



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 May-June 2023

Commander's Corner,



Well my last column as President of Chapter 1054 and it's been a great experience. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up to the plate and helped with all the projects and activities we have done the past three years. I am

especially proud that we were named the Chapter of the Year. What an honor for all of us. And of course I am also proud to be part of the honor and color guards. Honoring all the Veterans who have served, is the greatest project our Chapter does.

So in April, we held our elections for the upcoming year. Congratulations to Gordy West, Wtn, President; Bob Syring, Willow Lake, 1st Vice President; Darrell (Scooter) Boyle, Wtn, 2nd Vice President; Earl Cass, Lead, Secretary and Bob Frink, Milbank, Treasurer.

We also elected three new board members, to serve a three year term. Thanks to Darrell Boyle, Greg Overby and Randy Holiday for serving the last three years. You were a great asset to our Chapter and we know you will continue to active with our projects. Three new board members were elected to a three year team, they include Jerry Caulfield, Brian DeBoer and Phil Braeger. Troy Foster was also appointed as the Chaplain, which he has done for the past couple of years. Thanks also to Dennis Solberg, Floyd Hermans and Darwin Clyde for being the Nominations Committee and running the elections during the meeting. All new officers and board members will be installed during our May meeting.

All the tickets have been sold for this year's Elk Hunt. Thanks to Randy Holiday for organizing this and also organizing our vendor booths at the Brkgs and Wtn Gun Show and the Wtn Home Show. The funds raised each year helps us help other veterans in need.

We have a couple project coming up that you can find details in this newsletter for. On Thursday May 26th at 12:30 we will put flags on the graves at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Lori and Dean Halajian are chairs for this.

Then on Saturday June 11th, we will be passing out flags for Flag Day. This year we will be passing them out in Watertown, Milbank and Brookings. If you can help out contact Kay at 605-886-3040.

We will have a summer picnic, probably in August. Watch for details in the upcoming newsletter.

Todd Rose, our Codington County VSO and all the VSO's in NESD can help you with changes in the Veterans benefits. Check his column for how to get a hold of him.

Looks like the weather may start to warm up. Hope you all have a great summer and thanks again for everything you do for Chapter 1054.

Jerry Denman
President of Chapter 1054

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)

May is National Military
Appreciation month. It
includes Loyalty Day on

May 1st, Military Spouse Appreciation Day
on May 12th, Victory in Europe Day on
May 8th, Armed Forces Day on May 20th,
and Memorial Day on May 29th. May is
also Gold Star Awareness Month, providing
us the opportunity to pay tribute to the

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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

families of our fallen heroes.

With Memorial Day being on our minds I would like
to mention to everyone there is no time like the present
to start making a few plans for your future. I would
encourage veterans to share with their family members
where their military discharge papers (DD214) are, so
when they are needed, you have them. The hyperlink
below is a great source of info, or search for the VA
Survivors and Burials Kit on line. Planning your Legacy:
VA Survivors and Burials Benefits Kit.

There are too many benefits to cover in this short
article. Some are Burial Claims, Military Honors and the
US Flag, and Cemetery Options, Headstones or Medallions
and Dependent Indemnity Compensation claims for
widows, widowers and /or dependents. I would
encourage you, if you have questions about life estate
planning and what you might be eligible for and what
the VA may provide to you. Please use the hyper-link
below or search VA Burial Benefits. VA Burial Benefits
and Memorial Items/ Veterans Affairs.

Please feel free to stop by your local Veteran Service
Office and ask questions. Every veteran's situation might
be a little different, and that means that the benefits
might be a little different. Benefits change along with
new benefits being established as we recently have
seen with the passing of the Honor of the Pact Act.
The same goes for dependents.

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.



**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



Thank you to Red Wilk and his daughter and wife for again choosing to honor ten Chapter 1054 members at the 2023 SD State Fair Bull Bash. This will be held on Thursday Aug 31st. The following are those to be honored with a Black Hills Gold Ring and plaque for recognition of service as a Veteran.

1. Bob Lower, Milbank
2. Rich Rubel, Dallas
3. Don Zafft, Estelline
4. Bob Frink, Milbank
5. Darrell Berning, Lakeville MN
6. Gary Wolkow, DeSmet
7. Jim Hanson, Wtn
8. Jerry Denman, Wtn
9. Ed Timm, Elkton
10. Steve Wicks, Clark

Congratulation to these ten Veterans, and thanks again to Red for his contribution to Veterans.

VVA Gives Scholarships

The following were awarded SDSU scholarships:
Air Force ROTC:

VVA Excellence Scholarship &750
Cadet Jens Enga

VVA Leadership Scholarship \$375
Cadet Nathan Lawrence

Army ROTC

Caulfield Army Rotc Scholarship
Cadet Zander Wysong

Vietnam Veterans Scholarship
Cadet Alexis Scheiske



Message
from
Dr Sneden
Watertown
CBOC

Summer is Coming!!

