



# 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](mailto:vets@NESDVVA.org)

Website: [www.NESDVVA.org](http://www.NESDVVA.org)

Jan/Feb 2025

## Commander's Corner,



Happy New Year to all our members and families. I hope all had a great Holiday season and were able to get together with your loved ones. I remember spending a couple of Christmases away from home when

I was in the service and I really missed my family and traditions we observed during the holidays.

In 2024, we lost some of our members and hope you take time to remember them in your thoughts and prayers. Its hard to say goodbye to our brothers and sisters but it is also good to say that we got to know our fellow veterans through our Chapter 1054 and the great things that we have been able to do for our vets.

I think Randy Holiday is going to let the Elk Hunt tickets go on sale in January so everybody make it a point to get a book of tickets and sell, sell, sell. Elk hunt tickets are our main source of income during the year and we want to keep up the giving to our needy vets that we've done through the years. In 2024, we were able to give the needy vets in our 9 county area \$21,900. Keep up the good work.

We hope the sickness that has been running rampant has left and everyone is now feeling better. I know several of us are going south but we will be in touch with all the things that are going on in our Chapter.

2025 is here so let's make it a point to volunteer more, help to know what Chapter 1054 is all about, and give back to the communities that we live in.

Enjoy the winter, watch a little football and just enjoy the life we fought for.

Jerry Denman

President, VVA Chapter 1054

## We Need Help!

Brookings Gun Show, Jan 17-19  
Watertown Home Show Mar 8-9

We are looking for Vets who can help sell our Elk Hunt Raffle and just telling the public what the VVA Chapter 1054 is about. If you can help us out at either event for a couple hours let us know:

Randy Holiday 605-881-1601 or  
Phil Braeger 605-881-6782

## VVA Board of Directors:

President: Jerry Denman, Wtn 605-880-3630

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

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

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)

Well, I hope that everyone had a great year and is getting ready for another trip around the Sun. It has been a busy year at the office. We have processed over 430 claims for veterans and dependants and these claims have brought just shy of 3 million dollars in new federal funds, going to veterans and dependants in our local communities. The VA hit a peak of filing over 11,000 claims per day, for several days in September

Please support the following businesses that are supporting us.

### Puthoff Insurance Agency

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Jim Knudson, CIC

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Fax: 605-886-9356  
jim@puthoffinsurance.com



of this year. A lot of these claims were generated in part to the recently passed "Honor the Pact Act" in August of 2022.

The passing of the Honor the Pact Act law opened new areas for Agent Orange exposure and new presumptive conditions for Vietnam veterans and their dependants. It also added the consideration due to toxic exposure for different military job skills, to include additional presumptive conditions for Gulf War and post 9/11 veterans.

We just can't share the knowledge of potential benefits to all the veterans and their dependants. Please help us spread the word to get veterans and their dependants to stop in and see their local VSO. Just to have a conversation about benefits and about it. So, please help us spread the word and let's get those veterans, that might not be part of an organization like the VVA in touch with their local VSO. That way if they are eligible and qualify for benefits, they can start the process. The current process takes on average 180 days from when the VA gets a claim to when it is completed. That is what the VA states. I would say it takes more. Thank you for your service and have a great day.



**No Job too Big or Too Small...**

- o Remodel
- o New Homes
- o General Contractors

Watertown

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.



Travas Uthe  
travsoutfitter@midconetwork.com

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### Date Correction

The Watertown Home Show will be Saturday March 8 & Sunday March 9th. We are having a booth here and need some help. We are sorry about the wrong date listed in another area of this newsletter.

### Please keep in your prayers.....

We have had several members lately that have had some health issues. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. One AVVA still in the hospital is Terry Janssen. We hope all will be well soon.

### 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



## Chapter 1054 rang the bells for the Salvation Army on December 5th.

Thanks to those of you who rang the bells this year for the Salvation Army. They did a drawing for anyone who rang the bells for more than 2 hours and because Kay signed us up her name was put in a drawing for 2 movie passes and popcorn. At the Christmas Party we did a drawing for those that actually rang the bells and Jerry was the winner.

Throughout the season different people rang the bells, some were singing the whole time, so guys you have until next year to learn all those Christmas songs.....Merry Christmas to you!



Bill Cunningham and Jerry Denman.  
Ho! Ho! Ho!



Doug Modica rang the first shift by himself as his partner got sick. Hope all if feeling better. Thanks Doug for doing it by yourself.



Herb Carstens and Al Taken.....



Carol Braley and Lynley Halajian rang the bells the last shift.....

### *Thank You!*

As many of you know, we have gotten a few grants from the TransCanada Pipeline. A couple of those grants were used to buy wheel chairs that Veterans can use. One of those Veterans was Richard (Dick) DeBoer. He was a WWII Veterans and used a chair until he passed away. Helping him get around. Upon his passing, his estate donated \$1000 to our Chapter for the use of the wheel Chair. It is great knowing we had an impact on making life a little easier in the final days of his life. Thanks for the donation.

This year the red kettle ringing raised \$155,396. While that is short of their goal it will help several people in our community with help they need in many areas. Thanks to the Salvation Army for what they do for our Veterans.

