



# 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](mailto:vets@NESDVVA.org) Website: [www.NESDVVA.org](http://www.NESDVVA.org) July-August 2022

## Commander's Corner,



The past couple of months have been hectic for our Chapter. We had the flags at the cemeteries, Memorial Day Services and Flag Day and of course the 4th of July.

The cemeteries in Watertown and several surrounding communities were again decorated with individual flag. Thanks to all of you took charge of the surrounding cemeteries and to Dean & Lori Halajian for organizing St. Mary's & Mt. Hope. Lori, Lynley, Connie Miller and Carol Braley did St Mary's on Wed. We had a great group show up to put flags out and then again to pick them up and clean them before they were put away. Again, as in other years, we get a lot of compliments on how the flags make the cemeteries look great.

During this time of course, we also participate in Memorial Day Services. The American Legion plans the event and we help out with a color guard and also an Honor Guard, along with each organization laying a wreath for the members of our Veterans Groups. Because of the weather, the service was held at the City Auditorium. Following the service the Legion served lunch for all the Veterans and their families.

I know that this year several of our members were keynote speakers at some of the smaller communities around. What a great way to educate what our Chapter is all about.

In June, we again passed out flags, so we can help others understand what freedom is all about. We passed them out in Milbank and Watertown raising \$6346, with 45 Veterans passing them out to the customers of HyVee, Walmart, Runnings (Milbank & Wtn) and County Fair. Thanks to Denny & Kay for organizing.

The SD Vets Council will be holding their July meeting in Watertown on the 20th at the American Legion. Everyone is invited to attend.

We plan to have a picnic in August 13th, and will send out a robo call with the details as it gets closer.

Hope all of you had a great July 4th and enjoy your summer.

Jerry Denman  
President of Chapter 1054

*Thank You*



for entertaining the members of our Chapter for lunch and entertainment as a Welcome Home party. Your Hospitality was greatly appreciated.!



Mark your Calendars  
on August 13th for the  
Chapter's FREE Picnic  
at the Elk's Lodge in Wtn.

## 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  
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  
Sherry Janssen, Wtn 605-237-3236  
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

## Peg Raml Retires!

SDDVA announced that Peg Raml retired from the Codington Co VSO Office, as of July 31. Because of the new hire cannot start until Jan 1, 2023, Peg has agreed to stay until then. Peg has worked for Codington County since June of 1992 and will have dedicated over 30 years of service. She has trained four veterans service officers. One can only guess the number of lives

she has touched. Her dedication and commitment is evident in her devotion of 30 years of support, assistance and leadership. Her work ethic and outstanding personality will be missed. Peg was recognized by her peers in 2016 and was awarded the SDDVA Partner of the Year award. We at NESDVVA congratulate Peg on her retirement and thank her for all she has done for our veterans and their families.

**We wish her the best in her next chapters of her life. Thanks Peg**

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.

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## Notes from Todd Rose

(Veterans Service Officer for Codington County)

Well summer is upon us, and I hope that everyone can find a little time in their schedule to take in and relax for a day or two. If you didn't know that June was PTSD Awareness Month, which aims to raise awareness and reduce stigma. Post-Traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental condition that results from experiencing a traumatic event. This event could be experienced personally, witnessed, or learned about and can lead to feelings of extreme fear, helplessness, or horror. Examples include natural disaster, serious accidents, war, rape and other assaults.

According to the National Center for PTSD, about 60% of men and 50% of women experience at least one incidence of trauma in their lives. A range of 11-30% of veterans have PTSD. I would like to share information for the Veteran Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255 or Chat on line @ [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net) You can also contact your local VA Clinic or your local clinic or VSO, they should be able to assist you.

Sometimes when a veteran returns from a conflict or deployment, they go right into their active life due to necessity or habit and don't really have or take the time to maybe decompress or process some of the experiences they just went through. Now that they have gotten a little older and maybe they are retired, or they are empty nesters they have more time to ponder or flash back to past experiences. There is assistance out there and they are not alone. In some situations, these diagnosed conditions can be submitted and rated by the VA, for compensation awards.

Codington County Veteran Service Office is located at 125 S Broadway (old City Auditorium), Watertown. We are in the office Monday-Friday, 0800-1700. Walk ins are welcomed and appointments are greatly appreciated. Our phone number is 605-882-6289.



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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](mailto:k_solberg@yahoo.com) or VVA Newsletter PO Box 1062, Watertown, SD 57201





Pictured above is Jerry Denman, Chapter President, Curtis Lamb, winner and Randy Holiday, Raffle Chairman

## 2022 Elk Hunt Winners!

The 2022 Raffle fund raiser is in the books. The winners are as follows.

1. Curtis Lamb, Willow Lake (Curt opted to take the 2nd prize of \$2000.
2. Pam Dekken, Clark Elk Hunt
3. Ryan Ollerich, Clear Lake \$400 cash
4. Laura Josephson, Kadoka \$400 cash
5. Chuck Werner, South Shore \$400 cash
6. Bob Scherbenske, Wtn \$400 cash
7. Mike Lowe, Clark Meat Bundle from Jorgenson Meats in Waubay

Special thank you to Bob Scherbenske who donated the \$400 back to the Chapter.

