



Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota

(Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans)
Chapter 1054

PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201
605-438-8697

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 2020



Message from Phil,

Hello again, I am filling in for our President Jack Kempter, who continues to take his chemo treatments weekly and is making progress on the treatment. Jack wants everyone to know that he thanks them for their thoughts and prayers for him and he hopes to be back to see everyone soon.

Here is a few things to think about during this unusual times in our lives.

I have been thinking about this Corona Virus and I find that there is a comparison between a combat situation in the military and this virus and it kind of goes like this!

In combat we carried a weapon to protect us. Now we use and wear a face mask to defend ourselves.

In combat we wore Body Armor (if we had it) to deflect projectiles, now we use hand washing with sanitizer to deflect the virus,

We used to "Dig in" to protect ourselves from attack. Now we stay at home to avoid contacting the virus.

We used to avoid contact with anyone we were not sure of in case they were the enemy. Now we avoid contact with people because they may be infected!

We didn't travel if possible as it might not be safe for your safety and long life, now we practice the same.

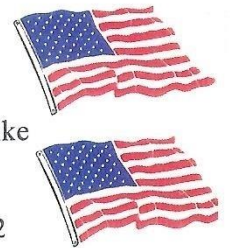
In combat we depended on our Friends in the Artillery or Armor or Air Cavalry or Air Force, or Navy to bail our Ass out of trouble. Now we depend on our Doctors and nurses and medical knowledge on what it takes to survive and all the things incumbent in surviving. We must have Faith in God, our Faith in our Country, our Faith in our fellow Americans do what it is right for the times and that is.

Stay home, use the proper precautions, wear your personal Flak Jacket, dig a proper foxhole and stay down and safe until the orders to move out comes down! Oh Yes and keep on the good side of God.

Senior Vice President
Phil Braeger

Flag Day Flags

As of right now we will be planning to pass out the small flags for Flag Day on Sat. June 13th. Flag Day is on Sunday June 14th. If you would like to help out with this project contact Jerry Denman at 880-9630 or Kay Solberg at 886-3040 or 886-9632 We would have a 2 hour shifts and would be passing them out to people outside the businesses.



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
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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
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
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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



Note from Dr. Sneden

The Watertown VA Clinic is still here to take care of all of you.

If you are looking for VA services when you travel we can help you there too. Check out this website especially if you plan on using your urgent care benefit.

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>
Stay safe.

Dr. John Sneden



New Veterans Service Officer Hired for Codington Co.

Todd Rose was recently hired to be Codington Co new Veterans Service Officer to take the place of Al Janzen who has been helping all the Veterans in our area for several years. Everyone would like to thank Al for all the help he has provided for all Veterans.

Todd Rose has resided in Watertown since 2001 with his wife Sheila and three children, Kahlab, Meghan & Emily. Todd grew up in Flandreau & enlisted in the SD National Guard in May 1985 as a field artillery cannoneer. He served in numerous positions & locations around the state during his 31 years of service with 26 years working full time for the Army National Guard. He has 2 deployments one with 2/147th Field Artillery from Dec 2003-Feb 2005 to Iraq and one with 196th Maneuver Enhance Brigade from 2010-April 2011 to Afghanistan. He was appointed to 1\147th Command Sergeant Major for the 1/147th Field Artillery in Jan2012-Aug 2015 when he retired. He enjoys the outdoors with archery, hunting fishing, golfing & camp fires with friends & family.

On behalf of Chapter 1054 VVA, we welcome you to our group and look forward to working with you.

Robo Calls-Please send in your signed Form

Most of you have received robo calls from VVA 1054 to remind you of a monthly meeting or a special event or some other bit of club news. It's a quick way to reach our large membership, because pretty much everyone has a phone. We have recently changed to a different provider for this service, called Robodial. The voice you hear will not be Sherry's anymore. The voice is provided by Robodial staff.

Additionally, there is a new FCC regulation that we must follow. It protects Americans from unwanted solicitations and advertisements, we must now have your permission on file.

Please fill out the form that is inserted in your newsletter today.

Tell us your phone numbers and whether each number is a cell phone or a land line. Then tell us whether you will permit automated (robo) calls specifically from VVA 1054 on each of those numbers.

(Note from our Acting President:) This following statement as pertains to robo calls must be signed by all members according to current law, and returned to us for our files. If you do not receive emails and also fail to return this form, it means that you will not receive any notifications of meetings, events and activities of Chapter 1054, for we have no means to efficiently notify you of these activities and events.--Phil Braeger, Vice Present and acting President.

Sign and return permission form so we can keep you in the loop. Reminder: We never share your personal information with other entities. And we don't solicit donations or sell items on the phone either!

