



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 Saturday of each month:

11 pm at the Elk's Lodge, 300 West Kemp St., Watertown, SD

Email: vets@NESDVVA.org

Website: www.NESDVVA.org Jan/Feb 2024



Commander's Corner,

2024 is now here! And actually starting out with some nice weather. We want to thank all our members holding down the fort as several of us have taken off to the south for some warm weather.

Randy Holiday has the Elk's Hunt tickets and will be selling them at the Brookings Gun Show on Jan 13th and 14th. Then on March 16th & 17th we will be at the Watertown Gun Show. If anyone can help out manning our booth contact Randy at 605-881-1601.

November and December were a couple of busy months. On November 9th Bob Frink, Phil Braeger, Ed Timm and Brian DeBoer headed for Brookings. We again shared our video and told stories about Vietnam to the high school students in honor of Veteran's Day.

On November 24th we again provided security, drivers and an Honor Guard for the Holiday Lighted Parade sponsored by the Watertown Business Association (which is the Uptown businesses). Thanks to all of you who came out and helped, it was greatly appreciated.

On Saturday, we held our annual Christmas party. Thanks to Denny Brenden for being our auctioneer. And to Kay Solberg, Lori Halajian, Sherry Janssen, and Rhonda Boyle for organizing this years party. We even had Earl Cass, Jim Strom and Jim Hanson join us with zoom.....

The following Saturday we did our Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. Pictures are included in this newsletter.

The Best thing our Chapter has to be proud of is all the Veterans we were able to help with financial support. The following is a list of giving we did this past year:

\$20,150 grocery gift cards to 150 Vets in NESD
\$5,000 Maui Vets for fire disaster assistance
\$1,000 Salvation Army
\$ 1,000 Milbank American Legion for Community ballfield construction
\$ 1,500 Milbank Transit for Disabled Vets
\$ 2,500 Area flood assistance
\$ 2,625 Scholarships
\$ 1,000 Reflections Memorial Park Estelline.

We should be proud of all we can do to help our fellow vets. Happy New Year!

Gordy West

President of Chapter 1054

Winter VVA meetings

Starting in November, general membership meetings will be at 11 am at the Elk's on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The board will meet at 10 just prior to the general member session.

VVA Board of Directors:

President: Gordy 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, Lead 605-237-4419
Treasurer: Bob Frink, Milbank 706-217-5950
Board Members:
Brian DeBoer, Wtn 605-868-0955
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 605-881-6782
Jerry Denman, Wtn 605-880-3630
Jerry Caulfield Wtn 304-282-9990
Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain 605-268-4673

Chapter 1054 Helps Veterans in Hawaii, after fire Destroys Homes

Early in December, Bo Mahoe (Sergeant at Arms at the Maui County Veterans Council), Glenn Kamak (from the Maui CBOC) and other Maui Veterans helped us by distributing a \$500 check from VVA 1054 to each of 10 Veterans in the hard-hit area of Honokowai, north of Lahaina. Bo Mahoe emailed us the following:

“Communication with recipients has been a struggle (some had only landlines); many veterans have had to relocate towards temporary housing solutions an average of six (6) times in the last 100 days. (this condo for 5 days; move to this hotel room for 9 days; stay with family 2 weeks etc.). USPS mail delivery has been challenging.”

We were able to assist the following Veterans in rebuilding after the disaster: Ronald De Mello, Chelsea Fernandez, Abraham Ah Hee, Butch Soares, Steve Moyer, Calvin Ah Hee, Warren Baybado (100% house loss and 2 cars), Clement Vianueva. Two additional Vets will receive checks shortly.



Are you a Jackrabbit Fan?
Or do you just like basketball?
On February 22nd VVA can attend the
SDSU vs Denver Game
Contact Brian DeBoer for free tickets.
605-868-0955. If we have enough
that want to go from Wtn we will take
the VVA Bus!

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.

Puthoff Insurance Agency

Ag Underwriters LLC

Jim Knudson, CIC

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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

Saturday November 11th at 10:30 am
 Codington County Extension Building
 Keynote Speaker: Veterans Secretary
 Greg Whitlock,
 Veteran of the Year Presented
 Music by Watertown City Band, Doug Herr



This year's Veteran's Day was planned by the VFW with the help of all the Veteran's Service groups. Paul Kraai was Master of Ceremony, and Dean Halajian, was Chaplain.

