



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 Mar-April 2022

Commander's Corner,



Greetings fellow members,
With each passing day, spring inches a little closer. Several of our Chapter members have gone south to warmer weather but will be home shortly. I'd like to thank

Denny Brenden, First Vice President for stepping in and doing all the things that need to be done with our Chapter and activities. Also thanks to Dennis Solberg and Darrell Boyle for organizing funeral services and color guards for our fellow Veterans and the Winter Farm Show.

Most of you know, that Representative Nancy York from District 5 introduced in the House, Commemoration 8002 to honor Chapter 1054 for receiving the National Chapter of the Year. Thanks to all you guys and gals for traveling to Pierre to be introduced in the House and the Senate. We looked great and everyone in the Capital that day knew who Chapter 1054 was. We had approximately 40 that went out on Wednesday Jan. 17th.

In April we will be having our election of the board and officers. We have three board members to elect and all of the officers positions are up for election. This is a great group of people to work with so we are hoping a few of you will step up and throw your hat in the ring. If you would consider this or need more information about any of these positions just contact Darrell Boyle, Darwin Clyde or Randy Holiday. Nominations can also be made from the floor the night of election.

Jay Trepanier has organized a group within our Chapter with the mission of visiting our Vets in Nursing Homes. Check out the article Jay has in this newsletter if you can help him out.

After Christmas the Chapter held a Christmas party at Jenkins Living Center for the vets. We have a few photos about this in this article also.

Elk Hunt tickets are going well, but if you still need some get a hold of Randy Holiday to be included or to just help us out.

We will see everyone in April, but until then we hope everyone stays warm and enjoys the rest of this winter.

Jerry Denman

President of Chapter 1054

Trans Canada Grant

Bob Syring is again heading up our grant to Trans Canada. They request that the grant be educational or provide safety. If you have any ideas of things our Veterans might be in need of Contact Bob at 605-625-5010

Robo Calls

We have had a few people notify us about not receiving their robo calls, we think we know why. If you have not been included contact Bob Frink 706-217-5950

VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman Wtn, 605-880-3630

Vice President: Denny Brenden, Wtn 881-3179

Second Vice Pres: Gordie West, Wtn 237-8083

Secretary: Earl Cass, 605-237-4419

Treasurer: Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950

Board Members:

Darrell Boyle, Wtn 605-881-5569

Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821

Randy Holiday, Hayti 605-881-1601

Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010

Glenn Folk, Milbank, 605-880-1712

Ed Timm, Elkton 605-695-2960

Dean Halajian, Wtn 605-882-2678

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

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Thank You!

We would like to thank the card team for helping to send out the cards for birthdays.

Craig and Cathy Burd
Terri and Herb Leeseberg
Greg and Dianna Overby
Glenn and Barb Folk
and Mary Modica

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



**Vietnam Vets
Visiting
Vets**

VVA 1054 has approved a new committee/ministry. It is called Vietnam Vets Visiting Vets, VVVV or 4Vs. The mission of this ministry is to visit all the vets in nursing homes in our nine county area, on a weekly basis.

To accomplish this, we will need volunteers from these nine counties to be trained and then assigned to an individual vet, which the volunteer will visit once a week for an hour. I know this is a lofty goal, and that you can't always visit your vet every week but that is the goal. We can only do our best. Two or three times a month is much better than not at all. The sad fact is that the vets in nursing homes often never get a visit from anyone. We can change that. Some of us will be there ourselves one day, unfortunately. The training is simple and the load is light. If you think you might be interested or want more information please contact:

Jay Trepanier 605-880-2555 1tjayt@gmail.com
For emails please use 4Vs in the subject line.

NOT FORGOTTEN



**Electric Wheel Chairs
available for members!**

For the past couple of years Bob Syring has worked with Trans Canada to get equipment to help with the needs of Veterans

We now have 2 electric wheelchairs.
If you are a Veteran or your spouse are in need of an electric wheelchair to get around, contact
Bob Syring 605-625-5010 or
Phil Braeger 605-881-6782

2022 Watertown Winter Farm Show



Notes from Todd Rose

(Veterans Service Officer
for Codington County)

Just a quick reminder that your local VSO can help with Compensation, Pension claims, Burial claims, educational benefits, VA Health Care enrollment, State benefits, and general questions regarding military or veteran issues. We are here to assist and educate veterans and their families of possible VA benefits.