# 2024 Christmas Party



This year's Christmas Party was held at the Elk's. Between sickness and weather our crowd was a little smaller but we had a good time.



Phil & Linda Laumeyer and Diane & Bud Walkins.

Maze Snittjer provided dinner music for us to put us in the Christmas spirits.



Doug & Mary Modica and Barb & Vern Wiedeman



Our silent Auction was held for some interesting items.....



Dessert was a cake.....  
Thank you for your Service!



Lori Halajian worked the check in table.....  
she was smiling more after the 50/50 drawing!



Gordie & Sue West and Earl & Deb Cass



Tom Lewno, Herb Carstens & Lynley Halajian



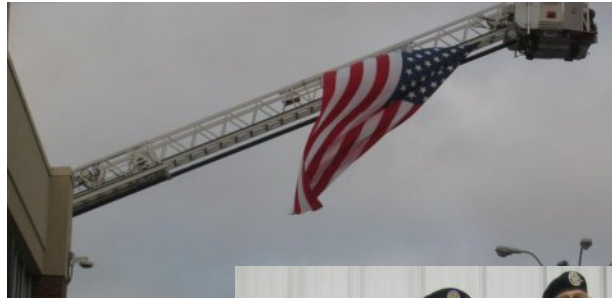
Entertainment for the evening was Joe Lindner.....  
he played songs and we had to guess the names!  
Everyone had a great time.

# Veterans Day

## November 11

10:30 AM Extension Building  
**Speaker Major Michael Nei**

Music by Watertown Municipal Band, Doug Herr Director



2024 Veterans Day is always

a day of food, friends, service and honor. Thanks to many of the local

businesses who offer food and services to the local Veterans. Pictured here is Gerry & Brian DeBoer, Tom Braley and Tom Paulson. Each service group had a color Guard, the VVA's included Dennis Anderson, Herb Carstens, Darrell Boyle and Brian DeBoer.



Major Michael Nei was the Keynote Speaker.



Each year a Veteran of the Year is honored for their contributions. Here is Randy Winge presenting this year's winner to Jeremy Storm.



The oldest Veteran (100 years) is Dr. Stanley Allen. WWII Photoed with Doris Wilkey

Each issue of the newsletter is downloaded to our website [nesdvva.org](http://nesdvva.org) for a copy in full color.

## Calendar of Events

### Jan 2025

- 4 Milbank DAV
- 7 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 8 VFW Aux.  
Milbank VFW
- 9 Vet's Council Radio Program  
7:30 Am KWAT 9:00 Am KXLG  
American Legion
- 13 American Legion Riders  
Watertown DAV
- 15 VFW
- 17-19 Brookings Gun Show
- 18 **10 AM VVA Board of Directors**  
**11 AM VVA General Meeting**  
**12 Noon VVA Free Lunch at the Elk's**
- 20 Martin Luther King Day  
Sons of American Legion
- 21 Marine Corp League  
Milbank American Legion
- 27 Vietnam War Cease Fire 1973

### Feb 2025

- 1 Milblank DAV
- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 3 American Legion Aux.
- 4 Codington Co Vet's Council
- 6 Radio Vets Program  
7:30 am KWAT 9:00 am KXLG
- 10 American Legion Riders  
DAV
- 12 VFW Auxiliary  
Milbank VFW
- 13 American Legion
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 **10 AM VVA Board of Directors**  
**11 AM VVA General Mtg**  
**12 Noon Free Meal at the Elks**
- 17 President's Day  
Sons of the American Legion
- 18 Marine Corp League  
Milbank American Legion
- 19 VFW
- March 8-9 Watertown Home Show

## National Membership Report

The October membership numbers are in and we continue to increase our Membership beyond the 92,000 members mark. As of October 2024, the VVA has a total of 92,256 members including 1,478 women Veterans. In October, the VVA welcomed 227 new members, and unfortunately, we lost 76 members.

The Membership Affairs Committee report for Oct shows a steady growth in the VVA membership. While some regions and states experienced declines, the overall trend is positive, with notable increases in several key areas. The committee continues to monitor and support membership growth and retention efforts across the regions.

Remember there are 6.6 million Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad. That is 16% of the US Population. 44% male=23 million, 1 in every 3 males are 65+ years of age.

Our Chapter has 498 VVA members and 81 AVVA members. Each time we meet up with a VV we need to invite them to join our Chapter. For more information on our membership contact Dennis Solberg or use the membership form in this newsletter.

### 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:**

Ted Cordell AVVA  
John Barnes Air Force



**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 Life 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

### Join as a Life Member

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Thanks to  
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for helping  
with the Fuel  
for the VVA Bus!



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 <p>Offers Homes for Heroes Program</p> <p><b>As a Veteran you qualify.....</b></p> <p>Call Jody Fiedler 605-881-5585 or 605-753-0137</p> 	 <p>Ryan Van Dusseldorp, Owner 511 4th St SW Watertown, SD 57201</p> <p>605-882-3236 605-882-5710 fax</p>
 <p>HomeTownBuildingCenter.com</p> <p>S Hwy 20</p>	   <p>Jct 212 &amp; 20, Watertown, SD 57201 Phone 605-886-3133</p>