It's been a long time coming but summer is finally on its way. Remember to be safe during summer activities. Use sun screen even for brief periods outdoors. Wear a hat that covers your ears and also for that wonderful clear patch on the top that some of us have acquired. Use insect repellents for prevention of the spread of diseases such as West Nile Virus. Always use helmets for motorcycles, life jackets for water activities and alcohol only in moderation and only when you won't be driving. Keep hydrated with plenty of water if you are going to be out in the heat.

Have a fun, safe, and healthy summer!

John Sneden

Flag Day



We are looking for Veterans to help pass out flags for **Flag Day!**

We will be passing them out on Saturday June 11 starting at 8 am to 4 in 2 hour shifts.

We do this at HyVee, County Fair, Runnings and Walmart (2 doors).

This year we are also going to be passing them out in Brookings and Milbank.

Call Kay 605-886-3040 to sign up!



Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Ceremony!

On March 29th, Chapter 1054 held a ceremony at the Codington County Court House, as this is the day that the last Veterans came home from Vietnam.



Chapter President Jerry Denman, shared with those attending the facts about our military brothers.



Troy Foster, Chapter Chaplain led us in pray....praying for all that gave their lives during this time.

The Honor Guard for the ceremony included:
Eugene Schmieg
Brian DeBoer
Herb Carstens
Glenn Folk



On April 30, 1975 NVA tanks rolled through the gates of the Presidential Palace in Saigon, effectively ending the war.

SD had 20,000 that served in Vietnam. 192 South Dakotan Veterans died in the Vietnam War, the average age was 19 years old. The war lasted a total of 20 years and had a total casualties of over 1 million.



A 21 gun salute for all those that gave their all....the firing squad included: Ed Timm, Darrell Boyle, Don Pasch, Bob Syring, Clayton Ellingson, Rodney Stormo and Darwin Clyde.

Photos by Don McGrath & Kay Solberg



Monday May 29, 2023

St. Mary's Cemetery at 9:15 am
Mt. Hope Cemetery at 10:15am

Music by Lehla Peitz & Robbyn Givens
and the Watertown City Band
directed by Doug Herr

Keynote Speaker
Phil Braeger,
2023 Veteran of the Year



Help us put
out flags on
the Veterans
graves.
Mt. Hope Cemetery
Thursday
May 26th
12:30

Lori & Dean
Halajian, Chairs
Honoring those
who are no
longer with us.

If any Chapter 1054
members would like some
flags for the small
community cemeteries,
we do have some at the
Classroom Connection.



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

Newly Elected Officers of Chapter 1054

May 2023

- 1 Loyalty Day
Military Appreciation Month
American Legion Auxiliary
- 2 Codington County Vets Council
- 4 Vets Council Radio Show
- 5 1054 Chapter Anniversary
- 6 Milbank DAV
- 8 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 10 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 11 American Legion
- 14 Mother's Day
- 15 Sons of the American Legion
- 16 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 17 VFW
- 18 **5:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting**
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 20 Armed Forces Day
- 25 Put Flags on grave sites at Mt. Hope
- 29 Memorial Day



June 2023

- 3 DAV Milbank
5. American Legion Aug
- 6 Codington Co Vet's Council
D Day
- 8 Veteran's Radio Show
- 10 Pass out flags
- 12 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 14 Army Birthday
Flag Day
Milbank VFW
- 15 **5:30 VVA Board of Directors**
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 18 Father's Day
- 19 Sons of the American Legion
- 20 1st Day of Summer
Marine Corp
Milbank American Legion
- 21 VFW



Congratulations to the new Officers of our Chapter: Darrell Boyle, 2nd Vice President, Gordy West, President, Bob Syring, 1st Vice President and Bob Frink, Treasurer. Not Pictured, Earl Cass, Secretary.



Elected to a 3 year term on the Board of Directors
Brian DeBoer, Jerry Caulfield, and
Phil Braeger, (not pictured)

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 5:30 pm at Elk's
VVA 1054 Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp, 3rd Thursday of the Month

Some Legislative Priorities for 118th Congress

A new year gives us an opportunity for a fresh start and to make positive changes in the lives of our service members.

Implementation of the PACT Act: The PACT Act marks one of the greatest expansions of Veteran health care and benefits in our generation. VVA oppose ANY attempts to cut appropriated funding from the Cost of War Toxic Exposure Funds established under Section 805 of PL 117-168 in the PACT Act. We have a right as veterans to ensure Congress will not raid this program and put veterans in harm's way who have borne the burden of service and have suffered from

the effects of toxic exposure receive the critical care and compensation they justly deserve.

Aging Veterans: The US population is rapidly aging. According to the Census bureau, the US population over 65 will increase almost 70% by 2060. The National Center for veterans reports that in 2020 almost 9 million Veterans were 65 or older.. The VVA will work with Congress and the administration to remove the barriers that aging veterans face regarding accessing care and treatment at the VA.

Other items of concerns are homeless vets, women veterans, rural veterans, and asst family caregivers.

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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