



# 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) March-April 2023

## Commander's Corner,



Greetings Fellow VVA Members,

It's been a long winter, even for all our snowbirds down south but only a couple more weeks and spring will be here. (We can always hope anyway).

Thanks to all of you that came to the

February meeting and stayed to have lunch with the others. The comradery is always great. We are having our March meeting on a Saturday too, March 25th. Then we will go back to the third Thursday of the month. The board just thought it might help attendance, changing it up and for those out of town you won't have to travel home in the dark. Thanks to Bob Syring for taking charge of everything while we have been gone.

In April it's election time. We have three board members and all the officers that will be up for elections. We truly hope some of you will step up and serve in one of these spots. New blood is always good in an organization and we have several members that would do a great job. Contact Dennis Solberg, 605-880-4225 or Floyd Hermans 605-880-2711 if you are interested or if you have any questions of what the jobs involve. Special thanks to Darrel Boyle, Wtn, Greg Overby, Clark, and Randy Holiday, Hayti for your service on the board. All these positions are open as I believe these gentlemen do not plan to rerun. Here's your chance.

We are busy right now with having booths. Several went to Brookings for the gun show a couple weeks ago, and we are doing both of the Wtn Home Shows, and the Watertown Gun Show. While we are selling our Elk Hunt Tickets we are also sharing with the public what our organization is about. Of course the Elk Hunt Raffle is the biggest fund raiser we have so if you haven't gotten any tickets or would like to sell a few get a hold of Randy Holiday or Phil Braeger so we can get them all sold. We use that money for lots of activities and for helping out veterans in need. And as we get older we find more of us are in need.

Hope all of you enjoy the rest of the winter and we look forward to spring coming soon.

Jerry Denman

President of Chapter 1054

## Help Needed

Volunteers are needed for the following events coming up.....

March 18th & 19 Wtn Gun Show (contact Phil or Randy)

May 26th 1 pm Mt Hope Cemetery for putting flags on all Veterans Graves

June 10th Pass out flags in Watertown, Brookings and Milbank. Contact Kay 605-886-3040

## March Meeting

The March Meeting of Chapter 1054 will be held on Saturday March 25 at 11 am at the Elk's Lodge in Watertown. The board will hold their meeting at 10 am prior to the full membership meeting. April's meeting will go back to the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm.

## 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



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

If you haven't heard about "Honor the Pact Act" it is Public Law no 117-168, that became effective Aug 10, 22. This is one of the biggest laws to address veteran health concerns in recent history. It addresses Post 9/11, Gulf War, and Vietnam era veterans by adding new presumptive conditions and locations while extending health care eligibility

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.

**Puthoff Insurance Agency**  
Ag Underwriters LLC  
Jim Knudson, CIC

P.O. Box 16  
1608 9th Ave SW  
Watertown, SD 57201  
Office: 605-886-9319  
Fax: 605-886-9356  
jim@puthoffsinsurance.com




**No Job too Big or Too Small...**

- o Remodel
- o New Homes
- o General Contractors

868-1410  
Watertown



Travas Uthe  
travsoutfitter@midconetwork.com

**TRAV'S OUTFITTER**

Hwy 212 9th Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Phone (605)882-1739  
Toll Free 1-866-508-5894

Fax (605)882-1758  
Boot Truck (605) 880-6665  
www.travsoutfitter.com

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

for some. I would encourage you all to do your own research in understanding the possible benefits that might apply to you. This weblink is a good starting point.

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-benefits/>

There is currently 20+ burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions for Gulf era and Post 9/11 veterans. VA automatically presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service. This is because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran's service. If a presumed condition is diagnosed in a Veteran within a certain group, they could be awarded disability compensation.

If you served overseas since 1990's, you should make a point to stop in and see your local Veterans Service Officer (VSO), especially if you have been diagnosed or are currently fighting cancers or an illness. You can use the link above to find a list of presumptive conditions or just Google it.

You can file a claim now and I would encourage anyone not to wait to file. Again, at least stop in and talk with your local VSO. If it's been a while since you've spoken to a VSO or would like to get a second opinion from a new VSO due to your personal research and you have a diagnosed condition to file a claim don't hesitate to stop at a VSO's Office.

If you have not signed up for the VA Burn Pit Registry, I would encourage you to go online and complete it. Here is the website, it takes 30-45 minutes. HOME-Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (va.gov)



**Flags for Memorial Day**



Lori Halajian and Kathy Hanson



We are looking for volunteers to help put out flags for Memorial Day. Meet at 1 pm on May 25 at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Dean & Lori Halajian are Chairs.



## Thank You

Bob Buysee for you kind donation to our Chapter.  
It is most appreciated.

## Korean Veterans Honored

Did you serve in South Korea anytime between 1945 and Present Day!

On July 29, 2023 you are invited to a Veterans Appreciation Day. Held at the Brookings Outdoor Adventure Center at 2810 22nd Ave S, Brookings for a free lunch and recognition. Times are from 9 am to 3 pm.

