

THE SOUTH DAKOTA Legion News



VOLUME 89, ISSUE 2

“VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA”

OCTOBER 2021

We Are Running A Legion:

POST #15 TRANSITIONS FROM THEIR POST HOME TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA MILITARY HERITAGE ALLIANCE CENTER



Story & Insert Photos by Matt Lagerstrom. Above: Post #15 Commander John Bachmeier cuts the ceremonial ribbon on the new Post home at the Alliance. Photo by Susan Peters.

The sale of their Post Home was an emotional experience which has turned into an extremely positive change of culture for the Legionnaires of Post #15 in Sioux Falls. Now fully entered into “The Alliance” with fourteen Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) of the Sioux Falls Area, “We are no longer running a bar and a restaurant. We are running a Legion, and it is a whole another way of life” for the largest Post in the State of South Dakota reports Post Commander John Bachmeier. Commander Bachmeier proudly discusses how moving into The Alliance has taken the burden of day-to-day operations of the hospitality industry off of the organizations and allowed them to focus on taking care of Veterans, their families, and the community in which they live – the original goals of The American Legion. Bachmeier emphasizes that the Post has shifted to three core values in their operation: 1) Collaboration with other VSOs; 2) Taking care of our Legion Family; and 3) Supporting the Community, and this focus has made member involvement grow to levels not seen in a long time and is a great boost in recruitment because “I saw you guys out there, and I want to be part of you.” One example of the multitude of activities that the Post does during the year was their annual observance of POW/MIA Remembrance Day on September 17, 2021.

During this event, The Legionnaires of Post 15 worked with The Alliance to organize a cast of at least 60 supporting crew members from all organizations, as well as a Junior ROTC detachment from the Sioux Falls School District who served as the Honor Guard for the event. Their goal was to remind the community that there are still at least 85,000 Service Members who have not come home yet, including at least 350 from the State of South Dakota.



Starting off as a Marine Corps Officer, Father Andrew Young transitioned to the Air Force Chaplain Corps and has deployed four times in support of the Global War on Terror. He is currently a pastor in the Sioux Falls Diocese. (Photo by Matt Lagerstrom)

Their speaker for the event, Father Andrew Young, a Veteran of the Global War on Terror, spoke poignantly about the Service Members who have not yet come home by stating “The missing are all too often clumped together and remembered by one bouquet of flowers at their memorial. Instead, there should be a huge pile of bouquets in front of their memorial’s roster, remembering that each of those names is a person whose family still has not gained closure to what happened to their loved one.”

The members of Post 15 work hard to assure that our Veterans are not forgotten. Almost every day, the Post Honor Guard is attending a funeral to remember the service of a Veteran – it is not unusual that they will have four or five funerals in one day in three different states while supporting neighboring Posts. Whether visiting Veterans

whose health inhibits them leaving home, those entering a nursing home, those who are transitioning to hospice, or those transferred to Post Everlasting, Post 15 has made taking care of our comrades an extremely high priority. Post member Joan Ishol said that while it is a very busy schedule, “it is always an honor to remind that Veteran and their family that they aren’t alone” as they enter the final stages of their life.

The Post is also extremely active in the community – they supported 43 Boys State Candidates and helped their Auxiliary send another 43 girls to Vermillion this last summer.



The “Singing Legionnaires” of Post 15 perform in front of a row of POW/MIA flags which represent commemorate the seven South Dakota Service Members still missing from the Vietnam War. The group performs several times a week for community functions throughout the Sioux Falls area. (Photo by Matt Lagerstrom)

They support fourteen baseball teams across multiple age groups in an East/West City league as well as at the State-level of competition. In one particular collaboration that they are proud of, in working with their tireless Auxiliary they perform frequent “Stand-downs” to support homeless Veterans in the Sioux Falls area – an event that frequently, and tragically, brings hope to at least 90 Veterans.

The question comes up – with ten times the number of members of the average Post in South Dakota, how does the Post keep their membership engaged? The key is to ask the member to do “just this one thing.” As Post Chaplain Donna Puthoff pointed out “I said that I would just come in and help fold newsletters”. The conversations that followed and the friends that she made has created a second family and a set of friends that she could never find anywhere else. Thanks in large part to Post 15 working with the other organizations of The Alliance, the mission of The American Legion in the Sioux Falls area is alive and becoming stronger every day.