VA Pension (income based) is one benefit that can have a huge impact for a veteran or dependent if they are financially challenged, living on a limited income. If you are or know someone that might be, please stop by or tell them to contact our office. With a few questions we can get an idea if you are eligible and could qualify. I have found that VA



pension benefits can be especially beneficial to qualified veterans or dependents that are living in nursing homes or assisted living because their medical living expenses are more than their income. This can also be a benefit for

someone that is on Medicaid.

With Memorial Day soon approaching, here is an opportunity to show veteran status on a privately purchased headstone. Please help spread the word to families of deceased veterans. The Medallion is only for eligible deceased Veterans who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917, regardless of their date of death.

Furnished upon receipt of claim for



Chapter 1054 was again asked to provide the Color Guard for the kick off of this year's Winter Farm Show. The color guard included Darwin Clyde, Darrell Boyle, Dennis Solberg and Dennis Anderson.

affixing to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker placed at the graveside of an eligible deceased Veteran who is buried in a private or local Government cemetery. The medallion is inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. An eligible deceased Veteran may receive a government furnished headstone or marker, or medallion, **but not both**.

It can be submitted by an individual using the form VA-Form 40-1330M which can be found on line or if they need assistance they can stop by their local VSO office and get help to complete it.

Please remember to share what you know with other veterans and dependents that might not get this information. Todd Rose, Codington VSO, 125 S Bdwy, Wtn, SD 605-882-6289 veteran@codington.org

Christmas Party Held at Jenkins Living Center

This past Christmas, along with sharing gift cards with many of the Veterans in the area, Chapter 1054 held a Christmas get together at Jenkins Living Center, to honor them for their service and just to have a special get together honoring them for what they gave to their country. Everyone had a great time and the Veterans had a fun time. Thanks to those who helped put this together for those in the home.



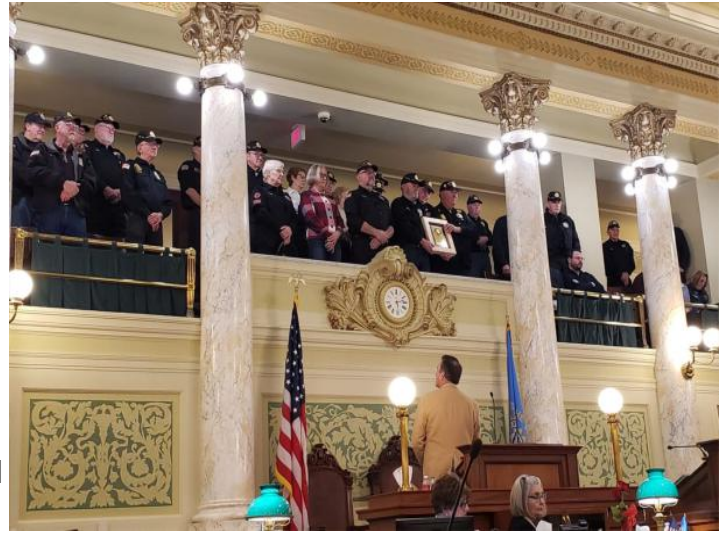
Chapter 1054 Honored at South Dakota State Capital

The South Dakota House of Representatives and Senate, both recognized the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1054 in their opening session Wednesday afternoon, February 16, 2022.

Representative Nancy York introduced House Commemoration 8002 commending and honoring them for their philanthropy, military funeral honors, flag donations, and honoring health care workers.

Senator Larry Zikmund highlighted all the great things this Chapter has done in their region and throughout the State.

The Chapter is the twelfth largest of the six hundred and fifty active chapters in the United States, with more than five hundred veteran members and over seventy associate members.



The Western Guard in Minnesota wrote an article about the beginning of Chapter 1054. Below is part of the article telling us where we started as to where we are today.

Written by Ryan E Feiock

Keeping watch over one another, VVA Chapter 1054 has created a community for local Vietnam Veterans.

Returning from any war or conflict is draining on a soldier, and it was harsh for Vietnam Veterans as they were treated poorly by the public and other soldiers from previous wars. According to Phil Braeger, "As for the divide between veterans organization and the Vietnam Veterans, a lot of it was based on "winning" the war, they never looked into their mind that we did not go over there to "win the war", but to give the South Vietnamese the ability and knowledge and equipment to be able to eventually be able to fight and win their own with our logistical support. In other words, it was our job to train them and keep the enemy at bay until the South Vietnamese military were able to take over the job and secure their own country,"

They were treated poorly by the public, who would ridicule them and not allow them to take part in other

veterans groups. Because of that, Vietnam Veterans banded together to provide for one another and help give to their communities.