## Midwest Honor Flights Announced

Midwest Honor Flight has announced that they will be flying twice this spring! Mission 14, the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation Mission, is scheduled for May 16, 2023, and Mission 15, Elsie Honors Mission, is scheduled for May 31, 2023.

Information on both missions can be found at the following links: [www.midwesthonorflight.org/mission14](http://www.midwesthonorflight.org/mission14) and [www.midwesthonorflight.org/mission15](http://www.midwesthonorflight.org/mission15)  
Welcome home ceremonies will be held Tuesday, May 16, and Wednesday, May 31, at 9:30 pm at the Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena. Doors open at 7:30 pm for each event.

## Chapter 1054 has Booth at the Watertown Home Show



The Watertown Home Show was held the first weekend of March. We were there selling Elk Hunt tickets and promoting our Chapter. Pictured above Randy Holiday, Phil Braeger, Herb Carstens and Jay Trepanier.

## CBOC News Dr. John Sneden



"I want a second opinion...."

You hear this phrase quite a lot in medical dramas on television but in practicality, the real world is quite a bit different. First of all, insurance companies don't recognize this and (for the most part) won't pay for it. Thus, any "second opinion" is going to be completely out of your pocket. Also, some physicians will not see patients for this reason, given the legal ramifications or circumstances of such an encounter. The VA is pretty consistent in this regard: they don't pay for second opinions. That being said, people will often require a referral to another physician within the same general scope of practice. For instance: you go to an orthopedic surgeon for knee pain. You have already had this knee replaced and the hardware is damaged. The surgeon you see doesn't replace artificial joints and refers you to a surgeon that does....this is not a second opinion. Another example: you go to a neurologist for migraine headaches, they feel you would benefit from injections but they don't perform this service. The neurologist would refer you to another provider that performs this service. Now, say you see a provider and you unfortunately do not feel comfortable with the care they are providing. You could certainly inquire about seeing someone else. This is not technically a second opinion and another referral may be possible. Lastly, you see someone, you don't like the diagnosis and you demand a "second opinion." This request would not be honored and patients are certainly within their right to seek care elsewhere but neither insurance companies or the VA would pay for such referrals. Certainly, I strongly encourage patients to return to their primary care physician with concerns about care before venturing out on their own. An efficient and orderly process is probably attainable in most circumstances.

## 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

## Free Meal at Elk's Lodge Following the February Meeting!



Noel Cummins, Milbank, Royce Strasser, Summit, and Wayne Sandbakken, Wilmot

In February, we held a Saturday meeting to give those that can not make an evening meeting a chance to attend a monthly meeting of the VVA. The board met at 10 a.m., followed by our membership meeting. A buffet was then offered to all in attendance, allowing everyone to visit and meet fellow Veterans and their spouses.



Denny Brenden and Dean Halajian, both of Watertown.



Rhonda and Darrell Boyle along with Terry and Sherry Janssen.



Oh my! Gordie is the first one through the line.....food was great!.



Steve and Luveta Wicks, Clark visiting with Ken Tarbox, Bradley





We saw several new faces and many familiar ones. We had 65+ join us for the Feb. meeting and meal.



Thanks to all who came out and attended our get together. We especially want to thank all who volunteer their time and energy to the many projects held throughout the year.

### More News from VSO Todd Rose

If you are a veteran of Vietnam or Vietnam Era that has one of the conditions listed below and you served in one of these locations during that time frame, you need to stop in and see your local VSO. If you are a spouse of a veteran that passed from or had one of these conditions that could have contributed to the veteran's passing, and you think he served in one of these areas, you need to stop in and see your local VSO. You could be eligible for additional benefits under the Pact Act.

Below is the list of Presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure:

- \* (New) High Blood Pressure ( or Hypertension)
- \* (New) Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- \* Al Amyloidosis
- \* Bladder Cancer
- \* Chronic B-cell Leukemias
- \* Chloracne
- \* Diabetes Mellitus Type II
- \* Hodgkin's Disease
- \* Hypothyroidism
- \* Ischemic Heart Disease
- \* Multiple Myeloma
- \* Non-Hodgins Lymphoma
- \* Parkinsonism
- \* Parkinson's Disease
- \* Peripheral Neuropathy, Early Onset-
- \* Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- \* Prostate Cancer

- \* Respiratory Cancers
- \* Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Below is a list of locations where a veteran could have been exposed to Agent Orange:

- \* (NEW) Any US or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from Jan 9, 62 -Jun 30, 76
- \* (New) Laos from Dec 1, 65 to Sept 30, 69
- \* (New) Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from Apr 16, 69 to Apr 30 69
- \* (New) Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial water off Guam or American Samoa from Jan 9, 62 to Jul 30, 80
- \* (New) Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from Jan 1, 62, to Sept 30, 77
- \* Republic of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of waters of Vietnam and Cambodia between Jan 9, 62 to ay 7, 75

Korean DMZ, operated along the demilitarized zone in Korea between Sep 1, 67 to June 30, 76 These lists are not all inclusive, but they cover most of the conditions and locations. You can research online ([www.publichealth.va.gov](http://www.publichealth.va.gov)) for more specific conditions and locations or contact your local VSO.