South Dakota Legion News
(ISSN 0745-5801)
Vol. 89 No 2 October 2021
Official Publication of the American Legion of South Dakota
Published six times per year by
The American Legion of South Dakota
14 1st Ave SE
Watertown, SD 57201

Printed at 218 South Egan Avenue, Madison, SD 57042-0348
Subscription Price: \$5.00 a year, Send subscription request to:
South Dakota American Legion, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201
Courtney VanZanten, Chester, Editor
Kevin Hempel, Watertown, Managing Editor
Send all copy for publication to:
South Dakota Legion News, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201-0067
Office Phone (605) 886-3604, Fax (605) 886-2870
Email: dso@sdlegion.org
Home page: <https://www.sdlegion.org>

PLEASE REPORT CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
SD LEGION NEWS, PO BOX 67, WATERTOWN, SD 57201-0067

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

State Commander — Gary Wolkow, De Smet
glwolkow@gmail.com, (605) 854-3020
State Vice Commander (Dist 1-2) — Eugene Iron Shell, Jr., Rosebud
eugene.ironshell@gmail.com, (605) 319-1365
State Vice Commander (Dist 3-8) — Doug Feltman, Chamberlain
hb.boner@yahoo.com, (605) 691-4571
National Executive Committeeman — Jim Huls, Madison
jphuls@svtv.com, (605) 421-1700
Alternate National Executive Committeeman — Denny Brenden, Watertown
dennybrenden2@gmail.com, (605) 881-3179
State Adjutant — Kevin Hempel, Watertown
adjutant@sdlegion.org, (605) 886-3604
State Americanism Officer — Harry Boner, Castlewood
hb.boner@yahoo.com, (605) 691-4571
State Membership Chairman — Travis Flisrand, Castlewood
membership@sdlegion.org, (605) 868-8503
State Service Officer — Courtney VanZanten, Chester
dso@sdlegion.org, (605) 868-8750
State Chaplain — Justin Warfel, Spearfish
chaplain.warfel@gmail.com, (605) 212-7922
State Finance Officer — Krisma DeWitt, Castlewood
krismadewitt@gmail.com, (605) 677-8545
State Historian — Fred Lee, Sioux Falls
fotofred4u@q.com, (605) 413-9451
State Judge Advocate — Jay Leibel, Madison
jay@leibellaw.com, (605) 256-3961
State Sergeant-At-Arms — Greg Geiman, Scotland
pawhip@hotmail.com, (605) 695-6361
State Children and Youth Chairman — Don Kranz, Brandon
donkranz305@gmail.com, (605) 610-7107
Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander — Casey Hanson, Badger
casey_arlpropane@yahoo.com, (605) 530-3168
American Legion Riders Liaison — Buck DeWeese, Spearfish
deweese@rushmore.com, (605) 722-2361

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

1—Jon McDonald, Box Elder
bigmacranch@gmail.com, (605) 484-7260
2—Christopher Rendon, Rapid City
rendon.christopher@yahoo.com, (605) 431-0923
3—Gene Opbroek, Gregory
pmagent47@gmail.com, (605) 830-0012
4—Bob Thomason, Selby
bobcat@venturecomm.net, (605) 848-6357
5—Matt Lagerstrom, White
malager@itctel.com, (605) 651-9568
6—vacant
7—Patrick Mullen, Madison
patrickmullen1944@gmail.com, (605) 480-0463
8—Jennifer VanRoekel, Marion
jennifervanroekelsf@gmail.com, (605) 251-0635

Find Post Information here: <https://www.sdlegion.org/district-posts-maps/>

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sdamericanlegion/>

Congressional Contact Information

Senator John Thune (R-SD), 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Phone: 202-224-2321, Fax: 202-228-5429, Toll Free: 1-866-850-3855, Website: <http://www.thune.senate.gov>
Senator Michael Rounds (R-SD), Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone: 202-224-5842, Fax: 202-224-7482, Toll-Free: 202-875-5268, Website: <http://www.rounds.senate.gov>
Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD), 1508 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515; Phone: (202) 225-2801; Web site: <https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/>

L.E.T.S Let's End The Slide!

Gary Wolkow
Department Commander



Legion Family,

We said at the close of the State Convention in Huron we were going to “hit the ground running” and we have. We have been all over the state promoting the South Dakota American Legion and its programs. I will share with you some of the events we have attended:

July 9 & 10--Annual Budget Meeting and Department Executive Meeting in Chamberlain
July 14-16---Youth Trooper School in Pierre
July 17----Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Sioux Falls Alliance
July 20----Foundation Meeting Watertown Post
July 21----South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting Sioux Falls Alliance
July 24----Commanders Homecoming in De Smet
July 30----Legion B Baseball in Groton
July 31----Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming in Onida
Aug 3- ---Regional Baseball Tournament in Sioux Falls
Aug 7.----National Guard SRP in Sioux Falls
Aug 19----Children & Youth Committee Meeting in Sioux Falls
Aug 27-Sept 2--National Legion Convention in Phoenix
Sept 4-5-6---State Fair Veterans Building in Huron
Sept 11-----District 2 Fall Meeting in Rapid City
Sept 12--- -District 1 Fall Meeting in Isabel
Sept 14-----Foundation Meeting Sioux Falls Alliance
Sept 18----District 4 Fall Meeting in Redfield
Sept 19----District 5 Fall Meeting in Gary
Sept 25----District 7 Fall Meeting in Garretson
Sept 26----District 8 Fall Meeting in Hurley
Oct 3-6----National Legion Fall Meeting in Indianapolis