This is what started the formation of the Vietnam Veterans of America with one the closest-before Watertown's chapter was created-was in St. Cloud. That was where David Jerpseth began his time as a member of the VVA.

"I was a Vietnam Veteran of America at large in Minnesota, and was totally impressed with their magazine. There was no chapter close by, closest was St. Cloud. I called the national office and asked about South Dakota, Sioux Falls was the closest. I then called the Sioux Falls chapter and told him what my goal was to start another chapter in either Brookings or Wtn, and when he heard that, he was very much on board. His desire to put the level of effort needed to create a new chapter was in an effort to honor his first cousin who passed away, DeWayne Bliss. "My first cousin died of Agent Orange the day after Thanksgiving in 2010.

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



Ed Timm, Eugene Schmig, Steve Wicks, Darrell Boyle, Dennis Anderson, Tim Jurgens, Dale Fonken, Faye Annette, Craig Burd, Ken Tarbox, Floyd Hermans, Joyce Hermans, Glenn Folk, Don Pasch, Greg Overby, Bud Walkins, Ernie Gatschell, Bob Syring, John Goebel, Bill Schumacker, Dennis Solberg, Troy Foster, Bob Frink, Phil Braeger, Dennis Brenden, Brian DeBoer, Gerry DeBoer. Not pictured: Pat Braeger, Rhonda Boyle.

He was like an older brother to me" Dave said, I wanted to do something to honor him"

We set up a night to talk to members about starting a chapter, handing out application forms to everyone that attended. "All we needed was 25 to start a chapter, I think we got a few turned in that night and another meeting was the next night. Several guys came back for the second meeting, probably 15, and there was interest." In those two nights they received more than half the applications needed. A third meeting was held around the first part of April 2011 at a local casino where around 50 showed up. "That was a huge turn out," said Jerpseth. "I wasn't done yet, so we had our turn in meeting at the Elks on April 15. They were standing in line to turn in their applications, with 15 people in line as were coming in the door..

With already over 100 members John Rowen, of Maryland, the National President came to Fargo in May to present us Chapter status.

Jerpseth served as President for the first year, and the group worked well together despite any

issues that might have come up. "Don Reconnu and I were the ones who helped get this started. He was creative and very logical, coming up with lots of ideas to help better the club. And he was adamant about getting them done."

Because of that effort, Reconnu was honored with the VVA Member of the Year Nationally in 2013.

Now there are over 500 members, and they continue to look out for one another and do what we can for their communities.

For Flag Day, the group organized and scheduled people to stand outside businesses and hand out flags...problem was we ran out of flags before noon. Ever since we've been able to raise money with a donation kettle and continue to pass out the flags. This was one of our first activities. Every activity we've done allows the members a better chance to get to know one another better.

And so we are here, we are here today...with many activities and many new friendships and awarded the National Chapter of the Year.

Mar 2022

- 1 Codington Co Vets Council
- 3 Vets Council Radio Show
- 5 DAV Milbank
- 7 American Legion Auxiliary
- 9 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 10 American Legion Mtg
- 14 American Legion Riders
Dav Monthly Meeting
- 15 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 16 VFW
- 17 St. Patricks Day
4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 21 Marine Corp Aux.
Sons of American Legion



April 2022

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 2 Milbank DAV
- 4 American Legion Aux.
- 5 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 7 Vets Council Radio Shows
- 11 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 13 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 14 American Legion
- 17 Easter
- 18 Marine Corp Aux
Sons of American Legion
- 19 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp
- 20 VFW
- 21 **4:30 VVA Board of Directors**
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting

South Dakota Veterans Council Meets and Host Legislative Reception with SDDVA



Representing 1054 are Phil Braeger,
Bob Frink and Denny Brenden

The Council recognized the Northeast South Dakota Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1054 for being named "Chapter of the Year."

The next Council meeting will be held April 20, 2022, at The South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls, and the third and fourth quarter meetings will be held on the road.

Later that evening the council and the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted the annual reception for legislators. This reception affords the the veterans and the Department the opportunity to thank the legislators for their support and visit with them about legislative issues on the agenda for 2022.

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

VVA Chapter 1054 Annual Elections

Thursday, April 21st, 2022

Positions open for nomination: * Board of Directors (3 positions)

* President

* Sr. Vice President

* Jr. Vice President

* Secretary

* Treasurer

* Nominations Committee

If you are interested in running for, or nominating another member for these positions contact: Darrell Boyle 605-881-5569, Randy Holiday 605-881-1601 or Darwin Clyde 605-233-0322 or any officer or board member

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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