Bottom line is that, if you are a veteran that served, or you are the spouse of someone that served, you should stop in and see your local VSO. Even if the veteran passed several years ago, we might still be able to get the surviving spouse additional VA benefits if you meet eligibility requirement. Please help spread the word.

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

## Chapter 1054 Presents Colors for Opening Ceremony at the 2023 Watertown Farm Show



Each year Chapter 1054 presents colors for the opening of the Watertown Winter Farm Show. This year that included: Dennis Solberg, Don Pasch, Jim Hanson and Dennis Anderson.

### March 2023

- 4 & 5th Wtn Home Show
- 4 Milbank DAV
- 6 American Legion Auxiliary
- 7 Codington Co Vets Council
- 8 VFW Auxiliary  
Milbank VFW
- 9 Vets Council Radio Show
- 12 Daylight Savings
- 13 American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 15 VFW
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 & 19 Wtn Gun Show
- 20 Marine Corp Aux  
Sons of the American Legion
- 21 Milbank American Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 25 **10 AM VVA Chapter Board Meeting**  
**11:00 VVA Chapter Meeting**
- 29 National Vietnam Veteran Day



### April 2023

- 1. April Fool's Day  
Milbank DAV
- 3 American Legion Aug
- 4 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 4 Veteran's Radio Show
- 7 Good Friday
- 9 Happy Easter
- 10 DAV  
American Legion Riders
- 12 VFW Aux Mtg  
Milbank VFW Mtg
- 13 Amerian Legion
- 17 Marine Corp Aux  
Sons of the American Legion
- 18 Milbank Amerian Legion  
Marine Corp League
- 19 VFW
- 18 **4:30 VVA Board of Directors**  
**7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting**

### Election of Officers in April

Election of Officers will be held in April. All of the officers positions and 3 board members are up for elections.

A special thanks to Darrell Boyle, Greg Overbee and Randy Holiday who will be going off the board. If you are interested in running for a 3 year board position or a 1 year officer's position contact Floyd Hermans 605-880-2711 or Dennis Solberg at 605-880-4225.

Help our Chapter out by getting involved in all that we do.

### 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

## Notes from Chapter 1054 Meeting

At the February meeting we made the decision to donate to two organizations that help provide services or opportunities to local Veterans. The first was \$1000 to the Watertown Transit to help take Veterans to the VA clinics and hospitals. The second was to an upcoming Legion Field in Milbank for a paver with our chapter name on it as many local Vets attend several of the games that will be played there.

In other businesses, we received a check from Bob Buysse as a donation. We discussed the school visits that some of the members have been making and that some Veterans groups are interested in copies of the video that was made with our Trans Canada funds. We will make these available at

## Consealed Weapon Class

On April 29, 2023 a concealed weapons course will be held in Milbank. If you are interested in attending this contact:

Floyd Hermans  
605-880-2711

National Convention for other Vietnam Veterans chapters for \$200. Bob Frink will get those put together so they can start to sell them. The VA Hospital in Sioux Falls has a new CEO Administrator, Sarah Ackert.

## 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

## Join as a Life Member

**Performance**  
Towing and Recovery

24 hours-Local-Long Distance  
Phone (605) 753-0084  
24-Hour Cell: (605) 884-6024  
Toll-Free (855) 540-6689  
1402 26th Street Southeast  
Watertown, SD 57201  
[www.watertowntown.com](http://www.watertowntown.com)

Light \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ & Heavy Duty \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks to  
**Glacial Lakes Energy**  
for helping  
with the Fuel  
for the VVA Bus!



301 20th Ave SE Watertown.SD 57201  
605-882-8480





**Vietnam Veterans of  
America of Northeast  
South Dakota**

PO Box 1062  
Watertown, SD 57201

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WATERTOWN, SD  
PERMIT NO 9

Address Service Request

The following businesses support our newsletter. Please support them.



Offers  
Homes  
for Heroes  
Program

As a Veteran you qualify.....

Call Jody Fiedler  
605-881-5585  
or 605-753-0137



Ryan Van Dusseldorp, Owner  
511 4th St SW  
Watertown, SD 57201

605-882-3236  
605-882-5710 fax

**HomeTown  
BuildingCenter**

We Measure Up  
3 4 5 6 7

HomeTownBuildingCenter.com

S Hwy 20

"Service You Can Depend On"



**Sales & Service  
since 1911**

Appliances and  
electronics for  
your home!

7 N Broadway PO Box 1566 Watertown, SD 57201  
605-886-4060 jim@dugansales.com  
dugansalesandservice.com

Jim Dugan Co-Owner