



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 2024



Commander's Corner,

This year went by fast, of course they all seem to go by fast these days. I want to thank the board and officers that worked on all of our projects this past year.

We held elections this past month and your new (but old president) will be Jerry Denman. We want to congratulate Herb Carstens, Randy Holiday and Floyd Hermans for being elected to a 3 year term. Special thanks goes out to Jim Strom for his time on the board and forever being on zoom. We hope you'll keep joining us buddy. We will have installation of officers and board members at the May meeting.

Don't forget we need help on Thursday May 23rd at 12:30 at Mt. Hope Cemetery. All the flags on the Veterans' graves gives a real tribute to those not with us any more. Thanks to Macksteel and Derek Vohlken for making us a dozen hole punchers to help make that job easier.

In June, we have Flag Day and could use your help with this too. See the details inside this newsletter on how you can help us out. This activity takes a lot of manpower so if you can volunteer for a couple hours we could really use your help. It is nice to see the smiles on the kids and hear the stories and the thank you for your service as you hand different people a flag. You will enjoy your time I am sure.

Thanks to all of you that went up to Sisseton to our fellow Veteran's Welcome Home program and great food. Also thanks to the local VFW Post 750 for inviting us for a free lunch following our Welcome Home Program. We had a great turnout at both activities. It is always good to see other vets and their spouses get together for good food, and visits with one another.



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

Guess that's all I have for now. Thanks again for all your help and support as I served as your President. It has been and honoured to work with such a great group of guys and gals that we have in Chapter 1054. God Bless you all!

Gordy West
President of Chapter 1054

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



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

Veteran's Pension is a "needs based" benefit paid to "wartime veterans" who have limited or no income and net worth. Spouses or dependents of "wartime veterans" might also be eligible for pension if the veteran meets the service requirements and the spouse or dependent meets the financial requirements. If you or your spouse served from Aug 5, 1964-May 7, 1975 you might be eligible.

Pension claims are not quick and easy, and once filed, can take several months to be finalized. But if you do quality, it can provide additional financial assistance to a veteran, spouse, or dependants. It is designed to help bring someone that is currently living below poverty level back to or just above poverty level. If you know someone that might be financially challenged and they are a veteran or dependent of a veteran, please have them contact the office so we can see if they might be eligible to apply.

Quite often when someone enters Assisted Living or Nursing Home Care and they meet the other eligibility factors, they will qualify because these two major medical care expenses can be deducted from overall income. It never hurts to ask a few questions or do a little planning for the future.

With that in mind, I encourage everyone to check in with their local county VSO and make sure you are getting the benefits you are eligible for. Codington County Veterans Service Office is open Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm. Our phone number is 605-882-6289 and we are located at 101 19th St NE, Watertown, SD 57201

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.

Puthoff Insurance Agency
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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

Election of Officers and Board Members



The new board of Directors include Bob Frink, Treasurer, Bob Syring, 1st Vice, Jerry Denman, President and Darrell Boyle, 2nd Vice. Not pictured is Earl Cass, Secretary.



Herb Carstens, Wtn, Randy Holiday, Hayti, and Floyd Hermans, Milbank were elected to a three year term.

Upcoming Events!

Memorial Day we place flags on the graves of all Veterans at St. Mary's and Mt Hope



Cemeteries in Watertown and several of the smaller cemeteries in surrounding communities. Watertown will be putting out flags on Thursday May 23rd at 12:30. (meet at Mt Hope at that time) Lori and Dean Halajian are in charge of this project. St. Mary's will be done before this day. If you can help with either cemetery call Lori at 605-886-2678.

Flag Day While Flag Day is on Friday June 14th we will be passing flags on on Saturday June 8th in Watertown. We need lots of workers for this day so call Kay at 605-886-3040 or 605-886-9632 to sign up for the place and time you would like to have. We will again be going to Brookings so if you could help us out there we would appreciate it. Times and places there will be announced at a later day. You can call Kay to sign up for there also.

CBOC News Dr. John Sneden



The protocol for scheduling future visits.

The PACT model process entails rotating through exam rooms capturing scheduling needs before a veteran leave the clinic. It has proven having a scheduler in the exam area has opened the lines of communication and understanding. Services were nervous for the process to start, however, now when one of the schedulers is gone, or up front, the entire team notices.

Customer Service has improved since the new process has eliminated phone, frustrations and has freed up the front desk to tend to other veteran needs. This process provides a one on one experience for our veterans eliminating any interruptions during their visit. Our veterans with mobility issues can stay in the exam room for their scheduling needs preventing any possible safety risks. The process proves itself in our future scheduled appointments. This way, everyone works as a team!