SD Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, Greg Whitlock was the keynote speaker. He spoke of the history of Veteran's Day, what it means to those in the military, both today and in the past. He shared facts about military Veterans in South Dakota and their roles in the different wars of the past.



The Veteran's Council honors each year one Veteran for their service and community activities. This year Ben Pahl was the recipient of the Veteran's Award. Pictured above is Monty Montgomery presenting the award to Ben. Ben is a Marine and member of several of the Veterans Organizations. Congratulation Ben for receiving this honor.



The Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1054 were represented in the Honor Guard by Darwin Clyde, Brian DeBoer, Darrell Boyle and Herb Carstens.



VVA Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army

Every year Chapter 1054 spends one Saturday Bell Ringing for the local Salvation Army. As a Chapter we also donate \$1000 to the Salvation for the general needs that they get requests for.



Darrell Boyle and Gordie West



Carol Braley and Herb Carstens



Al Taken and Phil Braeger



Lynley and Dean Halajian



Randy Holiday and Doug Modica



2023 Christmas Party held at the Elk's Lodge on Saturday December 2nd. 50 members and guests attended!



Thanks to everyone that donated and purchased items at the auction. Special thanks to Denny Brenden for auctioning the items.

Thanks also to the committee for organizing this years event. They include (and are pictured above) Kay Solberg, Sherry Janssen, Lori Halajian and Rhonda Boyle.

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

Membership Report....

We currently have 482 VVA and 72 AVVA members. We know there are other Vietnam Vets out there that only need to be asked. We could always use new members, and who knows maybe they could use our friendships.

Dennis Solberg, Membership Chair



Chapter 1054 again provided the Color Guard for the Holiday Lighted Parade. This year it was a combination with the American Legion. VVA members included Darrell Boyle, Don Pasch and Darwin Clyde.

Special thanks to all those that came and helped with security, passing out candy canes, and driving vehicles. They included Gordie West, Jerry Denman Denny Solberg, Lori Halajian, Bill Cunningham, Al Taken, Jay Trepanier, Connie Miller, Jerry Caulfield, Carol Braley, Dennis Anderson, and Lynley Halajian. If anyone was missed we are sorry but do appreciate what you did to help out.

Calendar of Events

Jan 2024

- 6 Milbank DAV
- 8 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 10 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 11 American Legion
- 13 & 14 Brooking Gun Show
- 15 Martin Luther King
Sons of the American Legion
- 17 VFW
- 20 **10 am VVA Chapter Board Meeting**
11 am VVA Chapter Meeting



February 2024

- 2 Ground Hog Day
Milbank DAV
 - 5 American Legion Auxiliary
 - 6 Codington Co Vet's Council
 - 8 Veteran's Radio Show
American Legion
 - 12 DAV
American Legion Riders
 - 14 Valentine's Day
VFW Aux Mtg
Milbank VFW Mtg
 - 17 10 am VVA Board of Directors
11am VVA General Mtg
 - 19 President's Day
Sons of the American Legion
 - 20 Marine Corp League
Milbank American Legion
 - 21 VFW Member Mtg
- March 2 & Watertown Home Show

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 as a loaner until one is available through the VA ...

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

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 10:00 am at Elk's
VVA 1054 Reg Mtg 11 am Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp, 3rd Saturday of the Month



CBOC News Dr. John Sneden

If you are traveling south for the Winter this year, don't forget to update your address with us.

Services through the VA down south sometimes has to be coordinated with your primary care team so it is best to

use the message manager system to communicate with us.

If you have any troubles setting up the MyHealthVet system, come in and the front desk staff can get this authorized for you.

There is a new smart phone app that may be helpful as well.

We made Ntl News!

Chapter 1054 was asked to provide a color guard for the Pro Am Golf Tournie held in Sioux Falls. Jerry Denman, Bob Syring, Jim Hanson, Brian DeBoer and Greg Dubois. The Ntl VVA pickup up on the story and put it in their flyer. " I think a lot of the history of Vietnam is disappearing because it's 60 uears old," chapter member Bob Syring told KSFY news. I think we're getting a little bit of of visibility with the public again."

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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