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to travel all over the state to promote the American Legion Programs and serve veterans and their families. We have also been able to attend several Post meetings and other veterans' events throughout the state. THANK YOU to all the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders for taking the time to attend these events. Our American Legion Family is working together as a team to help make all the meetings and events successful.

The Fall Meetings are well under way, and we have been from one end of the state to the other. We visited towns I had never been to and seen some beautiful country. The meetings have been well attended and have enjoyed presenting our Programs and goals for the 2021-22 year. Congratulations to Chris Rendon for being elected as the new District 2 Commander. Thank you to all the District Commanders and Posts for hosting these meetings.

THANK YOU for all the generous Honor Flight Donations. This is a good time to remind all of our Posts to plan that honor Flight fundraiser in October or the near future so the South Dakota American Legion can sponsor a flight in the fall of 2022.

The National Convention in Phoenix was a major event. The South Dakota American Legion can be very proud. Because we led the nation in membership last year, we were seated in the very front of the huge Convention Hall. It was great to meet all the Legionnaires from other states and hear about their programs and concerns. We learned Membership is a top priority as always, but also Suicide prevention is also a key issue this year. We must get the word out and promote the Legion Suicide preventions programs in our state.

The Fall Meetings in Indianapolis were also very educational. Adjutant Kevin and I had membership meetings with our National Vice Commander for our Midwest Region and National Commander Paul Dillard to determine what our exact membership goals were. There are many National membership awards to be earned if we can make our goals. We have our work cut out, but I know we can do it.

Remember TEAMWORK, COMMUNICATION AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. If we can do all those together as a team, we can achieve our goals and have a successful year. In closing I just want to say the first few months have been very busy, but I have enjoyed every minute. We are going to dedicate whatever it takes to promote the American Legion and its Programs this year and take care of our veterans. L.E.T.S. LETS END THE SLIDE. My goal to end the slide is to get at least one more member than we had last year. Our National Commander, Paul Dillard's goal is for all of us to have 103%. We can do it!! I'm asking for your help-ALL of your help. All of us working together as a team, we can do it.

For God & Country,

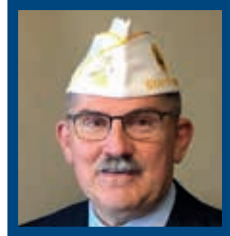
Gary Wolkow
Department Commander

Support our Advertisers

The SD Legion News needs sponsors to regularly publish the paper.
Please thank these businesses for their support of our mission!

From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant



Looks like summer is behind us are we starting our Fall Meetings. First, it was a great National Convention. We had about 23 South Dakota Legionnaires in the warm Phoenix weather. To be truthful, it was hot. The first few days we were there, the temps were over 110 degrees. They kept saying it was a dry heat, but in my mind 110 degrees is 110 degrees. Other than the heat, it was a great convention. I had the chance to see friends from other Departments and make new ones. We had great meetings as well as received some great training. It culminated in the election of the new National Officers. Paul Dillard of Texas is our new National Commander and Angel Narvaez of Puerto Rico is our National Vice Commander. I had a chance to chat with Angel Narvaez and he is looking forward to visiting our great state. Although, he did say he was hoping he would be given an allowance for some cold weather clothing.

During National Commander Dillard's acceptance speech, he had a number of items he wanted to focus on. Membership is always a topic. Membership is what makes us a strong organization for a number of reasons. These include people for our programs as well as funding for our programs. The other focus is veteran suicide prevention. National is starting a program called "Be the One." He wants all of us to "be the one" that could save a veteran from suicide. We are the ones who talk to our neighbor veterans and we need to make sure they get help if they need it. National started the Buddy Check program a few years ago and our National Commander wants us to continue making those buddy checks to make sure our fellow veterans are doing well. Remember, you could "Be the One" that makes a difference.

I would like to address one more topic in this column, and that is MyLegion. I know many of us have had issues and struggles with the system. National continues to make progress, but they have quite a few issues that still need to be corrected. If you have not participated in MyLegion training, the following websites can help with some additional information and answers on common issues: www.legion.org/membership/252634/how-training-myl-egionorg-gives-answers or mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Resources/Help. I have been informed membership reports should be available soon. In the meantime, if you are having issues with MyLegion, please send me an email with a description of the problem as well as your email address and phone number. I am gathering this information and will forward it to the National help desk, so they have more information about the issues they need to address.