Blue Water Sailors

by Terry Janssen

This story was produced by the Vietnam Veterans of Northeast SD Chapter 1054 to emphasize the opportunities which may be available to all Vietnam and Vietnam Era veterans. In the past year, a lot has changed for US Navy veterans who served during the Vietnam War era and did not go ashore

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



Flags on the Graves for Memorial Day

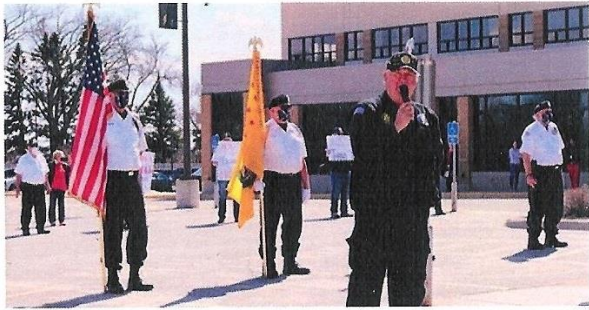


We have purchased more flags for this Memorial Day and plan to put them out on the grave sites of Veterans on Thursday May 21st at 1 pm at Mt. Hope Cemetery. We will also be doing St Mary's Cemetery at the same time. If you have any questions contact Dean Halajian 882-2678 or 520-8958.

in Vietnam or into the island waterway/river (brown waters) of Vietnam. These sailors, known as Blue Water sailors have been denied VA benefits due to Agent Orange exposure for many years by the Department of Veterans Affairs, but now the law has recognized that anyone who served within 12 nautical miles in the territorial sea of the Republic of Vietnam was likely exposed to Agent Orange and is, the, entitled to service connection for those diseases known to be caused by that exposure. This change in the law by Congress will lead to grants of service connection for many veterans, but it's important to know how to get those disability benefits.

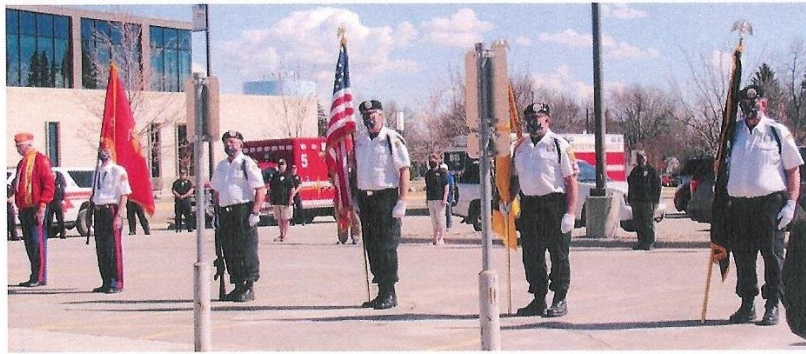
There is a lot of information about the Blue Water Sailors and Terry has written a in depth story dealing with this issue and some of the veterans in our area. Please go to our web-site www.nesdvva.org and read the full story that can help many of you that served in the Navy.

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.



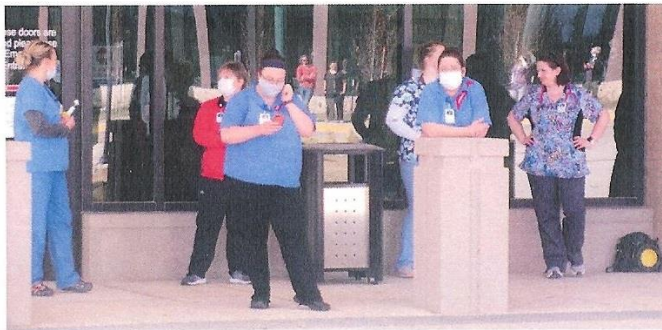
VVA Salutes

Phil Braeger spoke of thanks to the unsung heroes.



Herb Carstens and Tom Lewno holding signs.

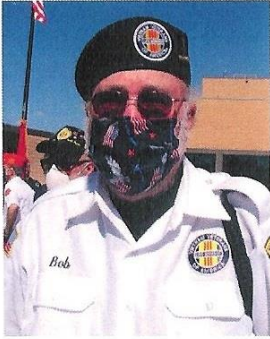
Color Guard included: Darrell Boyle, Jerry Denman, Don Pasch, & Bob Syring
Marine Corp were Ben Pahl, Paul Tobin, Don McGarth & Courtney Livingston



VVA Salutes Hospital Personnel & First Responders

Chapter 1054 of the Viet Nam Veterans in North East SD this past week put on a salute to first responders and the hospital personnel at Prairie Lakes Hospital. A Color guard of the VVA, headed up by Jerry Denman and the Marine Corp gave a salute, while Cutler and Kasey Michalski of Willow Lake sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Lean on Me". Phil Braeger, Vice President of our Chapter1054 spoke of being unsung heroes of today's happenings. And how they are appreciated by all the Veterans and their families.





