



## Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota

(Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans)

**Chapter 1054**

PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201

605-438-8697 or 605-880-3630

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](mailto:vets@NESDVVA.org) Website: [www.NESDVVA.org](http://www.NESDVVA.org) Sept-Oct 2020

### Commander Corner,



Hello fellow members, I hope this newsletter finds everybody cool in the midst of this hot weather we've been having. Our monthly meeting numbers have been picking up but with Covid going on and our health

issues and age we still have to be careful. We had our annual picnic August 22nd and had a good turnout. Good food and fellowship was had by all. Our next event will be September 9th celebrating Blue Lives Matter Appreciation Dinner. We've invited sheriffs, police and high way patrol departments from the surrounding area to come and enjoy a meal on us.

We've also started a new award program. It's called the MOM award or Member of the Mon. We just want to recognize our members that go above and beyond. It can be something that is done for the good of the chapter or something that you have done in your community. We know that some of our members live long distances away but if you have someone that you want to recognize please feel free to email me at [jldenman49@gmail.com](mailto:jldenman49@gmail.com).

Please keep our members who are dealing with health issues in your prayers.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.



President  
Jerry

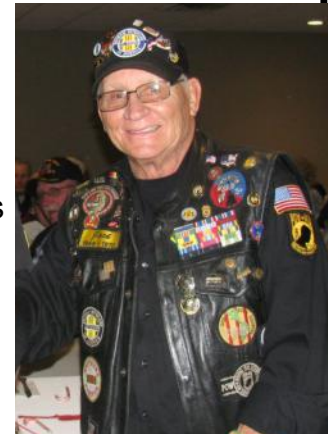
### Rest in Peace Jack Kempter



### Brothers Forever!

Jack Kempter, a fellow Vietnam Veteran Brother has passed away to the awful cancer that has taken so many. Jack was President of our group for 3 years. His smile, witty jokes and sincere words were all things we enjoyed about Jack.

Your pain is now gone and you are free to soar high.....RIP



### 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 Mary Modica, Wtn 605-868-4577

Treasurer, Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950

Board Members:

Darrell Boyle, Wtn 881-5569

Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821

Randy Holiday, Hayti 605-881-1601

Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010

Glen Folk, Milbank, 605-880-1712

Ed Timm, Elkton 605-695-2960

Dean Halajian, Wtn 605-882-2678

Jim Hanson, Wtn 605-882-2760

Greg Overby, Clark 605-532-5218

Phil Braeger, Wtn (Past Pres) 881-6782

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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:



The VA Clinic is open and here to help you with all you health and sickness needs. Remember to social distance, wear a mask to the clinic and call for an appointment.  
Stay safe!

Dr. John Sneden

### Message from Todd Rose: Codington Co VSO



Fall fishing and hunting season is fast approaching, just a reminder that you might be eligible for a reduced hunting and fishing license if you have a "k" award or you are 40% disabled or higher. There is a \$10 processing fee and the license is good for 4 years. Here is the link to the SDGFP site for more information and application process: <https://gfpga.sd.gov/licenses/general-hunt-fish/default.aspx>

Here are a few interesting facts about the Codington County veteran population according to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs for 2019. We have 2,031 veterans in our county, with approximately 852 using VA health care services. Total expenditures of VA funds to our county is over \$15 million annually. This number includes funds the VA pays out in compensation and pension claims, educational and vocational rehab, insurances and medical expenses.

If you have a question or you know of a veteran that has a question please give us a call or stop in and see us. Benefits change and every veteran's situation is different, so what might apply to one veteran might not apply for another veteran. It's best, that if you have a question or are unsure of something, contact us and we will do our best to get you the latest information. The office is open Monday- Friday 0800-1700, our office number is 605-882-6289.

Good luck hunting and fishing and "Thank You" for your service to our country!



Todd Rose  
VSO for  
Codington County



Earl Grover and Doug Modica enjoy dinner before a boat ride

**Boat Picture  
by Jim Hanson**



Cookin on Kampeska

Thanks to Brad Johnson for the picture of our decorated boat that was in the Cookin on Kampeska Weekend celebration. Thanks to Ray & Jill Fiest for organizing and the boat.

**First Member of the Month  
Award Presented**



Jerry Denman, President presented the first Member of the Month (MOM) award to a member for her support and continued hard work she does for our Chapter. Congratulation Lynley Halajian.

**July 4th Celebration**



This year the Veterans of 4 organizations each took a fourth of the parade route and carried the color guards. Those participating were the VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps., and the Vietnam Veterans. Representing Chapter 1054 were Darwin Clyde, Ed Timm, Don Pasch and Jerry Denman. We also had our bus in the parade for those that were in any of the groups that wanted to ride through the parade after they finished with their portion of the parade. Thanks to those that helped to make our Colors Proud!



### Purple Heart was given to VVA Member

Jerome Wait was recently awarded a purple heart for injuries he sustained while in Vietnam.

