



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 July/Aug 2023



Commander's Corner,

Hello everyone.....a new year for Chapter 1054 and I am proud to take over being your President. We want to thank Jerry Denman for all he has done for the past 3 years. You'll be hard to follow.

We've had a busy May and June already. Thanks to Dean and Lori Halajian for organizing putting the flags on the veterans grave sites at St.Mary's and Mt. Hope. Also, thanks to the members of the VVA, American Legion and VFW. It takes a lot of people to put all the flags out and then removed them a week later.

VVA again participated in the Memorial Day program organized by the American Legion. Phil Braeger, VVA member & Codington County Veteran of the year was our keynote speaker. We have several members who spoke at the smaller communities around us, which we are proud of all of you too.

Special thank you to everyone that helped out for Flag Day flags. We went to Brookings for the first time this year. Had a great time, took the bus down and passed out flags at Walmart, HyVee and Lowe's. Between Wtn, Milbank & Brookings we raised \$9400. Great job to all who helped to pass out the flags.

Don't miss our picnic on Saturday Aug. 26th at the Elk's. All the food will be furnished except the desserts---so if you could bring your favorite dessert to share that would be great.

July 4th and the dedication of the Charles Langenfeld bridge was also events we participated in. Stores & photos are included in this newsletter.

A group of us are attending the National VVA Convention in August in Orlando. A report will be given at our Aug. mtg and in the next newsletter.

Have a great summer and we'll see you around.

Gordie West, Chapter President



Jerry Denman happily turns the mic over to Gordie as the new officers and board members are installed at our June meeting.



You are invited
to an Antless

Picnic

Saturday Aug 26th
at 1 pm

Elk's Lodge

We will have brats, hamburgers,
salads and chips.
Please bring your favorite dessert

Thanks to Jim Hanson,
Herb Carstens and Jerry Denman for organizing it.

VVA Board of Directors:

President: Gordie West, Wtn 605-237-8083

Vice President: Bob Syring, Willow Lake 605-625-5010

Second Vice Pres: Darrell Boyle, Wtn 605-881-5569

Secretary: Earl Cass, 605-237-4419

Treasurer: Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950

Board Members:

Jim Strom, Clear Lake 253-677-0821

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

Phil Braeger, Wtn (Past Pres.) 605-881-6782

Brian DeBoer, Wtn 605-868-0955

Jerry Denman Wtn. 605-880-3630

Jerry Caulfield Wtn, 304-282-9990

Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain 605-268-4673



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

Hopefully everyone has heard about the Honor the Pact Act legislation that was passed by Congress into law on Aug 20, 2022. If you are a veteran or a spouse of a veteran, I would encourage you to do a little research about it or contact your local VSO and ask if there might be benefits that apply to you. Please help us spread the word to veterans and dependents to stop in and see their local VSOs. See what

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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

old or new benefits might be available.

I want to share some data to show the economic impact veterans and their dependents have on the local area. Every year the VA publishes a Geographic Distribution of VA expenditures, to show where funds are spent for benefits and medical support to the veterans, spouses, and dependents in the county. In 2022, Codington County received \$19,431,000. That was an increase from 2021 of \$3,100,000.

Please complete the VA surveys when you get one. If you were happy and satisfied with the treatment and process received, let someone know. If you were not so happy or something went wrong let them know that. It might not seem like things have changed, but if you don't tell them your thoughts and concerns, the VA cannot address or fix the issue.

We have started to see and hear about an uptick in scams and claim sharks targeting veterans, spouses and dependents. Promising possible VA benefits, they can secure for them by working through them, but be aware of the hidden fees. I would encourage or advise everyone that they have plenty of free options, your local county or tribal VSO, your local veteran's organization or your state veteran's administration to get claim guidance or assistance for free.

One last thing is if you are eligible to file for travel benefits through the VA, as of 1 July 2023, we have been told that you will only have 30 days to complete and submit your travel payment request, after that the VA will not process..

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.

The American Legion has an Electrical Medical Bed. If you are interested contact Randy Winge 605-237-2832

Elk Hunt Winners Announced

This year's winners include the following:

- 1st place Elk Hunt Ryan Root, Wtn
- 2nd place \$2000 cash Aaron Johnson, Bristol
- 3rd place \$400 cash Jeff Tschert, Florence
- 4th place \$400 cash Terry Bullert, Wtn
- 5th place \$400 cash Kelly Byer, Wtn
- 6th place \$400 cash Art Schmite, Boyd, MN
- 7th place \$250 gift certificate at Jorgenson Meats
Kevin Holida, Hayti

Thanks again to Randy Holiday for organizing this year's raffle. Thanks to all who purchased the tickets and also to all those selling them. The monies raised goes to Veterans in need, and projects of Chapter 1054



Message from Dr Sneden Watertown CBOC

My HealthVet is VA's online personal health record. Available anywhere there is Internet access, My HealthVet is for veterans, active duty service members, their dependents and caregivers. With My HealthVet, you can access trusted and secure VA health information to better manage your overall health and wellness, and to put the power of prevention in your hands. For veterans, there are enhanced features and facts about VA benefits and services to which you may be entitled. After you register, you can record and track your health information, vital signs and so much more. If you a VA patient, take a few minutes to complete the one-time registration process during your next visit. To learn more, check out www.myhealth.va.gov When you are at the clinic, we

Doug and Mary Modica honored for their contributions to Chapter 1054



At the June meeting Mary and Doug Modica was honored with a plaque for their support and contributions to our Chapter. Doug does all the work with web site, and works with members information. Mary helps with emails birthday cards, and a lot of the behind the scenes things that need to be done. Thanks to both of you for your dedication.

will verify your contact information allowing you to send messages directly to your care team without having to wait on hold or wait for a call back. It is fast, easy and the preferred method of communication.

