



# 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: NESDVVA@yahoo.com Website: www.NESDVVA.org Nov/Dec 2022

## Commander's Corner,



Well this year has gone by fast, here it is already November.

Veterans Day is coming on Nov 11. We are back at the Codington Co Extension Building. The VVA will provide a color guard, anyone

willing to help us out let me know. The VFW is planning the service and everyone is invited to their Post following the service for a free lunch. Also there are some additional free meals listed in the newsletter for all us Vets to take advantage of.

Our grant from Trans Canada was used to make a video. We met with school administrators and have several schools lined up to go make presentations to. We have already presented to Deubrook and Willow Lake. The presentations have gone well as we talked about why we were there. 50+ years was a long time ago.

It was decided at the October meeting that we would host our annual Christmas party in January, so watch for more details in the next newsletter. If anyone would like to help with the planning let me know and we will set up a committee.

It's flu season now, plus the next covid vaccination is available. Our VA Clinic in Watertown is making appointments for both. Give them a call at 605-884-2420.

Here's hoping all of you have a great holiday season, both Thanksgiving and Christmas. And a Happy New year to all of you and your families.

Jerry Denman  
President of Chapter 1054



"MAY WE THINK OF FREEDOM,  
NOT AS THE RIGHT TO DO AS WE PLEASE,  
BUT AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
DO WHAT IS RIGHT."

Peter Marshall



Our Club Christmas Party  
will be held in January  
this year. Watch for details.

## VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman Wtn, 605-880-3630

Vice President: Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010

Second Vice Pres: Gordie West, Wtn 237-8083

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Jim Hanson, Wtn 605-880-5029

Herb Carstens, Wtn 605-520-9798

Dennis Solberg, Wtn 605-880-4225

Floyd Hermans, Milbank 605-880-2711

Greg Overby, Clark, 605-532-5218

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

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### Notes from Todd Rose

(Veterans Service Officer  
for Codington County)

Did you know that if you are currently service connected at 30% you can add your dependent to your claim for an additional stipend? I recently have had a few veterans that were unaware of this additional stipend. You can google VA Compensation rates or go to this hyper link Benefit Rates-Compensation (va.gov) to see if you are getting the right amount of compensation for you and your spouse.

During the month of October, the VA sends out a Tax Abatement letter or some call it a Summary of Benefits letter that has all the basic data to show and provide proof of your service connection disability. This form can be used when applying for other possible benefits. Some examples are the SDGF & P reduced Fee Hunting License, National Parks Access Pass and for Veterans that are considered 100% P&T or spouses on DIC they can apply for the first \$150,000 property tax relief.

Keep an eye on your compensation deposits at the end of December, the cost of living adjustment (COLA) will be 8.7% according to the Social Security Administration. This should lead to a significant increase in 2023.

Certain veterans may be eligible for mileage reimbursement when attending VA approved appointments. The eligibility criteria for travel reimbursement are listed below:

- \* Veterans who have a service connected rating of 30% or more.
- \* Veterans who are traveling for treatment of a service connected conditions, or
- \* Veterans who are receiving a VA pension, or
- \* Veterans whose incomes does not exceed the maximum annual pension rate, or
- \* Veterans traveling for scheduled compensation or pension examinations.

With any of these topics above or other questions you might have, please contact your local County VSO for assistance. Thank you for your service to our country and have a blessed Veteran's Day.

We have a new email address!

NESDVVA@yahoo.com



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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



## Salvation Army Bell Ringers

We will again be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army here in Watertown. If you can help us out with a 2 hour shift on November 26th, contact Jerry Denman at 880-3630

## Free Meals on Veterans Day

**HyVee** Free Breakfast 6 am -10 am, plus 15% off grocery purchases.

**Perkins Restaurant** Free Magnificent 7 Breakfast Meal all day

**Applebees Restaurant** Free meal on our Special Menu

**Starbucks** Free Coffee on 11/11

**Casey's** Free Coffee

**Buffalo Wild Wings** 10 boneless wings and fries (to stay or takeout)

**Redlin Art Center** Free Terry Redlin print unframed.

**Elk's Lodge** free breakfast

**VFW** free lunch of hot beef combos following the ceremony

## Veterans Day Service will be Friday, November 11, 2022

This year's Veterans Day Service will be held at the Codington County Extension Bldg. at 10:30 am. Color guards from each of the military groups in town will present the colors, the Watertown City Band will play and the Veteran of the Year will be honored.

