



Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota

(Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans)

Chapter 1054

605-956-8820

PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

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 2022

Commander's Corner,



Hello fellow VVA members and AVVA members. It is hard to believe that summer is coming to a close,

We held our Annual picnic in August with great food, great friendship and even great weather.

Thanks to Darrell Boyle and Gordie West for planning and to Jim Hanson, Herb Carstens and Dennis Anderson for cooking. Also to everyone who brought the great desserts.....we definitely have good cooks in our Chapter.

The Bull Bash with John (Red) Wilk's Hero Awards were finally presented. With covid it took us a little time to get everything pulled off but Congratulations to those from from Chapter 1054 who were honored. They include Bill Cunningham, Herb Carstens, Ken Rausch, Bob Syring, Rich Felberg, Ken Tarbox, Bernd Scheller, John Thomas, and James Schmidt.

The Communication Committee has used the Trans Canada grant to put together a video about the Vietnam War. This can be shown in the high schools in the surrounding area. We will be meeting with the Superintendents the first part of Sept. Hopefully we can share the video with several schools in the area.

We want to encourage as many of you that can come to the dinner put on by the Sea of Goodwill and the Watertown Community Foundation. Our meeting will follow at the Elk's immediately following. (see the details in information on the page).

We currently have 565 members, 793 are VVA members and 72 are AVVA members. Invite a friend that served into our group. We are all here for each other.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and the fall.

Keep all our members with challenges in their lives, in your thought and prayers.

Jerry Denman
President of Chapter 1054

Sea of Goodwill's 9th Annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner

Thursday Sept 15, 2022 5 pm

Come join our heroes, their families and Veterans for an appreciation meal at the BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center. At 6 pm Retired Admiral Lyle Bien of Veblen, highest ranking Naval Officer will be our speaker for a short program.

This will be just before our VVA general meeting, so come eat and then come to the Elk's for our monthly meeting.

Sponsored by the Watertown Sea of Good Will and the Watertown Community Foundation

VVA Board of Directors:

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Phil Braeger, Wtn (Past Pres.) 605-881-6782

Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain 605-268-4673

**Electric Wheel Chairs
available for members!**

We now have 2 electric wheelchairs.
If you are a Veteran or your spouse
is in need of an electric
wheelchair to



get around, contact
Bob Syring 605-625-5010 or
Phil Braeger 605-881-6782



Notes from Todd Rose
(Veterans Service Officer
for Codington County)

If you haven't heard Honor the Pact Act, Public law:117-168, became effective 10 Aug 22. This is one of the biggest laws to address veteran health concerns in recent history, It addresses Gulf War, Post 9/11, and Vietnam era veterans, by adding new presumptive conditions and locations while extending health care eligibility for some. I would encourage you all to do your own research in understanding the possible benefits that might apply to you. It is too big for me to cover all the areas and I will do my best to hit only a few highlights for Vietnam Veterans as guidance and regulation is still being updated and published.

Two new presumptive conditions added:

- * High Blood Pressure (also called Hypertension)
- * Monoclonal Gammopathy of undermined significance (MGUS)

New locations added for Agent Orange Exposure:

- * Any US or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from 9 Jan 62 -30- Apr 76
- * Laos from 1 Dec 65 - 30 SEP 69
- * Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from 16 Apr 69, 30 Jun 76
- * Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial water off of Guam or American Samoa from 9 Jan 62, 30 Jul 80
- * Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from 1 Jan 72, 30-Sept 77

Veterans can start filing now, but VA will start to process PACT Act-related benefits in January 2023. Funding approval from congress must be received and the needed systems put in place before VA can process these claims. If you apply for benefits at any time in the next year and VA grants your application, it will likely backdate your benefits to the date of the bill signing.

There is still much more to understand concerning this bill and how it impacts different benefits. Here are two links with more information on this bill: H.R.3967-117th Congress (2021-2022):Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 Congress.gov Library of Congress and The PACT Act and your VA benefits Veterans Affairs. If you have any questions and concerns, please contact your local VSO.

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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 PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

Chapter 1054 Vietnam Veterans Honored At South Dakota State Fair Bull Bash



Herb Carstens



Bernd Scheller



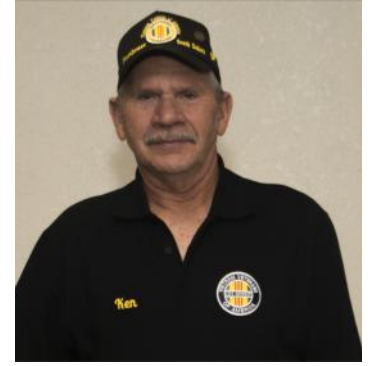
Richard Felberg



James Schmidt



John Thomas



Ken Tarbox



Bob Syring



Bill Cunningham



Ken Rausch

Northeast South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1054 is proud to be part of the 2022 SD State Fair Bull Bash. Every year John Red Wilk Construction from Huron, SD honors Veterans with the Hero Award. Awards this year are going to Vietnam Veterans from Chapter 1054. They include Herb Carstens, Wtn, Ken Rausch, Pierre, Bill Cunningham, South Shore, Ken Tarbox, Bradley, Bernd Scheller, Clark John Thomas, Sioux Falls, James Schmidt, Kennebec, Bob Syring, Willow Lake, and Richard Felberg, Watertown.