John Sneden



Eddie Brockhoff, Lynley Halajian, and Herb Carstens



Thanks to all who helped put out the flags and those who picked them up and cleaned them. Herb Carstens, Dean Halajian, Jerry Caulfield, Pat Caulfield, Lynley Halajian, Jim & Kathy Hanson, Eddie Brockhoff, Jeff Thronson, Darrell Boyle, and Lori Halajian. Not pictured, Clark Likness, Brian & Gerri DeBoer, Roger Skatvold, Connie Miller, Sherry & Terry Janssen, Gordie West, Dennis Anderson, Connie Miller. If we missed anyone we are sorry but appreciated your help.

Memorial Day Program



Byron Callies was MC. Robbyn Givens and Lehla Pietz along with the city band provided the music.



Phil Braeger was keynote speaker.





Flag Day Raises \$9400 for Chapter 1054



Rhonda and Darrell Boyle



Roger Skatvold & Darwin Clyde



Doug Modica & Dean Halajian



Bud Walkins & Maze Snitzer

Several of those working heard stories from the customers of these stores.

Darwin and Roger received a token medallion from a WWII Veteran. Several received hugs from family members of veterans. And lots received thank you's for their service.



Bob Syring and Herb Carstens



Lynley Halajian and Cindy Lenards

In Brookings, a guy who was currently in the service thanked the guys for showing the communities what it is like to come home from war.

This promotion is great for the communities but also great for the Veterans as they communicate with all.



Jerry Caulfield and Don Pasch

**Thank
you
for
your
service!**



Clifford Knox and Dennis Solberg



Brian DeBoer and Dennis Anderson



Rod Kessler and Tom Lewno



Don Moore



Jerry Denman and Jay Trepanier



Phil Braeger (not pictured) Jeff Thronson

Flag Day
June 14th was flag day and a way for the VVA to show the public that what was fought for.....freedom is flown with each flag. We usually have 4 locations with 2 hour shifts and 2 VVVA and AVVA working each shift. Thanks to those shown in the photos on these two pages for helping us promote the flag. This year we also went to Brookings on flag day. Those that worked



Vern Wiedeman and Will Morlock



Bill Cunningham & Al Taken

Brookings included: Gordie West, Phil Braeger, Jim Hanson, Darrell Boyle, Jerry Denman, Bryan DeBoer and Eddie Brockhoff, John & Sue Goble, Ed Timm and Richard Heideman.



Jim & Kathy Hanson



Gordie West & Connie Miller



Harley Gulbraa & Dale Christianson

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

July 2023

- 10 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 12 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 13 American Legion
- 17 Sons of the American Legion
- 18 Milbank American Legion
Marine Corp League
- 19 VFW
SD Vets Council Mtg @ Sisseton
- 20 **5:30 VVA Chapter Board Meeting**
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 29 Korean War Vets Appreciation Day
(Outdoor Adventure Center in Bkg
2810 22nd Ave S)



August 2023

- 1 Codington Co Vets Council
- 3 Radio Program on KWAT
- 4 Coast Guard Day
- 5 DAV Milbank
- 7 Purple Heart Day
American Legion Aux.
- 8 VJ Day
Ntl Convention VVA Orland Fl.
- 9 VFW Aux
Milbank VFW
- 10 American Legion
- 14 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 15 Marine Corp League
Milbank American Legion
- 16 VFW
- 17 **5:30 VVA Board of Directors**
7:00 VVA Chapter Meeting
- 21 Sons of the America Legion
- 26 Chapter 1054 Summer Picnic
@ Elk's Lodge

Charles Langenfeld's Bridge Dedicated on July 1st at the Redlin Art Center



A third Vietnam Veteran from Watertown has been honored with a bridge named after him, Mark Horner, and James Haider have earlier had a bridge dedicated to them. Langenfeld's bridge is on Hwy 212 close to Mt. Hope's cemetery, over Willow Creek. Charles served as HM2 Medic and was killed 2 days before he was to return home. His unit had gone 88 days without a bath and was returning when was attached. He was a member of the class of 65.



July 4th Parade

We had great weather for this year's 4th of July's parade. The parade started with the VFW's color guard, switching with the American Legion, then the Marine Corp, and finally the VVA color guard finished the parade. VVA included Harley Gulbraa, Don Pasch, Brian DeBoer and Ray Feist.

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

Thank you!

A special thank you goes out to Tracy Lambert, son of Rollie Lambert, past president of Chapter 1054 for his donation to the club of \$6000. It is very much appreciated!

South Dakota State Fair

Remember the State Fair has 2 events for Veterans. On Wed Aug 27, will be the Bull Bash where 10 veterans, including several from Chapter 1054 will be honored. Also the first day of the fair is Veterans Days. We will have a booth in the Veterans Bldg. If you can help out contact Jerry Denman or Brian DeBoer.

Did you know.....Forrest Mars originally created M & M's in 1941 during WWII. Mars drew inspiration for the candy after observing soldiers consume chocolate pellets enclosed in a protective hard shell during the Spanish Civil War. The idea behind the hard shell was to prevent the chocolate from melting while the soldiers carried the candy in warm tropical weather. Initially, reserved exclusively for military WWII, M&M's became available to the general public as wartime quotas were lifted.

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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