Ernie Gatchell, Commander of the VFW will be the keynote speaker for the program.

The program is organized by the VFW Post 750 and all Veterans and their families are invited to attend.

A lunch will be served following the program at the Post at 808 S Broadway. The Auxiliary will be serving hot beef combos to all Veterans and their families.

We are here to honor those who currently are serving in the military and those who served before them. A day to recognize what you have fought for. Thank you for your service!



## Elk Hunt Winner Scores Big!

Again this year we had a very successful raffle give away. This is our best fundraiser to raise money to help other veterans. This year's winner, a local member of Chapter 1054 was Greg Overby from Clark SD. Pictured with Greg is Floyd Hermans, Milbank and Tanner Overby, Greg's grandson from Brookings.

Our 2023 Elk Hunt tickets are printed and ready to go. Randy Holiday has them if you are interested in buying some for yourself or to sell to your family and friends. Otherwise they will be available at our December meeting.

Thanks to all members who have sold them in the past and to all those who bought some tickets to support our club and the mission of our group.

The Elk Hunt takes place up by Wilmot at Coteau Hills Ranch. Every year he gives allows us to hunt his ranch for the elk you see here.

Congratulation to Greg for your trophy elk.





Bob Syring, MC



Dale Fonken, Air Force



Randy Holiday, Army



Jerry Denman, Navy



On November 1st, our Chapter went to Willow Lake's school to visit with the students there. Along with showing the video, Veterans representing each branch shared what their role in the war was. Randy Holiday, Army; Dale Fonken, Air Force, Jerry Denman, Navy, Darwin Clyde, Marines and Stephen Annett, Coast Guard.

Dale and Jerry are graduates from Willow Lake and Bob Syring, who was the emcee for the program currently lives in Willow Lake.

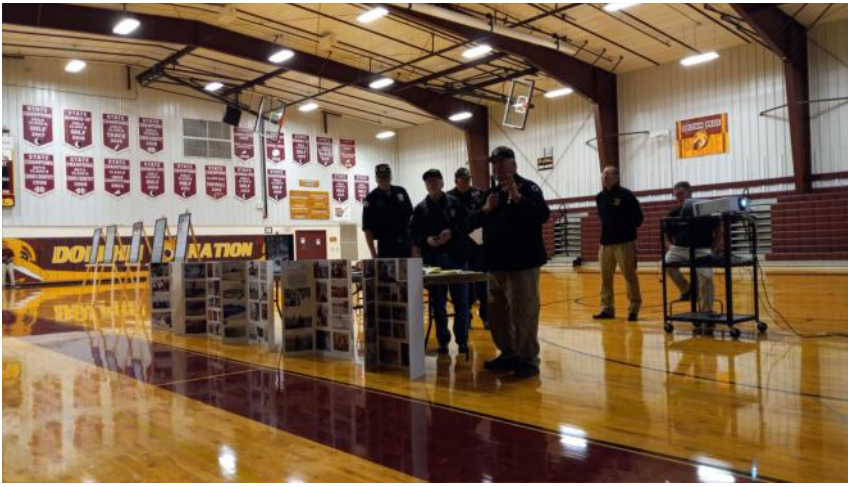
Below is a photo of Dale Fonken and his daughters, wife and granddaughters who attended the program. They all live in Willow Lake.



Thanks to these Veterans for sharing your experiences.

Each issue of the newsletter is downloaded to our website [nesdvva.org](http://nesdvva.org) for a copy in full color.





Phil Braeger presented his experiences.



Dennis Solberg shared his experiences on the *USS Kennebec*.