The Hero Awards were presented to these Veterans on Wednesday Aug 31 at the SD State Fair. All of our members were invited to apply and from those applications these 9 were chosen by John Wilks and family based on their service. They were awarded a Black Hills Gold Ring. We congratulate these members and our Veterans for their service for our country.

Thank you for your Service!

Fun Filled Annual Picnic



Dennis Anderson, Jim Hanson, Jerry Denman along with Herb Carstens (not pictured) did the cooking!



Barb and Glenn Folk sold raffle tickets for the prizes that were given out at the end of the meal. Thanks to all who donated.



Best thing about picnics besides the food is visiting with our friends we have gained through our organization.



Lots of Veterans from Watertown and the surrounding area attended.



Great food.....brats and hamburgers, salads and chips. We chose to eat inside without the flesh being invited.

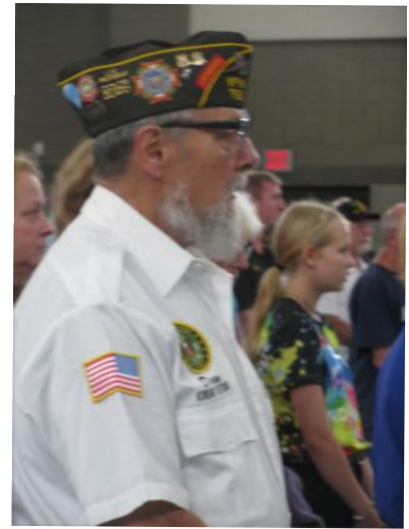


Several of the wives brought desserts and of course they didn't disappoint. Yes you could go back for seconds and many we saw did.....

Another Bridge in SD Named for a Vietnam Veteran



SD Department of the Military presented the story of James Haider and how he died in the line of duty in Vietnam. Greg Whitlock, Secretary, SD Department of Veterans Affairs, was the MC for the ceremony.



Dean Halajian, VVA Chapter 1054 member and Chaplain of the VFW, gave the prayer of the day.



Katie Mack, James's wife, thanked everyone for coming and thanked the state for dedicating the Memorial Bridge to her first husband. Lenny Mack, was a very good friend to her first husband (James) and was the one who nominated James before he died. Pictured with Katie is her family.



Chapter 1054 provided military honors for the ceremony, dedicating the Big Sioux River Bridge on Hwy 212 to Sgt. James Haider. Dennis Anderson, Ray Feist, Jerry Denman & Greg Dubois.

Are you receiving your Robo Calls?

To check whether an incoming Robocall is spam or is really from VVA1054, try setting up the following: Go into your phone directory and add:

Last Name VVA1054. First Name VA 1054. Phone # 605-956-8820- and 605-438-8697 Save Caller ID will show "VVA 1054"

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

2022 Potato Days in Clark

Sept 2022

- 1 State Fair Vets Day
- 3 Milbank DAV
- 5 Labor Day
- 6. Codington Co Vets Council
- 8 Vets Council Radio Show
American Legion
- 11 Patriots 911 Day
- 12 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 14 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 15 Sea of Goodwill Dinner
VVA Board Mtg
VVA General Meeting
- 16 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 17 Contitution Day
- 18 Air Force Birthday
- 19 Marine Corp Aux
Sons of the American Legion
- 20 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 21 VFW
- 25 Gold Star Mother's Day



Oct 2022

- 1 Milbank DAV
- 2. American Legion Aux.
- 4 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 6 Vets Council Radio Program
- 10 Native American Day
American Legion Riders
DAV
- 12 VFW Aux
Milbank VFW
- 13 American Legion
- 17 Marine Corp Aux
Sons of America Legion
- 18 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 19 VFW
- 20 **4:30 VVA Board of Directors**
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 27 Navy Day
- 31 Happy Halloween



Chapter 1054 had 2 entries in this year's Potato Days Parade on Saturday Aug. 6th. Jerry Denman, Chapter President, & Greg Overby, board member, along with Greg's grandchildren were in the parade honoring all the Veterans.



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 Legion 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 1054 Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month

It's time for Flu Shots!

Sioux Falls VA Drive up flu Vaccines

Tues Sept 27 8-4
Wed Oct 5 8-4
Sat Oct 15 8-4
Tues Oct 18 8-4
Thur Oct 27 8-4

Watertown VA Clinic Schedule

Mon. Oct 17th
Fri Oct 28th
8:30 am-4:00 pm
by Appointments Only
605-884-2420

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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