



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

Email: vets@NESDVVA.org

Website: www.NESDVVA.org

Nov/Dec 2024



Commander's Corner,

Fall is in the air but the temps have been to our advantage. It won't be long before that changes also. In November our meetings will be moving to Saturdays for the winter months. They will start at 10:00 am for the Board Meeting, 11:00

am general Membership Meeting and then lunch for all VVA and AVVA members will be at 12 noon.

We're starting to get more responses from schools to present our video and Veterans telling of their job assignments when serving in their various branches of service. We like to have one representative from each branch of the service at these presentations so please contact me if you would like to help out. It's an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for us veterans and also for the students. Right now, we have four of these programs set for November and more to come.

The holidays are coming and we've been contacting the VSO's in our nine county area to help needy vets for Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Our Christmas party this year is set for December 14th at 6 pm at the Elks. Hope to see you all there.

This weekend we have found out that we have lost two of our AVVA members that have been very active. Don Pasch and Barb Folk. May they rest in peace. We are grateful for their membership of our Chapter.

Please give some thought on your yearly flu and Covid shots, especially if you have some health conditions. Get a hold of your VA Clinic for an appointment. I want to see all of you members at our monthly meetings. Have a great Holiday Season.

Jerry Denman
President, VVA Chapter 1054



VVA Christmas Party

**Saturday Dec 14
6 pm Elk's Lodge**

**Tickets will be \$15 each
Please purchase in advance from
Kay at Classroom Connection.
I will have them at the November mtg.**

VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman, Wtn 605-880-3630
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Floyd Hermans, Milbank 605-880-2711
Phil Braeger, Wtn 605-881-6782
Gordy West Wtn 605-237-8083
Jerry Caulfield Wtn 304-282-9990
Troy Foster, Peever, Chaplain 605-268-4673



Notes from Todd Rose

(Veterans Service Officer
for Codington & Hamlin
County)

As we get ready to honor veterans on Veterans Day, I would encourage veterans to connect or reconnect with fellow veteran and see how they are, and if they have left us maybe just see how their dependants are. Ask them if they have any questions and if they have been in to see their local VSO and they understand that benefits are constantly changing, and they should stay informed. It is never too late to file a claim, understand

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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

current benefits or start working on life estate items.

The Vietnam War Commemoration Pin program is coming to an end. You can still go to Congressman Dusty Johnson's webpage and look under SERVICE, then scroll down to Vietnam Commemoration to complete the form or click on the link below and it should take you directly to the form that needs to be completed to nominate a veteran. If you have additional questions concerning this, please feel free to contact one of the Rep. Johnson's District offices: Rapid City 605-646-6454, Sioux Falls 605-275-2868, Aberdeen 605-622-1060.

For anyone using TRICARE and wanting to make any changes the Open Season start 11Nov-10 Dec 2024. Also, if you are currently paying for TRICARE benefits with an automatic withdrawal from a bank account you should have received a letter from TRICARE to inform you that you will need to update your account withdrawal prior to 1Jan25 or your coverage would end. You can contact TRICARE West Region @West Region TRICARE (<https://www.tricare.mil/west>) scroll down the page and you will see the options to TRICARE Automatic Payment Authorization Form.

Also, as a reminder during this time of the year if you are a hunter or fisherman and you are 40% service connected or have a "K-Award" you can take your Summary of Benefits letter to the local regional SD GF&P and they can get you a Basic Hunting and Fishing license for \$10 and it is good for 4 years.

Lastly, if you are receiving benefits from the VA, you should have received a Summary of Benefits letter from the VA within the last week or so. This letter will have your service connection % but not have your "K-Award". If you have been awarded the "K-Award" you will need to contact your local VSO to get an updated letter.

The Veteran's Service Officer provides expert claims service to every eligible Codington & Hamlin Veterans and his/her dependants and survivors: to aid the veteran in understanding entitlements, which can minimize the burden of health and economic stress; to process the necessary forms for Federal as well as State Veteran Benefits.

Located at 101 19th St NE Watertown 605-882-6289
Open 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday.

Veteran's Transportation Services

The Veteran's Transportation Services will now offer transportation to the VA in Sioux Falls. Monday-Friday (excluding holidays) from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm you can call 605-977-4400 or email vhasuxvetridetravel@va.gov to set up an appointment. All appointments must be scheduled 3 business days in advanced. Any cancellations must be 2 day in advance. These are for approved VA appointments.

The Watertown Community Transit will provide rides within the city limit for veterans for both VA and non VA appointments. Call 605-882-5287 to request a ride. This must be done 24 hours or more in advance.

"Anyone can go to a Hospital. Heros go to the VA"



CBOC News Dr. John Sneden

Scheduling Procedure Change

The VA is changing how primary care appointments are scheduled. In the past, primary care encounters included a separate appointment for intake with the nurse to review the medication list, update allergies and past history as well as provide immunizations. Going forward, the nursing visit will be incorporated into the provider time. So, if you have an appointment at 10 am, the first 30 minutes will be with the nurse and you will see the physician around 10:30 am. In the past, patients would have had two separate appointments. Now there will be only one. The laboratory appoint will continue to be separate, and we strongly encourage patients to have lab work done at least a day in advance so that this can be discussed during their appointment.

2024 Elk Hunt Winner Josh Blais, Wtn

Pictured with Josh are Noel Cummins and Bill Schumaker. Thank you to everyone that sold tickets this year to make this our best fundraiser for the year. Thanks to Randy Holiday for again chairing this committee.