Currently we have 4 more programs booked. Nov 1-Willow Lake, 8th Brookings, 9th Clark and 10th in Henry. If you would like to participate in any of them contact Phil Braeger, Jerry Denman Dennis Solberg or Bob Syring.

## Chapter 1054 Produced Video of What Happened in Vietnam

Bob Syring worked with Trans Canada for a grant to allow a video to be made to teach about what happened in Vietnam. Why were we there? What were the politics of the US at the time? What about all of you who were drafted or enlisted to go help the Vietnamese to stop Communism from taking over Vietnam?

Once the video was done, we reached out to all the schools in our area to share the video and to have Vietnam Veterans from the different branches of our military share what they did some 50 years ago. White SD was the first school we were invited.



Phil Braeger, Army, Darrell Boyle, Air Force Ed Timm, Coast Guard and Dennis Solberg, Navy.

## Nov 2022

- 1 Codington Co Vets Council
- 3 Vets Council Radio Show
- 5 Milbank DAV
- 6 Daylight Savings Time
- 7 American Legion Auxiliary
- 8 Election Day
- 9 VFW Auxiliary  
Milbank VFW
- 10 American Legion  
Birthday of the Marine Corp League
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 14 DAV  
Marine Corp Aux.
- 15 Marine Corp
- 16 VFW
- 17 Legislative Round Table  
**5:45 VVA Board Mtg**  
**VVA General Meeting**
- 21 Sons of the American Legion
- 24 Thanksgiving
- 25 Holiday Lighted Parade 6:30 pm

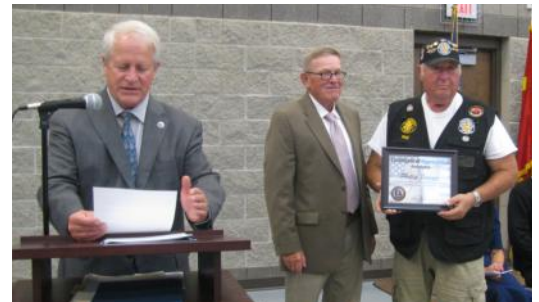


## Dec 2022

- 3 Milbank DAV
- 5 American Legion Aux.
- 6 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 8 Vets Council Radio Program  
American Legion
- 12 American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 14 Milbank VFW  
Wtn VFW Aux.
- 15 American Legion
- 19 Sons of the American Legion  
Marine Auxiliary
- 20 Marine Corp League
- 21 VFW
- 22 **5:45 VVA Board of Directors**  
**7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting**
- 25 Merry Christmas
- 31 Happy New Year

## Sea of Goodwill Host Veterans Appreciation Dinner

On Thursday September 15 a Veteran's Appreciation dinner was held at the BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center. Retired Admiral Lyle Bien of Veblen, highest ranking Naval Officer in SD, was the speaker, sharing experiences he had with his time in service. Chapter 1054 provided the color guard for the evenings program. They included: Greg Dubois, Don Pasch, Ray Feist, and Darwin Clyde.

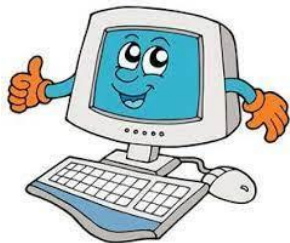


Mike Cartney, President of LATC and President of the Sea of Goodwill, served as emcee for the evening. He presented Phil Braeger from Chapter 1054 as the 2022 Veteran of the Year. A formal presentation will be made at the Veteran's Day service at the Extension Center on November 11.

### 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 5:45 pm at Elk's  
 VVA 1054 Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge  
 300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month





Chapter 1054 web site is under construction. Major changes were coming with our past provider. So we ask for your patience while we work through the process.

## Watertown's Holiday Lighted Parade

Chapter 1054 will again be helping with security for the parade and passing out candy canes. If you can help us with this on Fri Nov 25th at 6 pm give Kay Solberg a call at 605-886-3040. Not hard just need to keep the crowd out of the road.

### 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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Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota For more info call 605-956-8820 or 605-880-3630