Thanks to everyone that sold tickets this year. It takes a lot of us out selling and working the different shows to sell this many tickets. The monies raised will go to helping Veterans at Christmas and throughout the year. We appreciate your support.

Randy Holiday, Chair

### Bridge Dedication

On Aug 13th a bridge dedication will be held at 10:30 am at the Ernie Edwards Readiness Center. The bridge will be dedicated to James Haider. Please try to come in honor of Mr. Haider.

## 2022 Memorial Day Services

Because of inclement weather this year's service was held at the City Auditorium.

Every year the Memorial Day services are planned by the American Legion with the help of Veterans from the VFW, Vietnam Veterans, Marine Corp League, Disabled American Veterans, 40/8, Military Officers, and Gold Star Wives & Mothers.

Music was provided by the Watertown Municipal Band, under the direction of Doug Herr and vocal songs by Kris Lauseng.



Each Veterans group provided a color guard for the ceremony. Left to right includes: Jim Strom, Ray Feist, Brian DeBoer and Greg Dubois.

Jerry Denman also took part in the wreath ceremony. The Legion served lunch following.



Connie Miller layed the wreath for Gold Star Mothers & Wives



Lee Gabel was the keynote speaker for the service. Lee served in Ukraine for over 7 years.





## Flags for Memorial Day



Lori Halajian and Kathy Hanson



The Thursday before Memorial Day a group from the VVA, American Legion and the VFW came out to place flags on the Veterans graves. They are Dean, Lori & Lynley Halajian, Chairs, Gary Stolp, Jim and Kathy Hanson, Ron Faehn, Al Taken, Dana Jones, Mike Madsen, Roger Skatvold, Jay Trepanier, Sherry & Terry Janssen, Dennis Anderson, Herb Carstens, Not pictured Don Pasch, Alissa, Galen and Chloe Bauman.



Several members in the surrounding communities also placed flags in their cemeteries. Greg Overby, Randy Holiday, Darrell Boyle, Gorden Vansickle and more. We apologize if we missed anyone.



Clean up crew at the VFW before putting them away until next year.



**Flag Day Another Successful Event!**

We raised over \$6400 from donations.



Harley Gulbraa and Phil Braeger



Brian DeBoer and Herb Carstens



Connie Miller and Jim Hanson



Greg Overby and Denny Brenden



Doc and Gerry Likness



Carol Braley and Vern Wiedman



Dennis Solberg Roger Skatvold Paul Ramse



Rob Kessler & Will Morlock



Randy Holiday, Jim and Barb Strom



Sherry Janssen  
Lynley Halajian  
Cindy Lenards  
Terry Janssen

Bud Walkins  
Dennis Anderson



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





## Electric Wheel Chairs available for members!

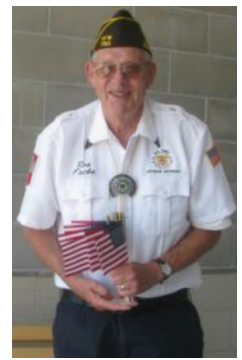
We have two electric wheel chairs  
If you are a Veteran or your spouse is in need of an electric wheel chair,

Contact: Bob Syring 605-625-5010  
or Phil Braeger 605-881-6782

## Flag Day Continued



Dean & Lynley Halajian  
Jim Hanson



Ron Faehn



Jay Trepanier and  
Tom Lewno



Anita Faehn



Maze Snittjer  
and Don Moore



Bob Syring and  
Jerry Denman

Not pictured is Al Janzen,  
Galen Bauman, Bob Frink  
Noel Cummins, Eugene Schmig  
& Ed Timm

## July 2022

- 2 Milbank DAV
- 4 July 4th Celebration
- 5 Codington Co Vets Council
- 7 Vets Council Radio Show
- 11 American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 13 VFW Auxiliary  
Milbank VFW
- 14 American Legion
- 18 Marine Corp Aux  
Sons of the American Legion
- 19 Milbank American Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 20 SD Vets Council in Wtn  
VFW
- 21 4:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting  
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting



## August 2022

- 1. American Legion Aug
- 2 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 4 Coast Guard Day  
Veteran's Radio Show
- 6 Milbank DAV
- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 8 American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 11 Amerian Legion
- 15 Marine Corp Aux  
Sons of the American Legion
- 16 Milbank Amerian Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 17 VFW
- 18 4:30 VVA Board of Directors  
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting

## 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 Participates in July 4th Parade in Watertown.

Chapter 1054 again participated in the 4th of July's activities by providing a Color Guard, Phil's Jeep and the VVA bus that was used to give the Veterans of all groups a ride through the parade.

Four Veterans groups, VFW, American Legion, VVA and the Marine Corp took 6 blocks as the Color Guards. VVA Color Guard included Darwin Clyde, Ray Feist, Brian DeBoer and Harley Gulbra.



Phil and Pat Braeger drove Phil's jeep, and Jerry Denman drove the VVA bus.

### 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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