School Educational Programs

Our Chapter has been putting on programs about the Vietnam War the past couple of years. We are using the video we made and have members of our Chapter tell about each of the branches of the military and what their actual jobs were. So far this year we have already gone to Inwood Ia and have upcoming programs at:

Nov 4 Great Plains Lutheran

Nov 6 IC Catholic School

Nov 12 8 am Brookings Middle School

1:45 Waverly-South Shore

Milbank (date to be determined)

If any members would like to take part, it is a very rewarding experience. Give Jerry Denman a call.



Chapter 1054
will be **Bell Ringing**
on Thursday
December 5th.

We will be having shifts from 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, and 4-6. If you can help us out with any of these shifts call Kay or Denny at 605-886-3040 or 605-886-9632.

Interesting facts:

\$93 Million was paid to Veterans in Codington and Hamlin this past year.

27% increase over last year.

There are 213 open claims. 199 claims were finished this past year.

Chapter 1054 Fulfills Mission

Every organization within their mission statement has goals they work on for the common good of all those involved. When our Chapter was put together we had a couple, one was no veterans would come home and be treated the way we were and another was to help Veterans out so they had a better life. That could be through comradery, financially or just knowing others that went through the same things in life. We have raised funds and helped with some of these projects. We thank all of you for being part of our organization and for helping others. We definitely thank you for your service.

- Aberdeen Gold Star
- Agent Orange Medal
- American Legion Post 9
- DAV Chapter 19
- DAV Codington County
- Estelline Veteran Cemetery Garden
- Hurricane Relief Louisiana
- Maui Veteran Fund
- North Carolina State Council Hurricane Helene
- Joy Ranch PTSD Horse Therapy
- Salvation Army
- Scholarships ROTC & LATI
- Sioux City Veteran Aid
- Sisseton DAV Van
- South Dakota State Cemetery

- Special Olympics
- Unplanned Donations
- Vets in Need
- Warriors Never Give Up
- Willow Creek Flag Pole
- Christmas Gift Cards
- Many Honor and Color Guards
- Canadian Veterans Visit

While there are many activities we participate in, some as fund raisers, some as a patriotic activities, they are all for the educational, fund raising and just awareness of our organization. The list above totals over \$180,000 that we have given out to fellow groups or individuals.

We are proud of our service!

Veterans Day

November 11

10:30 AM Extension Building

Speaker Major Michael Nei

Music by Watertown Municipal Band, Doug Herr

Everyone is Welcome!

Lunch will be served following at the VFW,
808 S Bdwy, Wtn, SD



Veterans/Military Appreciation Event

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Joy Ranch of South Dakota

16633 448th Ave., Florence, SD
(located just outside of Watertown)

Lunch/remarks are scheduled for 12 p.m. (noon) with Secretary Greg Whitlock, South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Watertown area veterans, service members, and their families are invited to participate in this special event at Joy Ranch, co-hosted by the Sea of Goodwill and the Watertown Area Community Foundation.

This appreciation event is made possible thanks to the generous sponsors featured above!

Event Details:

- Explore veteran and military service family resource booths.
- If the weather allows - walk the Joy Ranch trails, enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride, check out the indoor riding arena, meet our staff, get to know our 20 plus horses.
- There are great indoor activities too if weather is cool. Visit our retreat rooms, check out the Wild Bill game room - shoot basketball hoops, play a game of pool or ping pong, etc.
- Enjoy a free lunch featuring a burger bar!

RSVP is not required to attend. For additional information, call Joy Ranch at 605-886-4622.

Legislative Round Table

South Dakota Vets Council will be holding a Legislative Round Table on November 21st at 11 am at the American Legion, in Watertown. Bring your questions and concerns to share with legislators in this area.

Two AVVA Members Passed Away



This passed week we have lost two very active members of our Chapter. While they were both AVVA members they attended a lot of our activities and projects.

Above is Don Pasch and to the right is Barb Folk. Both of them live in Watertown. Our prayers are with their families. May they rest in Peace.



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

Calendar of Events

Nov 2024

- 2 Milbank DAV
- 3 Daylight Savings
- 4 American Legion Aux.
- 5 Codington Co Vet's Council
Election Day
- 7 Vet's Council Radio Program
7:30 Am KWAT 9:00 Am KXLG
- 10 US Marine's Birthday
- 11 Veteran's Day
Watertown DAV
- 12 Marine Corps League
- 13 VFW Aux.
Milbank VFW Mtg
- 14 American Legion
- 18 Sons of the American Legion
- 19 Milbank American Legion
- 20 VFW
- 21 Legislative Round Table 11 am
- 23 **10:00 AM VVA Board Mtg.**
11:00 Am General Mtg
12:00 Am Free Meal
- 25 American Legion Riders
- 27 40/8
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 29th Holiday Lighted Parade

Dec 2024

- 2 Codington Co Vet's Council
American Legion Aux
- 4 Radio Vets Program
7:30 am KWAT 9:00 am KXLG
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
DAV Milbank
- 10 Marine Corp League
- 11 VFW Auxiliary
Milbank VFW
- 12 American Legion
- 13 Ntl Guard Birthday
- 14 VVA Christmas Party
- 16 Sons of American Legion
- 17 DAV Milbank
- 18 VFW Mtg
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 23 American Legion Riders Mtg
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Years Eve



The following businesses are offering free items for Veterans on Veterans Day.

HyVee Food Store (breakfast)

Applebees

Buffalo Wild Wings

Little Caesars,

Scooters

Starbucks

Redlin Art Center is giving a Terry Redlin print. The Veteran must pick up in person.

Elk's Lodge

Casey's

Meeting Time Change!

Remember we have a free meal with our meetings!

At the Nov through April we will have

10 am Board Meeting

11 am General Membership Meeting

12 (noon) Free meal for all attending

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



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

Curtis Peterson Navy
Bernard Cordell Navy
Don Pasch, AVVA
Barb Folk, AVVA



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

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

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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