Patriotic Masks made for Veterans in our Chapter.



Who is this
masked man?

A second project to help Veterans was that of providing patriotic masks. Bob Syring of Willow Lake along with Paula Warkenthien organized a group to sew 639 masks. Special thanks to Jim Olson and Alliance Family Farms for all the supplies. Those that helped make the masks included: Deb Froke, Cindy Warkenthien, Mildred Saboe, Marie Zantow, Junia Meyer, Eleanor Temple, Crystal Kannegieter, Laurie Knock, Jane Meyer, Kelsi Grave, Linda and Eileen Grensberg.

The masks were distributed at the Elks in Watertown before and after the program at the hospital. 140 will be distributed in Milbank and Webster area.

Chapter 1054 would like to especially thank all of those that worked so hard to help keep our Veterans safe.



Lives starting as Friendships in SD

When we are in high school we bond friends with other kids we grow up with and we never know just where life will take us



Randy Holiday and Denis Zimprich were two that started in Hazel High School Denis graduated in 1967 and Randy in 1968. We had the same priest, he went to Grover and Randy to Henry.

Randy got to Vietnam Jan 22nd 1970 and was assigned to HQ Company as Battalion Armor. I stood outside the Armor room

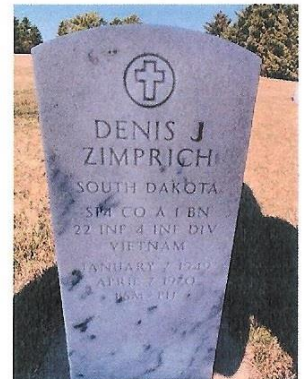
and there was Denis coming down the street towards me. I couldn't believe we had been sent to the same battalion.

He was wounded in action and on crutches. When he recouped from being hit by the punji-sticks he went back to the fields for his next mission.

A couple days later I was in the first sergeant office and the phone rang, he told me to answer it. The said line Number 1440 in A Company was killed in action last night. I have been to visit him every year for 50 years at the Grover Catholic Cemetery.



May Denis
Rest in Peace and
Thank you for
your service.



May 2020

- 1 Military Appreciation Month
- 2 Milbank DAV
- 4 American Leg. Aux
- 5 1054 Anniversary
Cod Co Vets Council
- 6 Vets Council Radio Program
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11 American Legion Riders
DAV monthly
- 13 VFW Aux.
Milbank VFW
- 14 American Legion
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 18 Marine Corp Aux
Sons of American Legion
- 19 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp.
- 20 VFW monthly meeting
- 19 1st Day of Spring
- 21 4:30 Board of Director
7 pm VVA Chapter Meeting
- 21. 1 pm Put flags on graves
- 25 Memorial Day

June 2020

- 1 American Leg Aux
- 2 Vets Council Mgt
- 3 Vets Council Radio Program
- 6 D Day
Milbank DAV
- 8 American Leg. Aux
DAV
- 10 VFW Aux
Milbank VFW
- 11 American Legion
- 13 Hand Out Flags
- 14 Flag Day
Army Birthday
- 15 Marine Corp Aux
Sons of American Legion
- 17 VFW
- 18 4:30 Board of Director
7pm VVA Monthly Meeting
- 20 1st Day of Summer
- 21 Father's Day
- 30 Cod Co Vets Council

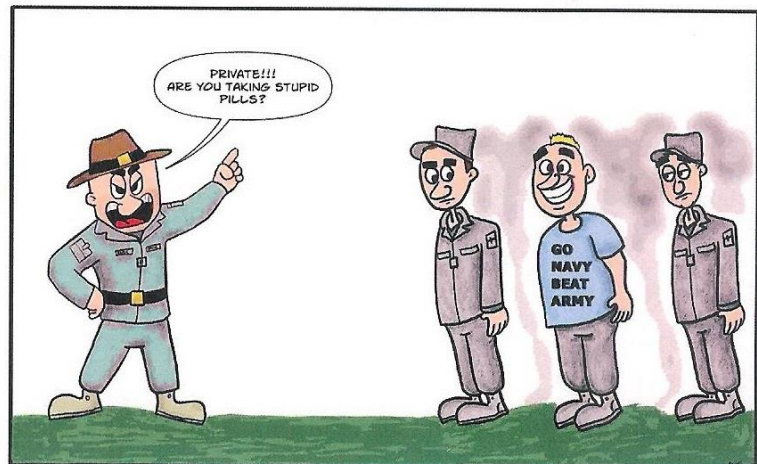


Nomination Committee looking for Officers and Board Members

Jerry Denman is chairing the Nomination Committee for this years election of Officers

April was the month that we were to hold an election of officer. Upon checking with national we have been told that because of the emergency we are under, we can hold them at the next convened meeting of Chapter 1054.