Kevin Bohn, VSO from Day County presented Jerome

the purple heart recently. Jerome has been living at Jenkins Living Center and this past week passed away. Chapter 1054 will be doing the honor and color guards for the funeral. Rest in peace Jerome.

### Sept Member of the Month- Randy Holiday



Randy Holiday was honored at our Sept meeting as our MOM (Member of the Month). Randy has been a board member, chairs the Elk Hunt Raffle and helped with several activities throughout his years of membership. Thank you Randy.



### Joint Memorial Service by Vietnam Veterans, VFW and the American Legion

One of the missions of our Chapter is to provide honor guard, color guards, presentation of the flag to family and just be there for support of fellow veterans. This past month a veteran that passed away this past winter had burial services. The three Veterans group combined groups and performed the burial service for Paddy McNamara. Jerry was Commander of the day, and 1054 was the honor guard.



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

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 Chapter 1054 holds Summer Picnic

Over 70 came for good fellowship and good food.



Jerry Denman and Curt Burd



Special Thanks to Gordie West and Darrell Boyle who headed up this years summer



picnic. Hats off to our chefs, Jerry Denman, Curt Burd, and Herb Carstens. Steve Strege and Jim Strom brought the beans, Barb Strom for designing the post cards, Rich and Arlene Felberg for manning the registration table, Jim Hanson for picking up the meats at Jorgenson Meats, Terry and Sherry Jansen for getting the grill and clean up, Doug and Mary Modica for organizing. If we left anyone out that helped, we apologize but know we appreciate what you did.



Herb Carstens cookin away



Photos taken by Terry Jansen



## Sept 2020

- 1 Vets Council
- 2 Vets Council Radio Program
- 5 DAV Milbank
- 7 American Legion Aux
- 9 VFW Aux.
  - Milbank VFW
  - Appreciation Day Law Enforcement
- 10 American Legion
- 11 Patriots 911 Day
- 14 American Leg Riders
  - DAV
- 15 Milbank American Legion
  - Marine Corp League
- 16 VFW
- 17 Constitution Day
  - VVA Board Meeting 4:30 pm
  - VVA Chapter Meeting 7 pm**
- 18 Air Force Day
- 21 Marine Corp Aux
  - Sons of the American Legion
- 22 1st Day if Autumn



## Oct 2020

- 3 Milbank DAV
- 5 American Leg Aux
- 6 Vets Council
- 7 Vets Council Radio Program
- 8 American Legion
- 12 American Legion Riders
  - DAV
- 13 Navy's Birthday
- 14 VFW Aux Mtg
  - Milbank VFW
- 15 **VVA Board of Dir. 4:30**
  - VVA monthly Mtg 7 pm**
- 19 Marine Corp League
  - Sons of American Leg
- 20 Milbank American Legion
  - Marine Corp League
- 21 VFW monthly meeting
- 27 Navy Day
- 31 Happy Halloween



## Elk Hunt Winners Named

Randy Holiday chaired this year's Elk Hunt, which is the biggest fund raiser our chapter holds each year. This year's winners include:

- 1st Place (Elk Hunt) Laird Larson Clark
    - He opted to take the cash and then donated it back to the VVA club.
  - 2nd Place Caleb Whitmyre \$2000 but took the Elk Hunt
  - 3rd Place Ben Hoverstadt Wtn \$400
  - 4th Dan Olsen Hayti \$400
  - 5th Madyson Jutting Hayti \$400
  - 6th Gary Liebel Wtn \$400
  - 7th Tyler Buttke Corona \$250 meat bundle
- Thanks to all who sold and bought tickets to help us with this fund raiser. And thanks to Randy Holiday for all the work in organizing.

## Lake Area Pigeon Club helps VVA with Fund Raiser

The birds are off again as the Lake Area Pigeon Club teams up with Chapter 1054 for this years race. Tickets are \$10, you choose a number from 1 to 120. The pigeons all will have numbers and the first 5 birds to return, will be winners of \$100 each. So pick you lucky number and watch for the winner birds to fly home the fastest. The board is at the Classroom Connection and any member wishing to sell some numbers can pick it up and sell to friends and family



## 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 Elks Lodge
  - at 4:30 pm prior to monthly meeting
- VVA Chapter 1054 monthly meeting Elk's Lodge
  - 300 W Kemp 7 pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month

## Trans Canada Awards Chapter 1054 Funds

Bob Syring announced at the last meeting that Chapter 1054 has been awarded funds for the purchase of medical supplies that our members can use as needed. They include First Aid kits, wheel chairs, defibrillator and other medical items.

Trans Canada has helped us in other projects and we are very grateful for their support to our Veterans.

## Alliance Farms Helps VVA 1054

This past spring Chapter 1054 made masks and distributed them to any Veteran and health officials interested in them. This project was organized by Bob Syring. He worked with Jim Olson, owner of Alliance Farms in Willow Lake who paid for the materials to make them. Thank you Jim for your support of our project.



## 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.

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