Enjoy the summer.

Vietnam Veterans Honored for their Service



On March 27th, Congressman Dusty Johnson was in Watertown to honor a group of Vietnam Veterans for their service. Each Veteran received a Congressional Coin, a lapel pin and a certificate of service.

Pictured above are those honored: Back row Harley Gulbraa, Vincent Cordell, Dennis Raml, Bob Warner, Ken Tarbox, Darrell Boyle, Dennis Solberg, Jeff Anderson, Richard Seese, Jerry Denman, Jim Keith, Vince Myer, Brian DeBoer, Rita Rauen, Ron Schulz, and Congressman Dusty Johnson.

Front row: Wayne Appl, Gorden West, Robin Opitz, Stanley Whipple, Betty Vaughn, Courtney Livingston, Paul Wagner III, Mike Calkins, and Wayne Appl

The ceremony was held here at Post 750 with coffee and cookies served. Thanks to Tom Bludorn for furnishing the cookies.

Vietnam Veterans of America of Northeast South Dakota For more info call 605-956-8820 or 605-880-3630

Welcome Home Get Together with the Veterans at Dakota Connection in Sisseton.



These Veterans rode the bus from Watertown to Sisseton to attend the program and meal. Thank you to Veterans at Dakota Connection who put this on.



Senator Mike Rounds honored some of the Veterans with a coin and pin. Sherry Janssen was one of Chapter 1054 members to be honored.



Over 50 of Chapter 1054 members and spouses attended this years program.



2024 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans!



Above is a group that attended the ceremony. The weather was definitely a little on the cold side. Below are a few of our members at the VFW visiting before the meal was served.



(photo by Don McGrath)



A Welcome Home program was held on the Codington County Court House lawn. Jerry Denman served as our MC, sharing facts about the Vietnam War. Following a prayer, a presentation was given followed by 21 gun salute and Gordie played taps.

This year all the Vietnam Veterans and spouses were invited to the VFW for hot beef combos sponsored by the VFW Post 750 and the Auxiliary. We had a nice crowd. We appreciate that the VFW hosted us with a meal and camaraderie.

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

Calendar of Events

May 2024

- 1 Loyalty Day
Military Appreciation Month
- 3 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 4 Milbank DAV
- 5 Chapter 1054 Anniversary
- 6 American Legion Auxiliary
- 7 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 8 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 9 Vet's Radio Program
American Legion
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 15 VFW
- 16 5:15 PM VVA Board Mtg.
7:00 PM VVA General Mtg
Milbank VFW
- 18 Armed Forces Day
- 20 Sons of the American Legion
Military Appreciation Day
- 21 Marine Corp
Milbank American Legion
- 23 Flags on Mt. Hope Cemetery
- 27 Memorial Day

June 2024

- 1 DAV Milbank
- 3 American Legion Auxiliary
- 4 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 6 Veteran's Radio Show
D Day
- 8 Pass out Flags for Flag Day
- 10 American Legion Riders
DAV
- 12 VFW Aux Mtg
Milbank VFW Mtg
- 13 American Legion
- 14 Army Birthday
Flag Day
- 17 Sons of American Legion
- 18 Marine Corp League
Milbank American Legion
- 19 VFW
- 20 1st Day of Spring
5:15 pm VVA Board of Directors
7 pm VVA General Mtg



Chapter 1054 gave 4 scholarships at SDSU on April 19th by members Jerry Caulfield and his daughter Kristin Caulfield. This years we presented 2 \$275 and 2 \$375 scholarships. Congratulations to this years winners.



Army ROTC

VVA Caulfield Scholarship
VVA Leadership Scholarship

Cadet Benjamin Ruhland
Cadet Ian Byington

Air Force ROTC

VVA Excellence Scholarship
VVA Leadership Scholarship

Cadet Lisa Wipf
Cadet Daniel Harvey

Note from Daniel Harvey: I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering support and believe in my potential. Your generosity has not only lightened by financial burden but has also inspired me to strive for excellence in all facets of my academic and professional journey.

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 5.15 pm at Elk's
VVA 1054 Reg Mtg 7 pm Elk's Lodge
300 W Kemp, 3rd Saturday of the Month



Remember those brothers that we have lost the past couple of months:

Randy Johnson 3/4 Wtn Air Force
Michael Thompson 4/3 Dawson Army

Brookings and Watertown Gun Shows and the Wtn Home Show



Thanks to all those that worked at our booths at these shows, selling Elk Hunt Tickets. Pictured here are John Goebel, Randy Holiday and Phil Braeger.

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 \$100 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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