The Nomination Committee includes Jerry Denman, Herb Carstens, Bob Frink and Bob Syring. Contact any of them if you are interested in serving.



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 Ellks in Wtn
VVA Chapter 1054 monthly meeting 7 pm 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 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



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

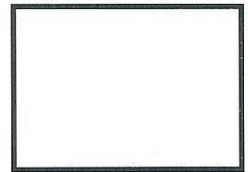
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**Vietnam Veterans of
America of Northeast
South Dakota**
PO Box 1062
Watertown, SD 57201



Address Service Request

The following businesses support our newsletter. Please support them.

 <p>Offers Homes for Heros Program</p> <p>As a Veteran you qualify.....</p> <p>Call Jody Fiedler 605-881-5585 or 605-753-0137</p> 	<p>J & B SCREEN PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY</p> <p>Bob Hemiller Jr</p>  <p>Bob & JoAnn Hemiller</p> <p>Tracy Lantgen</p> <p>Troy Hemiller 605-868-3938 email:hemiller5@yahoo.com</p> <p>127 E Kemp Ave Watertown, SD 57201 605-886-2896</p>
 <p>Culligan</p> <p>Better water Pure & Simple</p> <p>Jason Hanson</p> <p>425 E Kemp Ave PO Box 32 Watertown, SD 57201 605-886-4830 office 605-880-5053 cell</p>	<p>"Service You Can Depend On"</p>  <p>Sales & Service since 1911</p> <p>Appliances and electronics for your home!</p> <p>7 N Broadway PO Box 1566 Watertown, SD 57201 605-886-4060 dugansns@midconetwork.com dugansalesandservice.com Jim Dugan Owner</p>

ROBO CALL PERMISSION

Most of you have received robo calls from VVA 1054 to remind you of a monthly meeting or a special event or some other bit of club news. It's a quick way to reach our large membership, because pretty much everyone has a phone. We have recently changed to a different provider for this service, called Robodial. The voice you hear will not be Sherry's anymore. The voice is provided by Robodial staff.

Additionally, there is a new F.C.C. regulation that we must follow. It protects Americans from unwanted solicitations and advertisements sent via cell phone, which we all hate, don't we! BUT to continue sending you VVA 1054 announcements, we must now have your permission on file.

Please fill out the attached form. Tell us your phone numbers and whether each number is a cell phone or a land line. Then tell us whether you will permit automated (robo) calls specifically from VVA 1054 on each of those numbers.

Note from our Acting President:

This following statement as pertains to robo calls must be signed by all members according to current law, and returned to us for our files. If you do not receive e-mails and also fail to return this form, it means that you will not receive any notification of meetings, events and activities of Chapter 1054, for we will have no means to efficiently notify you of these activities and events. -- Phil Braeger, Vice President, and acting president

Sign the permission form and send it back ASAP, so we can keep you in the loop.

Reminder: We never share your personal information with other entities. And we don't solicit donations or sell items on the phone either!

.....
In compliance with the latest rules and regulations I _____ do hereby give my consent and agree to accept ROBO calls from Chapter 1054, Vietnam Veterans of America, to my telephone numbers as specified below. (please list all Phone numbers for VVA Chapter 1054 Member) and I understand that these calls are to only be for notification of events and meetings involving the normal operations of the chapter, and are normally, but not limited to General Meeting notice, Notice of Board of Directors meeting(s), activities (i.e. picnics, Christmas parties, etc.) deemed to be part of the normal activities of the organization.

I hereby agree to furnish the following phone numbers to the said chapter and agree to stipulate which or all of the phone numbers listed below shall be preferred contact for me.

Signature: _____ date: _____ / _____ /2020

Cell (Mobile) Number: _____ Preferred ()

Landline number: _____ Preferred ()

Reminder: the above statement must be signed by all members as required by law and returned signed to VVA 1054 for our compliance files. Remember if you do not have e-mail and do not give consent for our robo calls, in all probability you will not receive reminders of meetings, activities and events of Chapter 1054 VVA.

Please return this form at the next meeting OR mail it to VVA1054, PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201, OR you may reply electronically to vva1054@yahoo.com.