to Lead, he currently serves on the board of Directors for the VVA and is Chair of the Finance Comm. We wish him and Deb best wishes on their new adventure.

Do you know a Veteran that's been ill?
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and he will send a Get Well card.

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