I hope everyone had a great summer and looking forward to a great fall.

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant
"Veterans strengthening America"

Birthplace of American Legion Baseball eyes new complex

The American Legion, Indianapolis

Birch-Miller American Legion Post 9 in Milbank, S.D., is proud to call its community the "birthplace of American Legion Baseball." It was at the South Dakota American Legion department convention here in 1925 when former U.S. Army Maj. John L. Griffith – then commissioner of what would become the Big 10 Conference – recommended that The American Legion establish a prominent youth athletics program that would promote teamwork, discipline and good citizenship. Four months later, American Legion Baseball became a national program.

Today, some 80 years after Legion Field in Milbank had its first game, the old ballpark is home to a new elementary school. A 2018 vote to build the new school on that site meant that American Legion Baseball would need to find a new place to play.

After the school district obtained rights to the property, the City of Milbank "quickly converted a practice field into a playable field for our local baseball team," explained Post 9 member Tim Jurgens, a past Department of South Dakota commander. "While that field was a very nice field, there are several limitations concerning size, parking and general layout."

Out of that situation sprang the Milbank Ball Diamond Association, a citizen task force of which Jurgens and Post 9 member Ron Krause are representatives. The association's vision is to maximize Milbank's place in sports history with a new complex that would include a primary park, a secondary competition field, a youth field, a multi-purpose field and a T-ball diamond. Also planned are a Champions Plaza to honor past American Legion Baseball World Series champions and an American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame museum.

"We hope to be playing on the new field by '23," Jurgens said. And by 2025, the 100th anniversary of American Legion Baseball, all the features of the new complex should be completed, he added. He said the new facility would be expected to attract youth, high school, college and American Legion sports teams from throughout the region.

The City of Milbank, which purchased the 27-acre site of the future complex, has budgeted \$1.2 million to begin building the initial field in 2022. Other planned features, including the museum, are expected to exceed \$7 million in all, and the Milbank Ball Diamond Association is on the fundraising trail to "make the entire facility a tribute to the birthplace of American Legion baseball and the young men it has had an impact on."

To learn more about donation opportunities – from memorial inscriptions to engraved granite pavers to grandstand sponsorships – visit birthplaceoflegionbaseball.com or inquire at Milbank Ball Diamond Association, P.O. Box 70, Milbank, S.D., 57252



CHARLYS RESTAURANT
and Lounge Chamberlain, SD
Proud to support the American Legion

KELLER DRILLING
(605)374-4182

Veteran owned and operated water well drilling and servicing business. Licensed in SD, MT and ND.

Contact Albert Keller • 701-426-4580 for all your water well drilling & servicing needs!

EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
DEDICATED. RELIABLE. LOCAL.

YOUR TRUSTED, LOCAL AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT WHOLESALE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE FOR 70 YEARS.

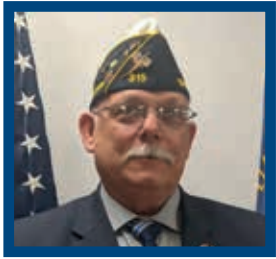
East River Electric
A National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Member

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
FROM **SCHEELS**

2101 W. 41ST ST • SIOUX FALLS, SD • 605.334.7767
Connect with us @siouxfallscheels
SCHEELS.com

District Commander Updates

1



Jon McDonald, Box Elder
www.facebook.com/SDLegion1

As your District 1 delegate I attended the American Legion National Convention that was held in Phoenix, AZ this year, August 27th through September 2nd. I really enjoyed the convention and learned a lot from the committees and how the American Legion operates at the National level. I met many new friends from all over the U.S., and during my visits with the other departments it was an eye opener on how their districts and departments operate with-in the American Legion.

Our new National Commander, Paul Dillard, will be focusing on suicide awareness during his term. We are losing too many of our Veterans to suicide so I will be asking all our posts in District 1 to do "buddy checks" on our fellow veterans to ensure all our members and their families are not forgotten and are getting help as needed.

Congratulations to our new Department Commander Gary Wolkow, Vice-Commanders Eugene Ironshell, Jr and Doug Feltman, Auxiliary President Mary-Jo Stier, and staff. I'm looking forward to working with all these fine people to make our District and Department #1!

Our Mid-Winter convention is coming up in February and I'm looking forward to visiting with everyone again. Our South Dakota American Legion Family is like no other and while many of us know each other from across the state, it's always a joy to meet new friends.

2



Christopher Rendon, Rapid City
www.facebook.com/SDLegion2

Greetings District 2

As a newly elected District Commander, I would like to personally thank Eugene Ironshell, our past District Commander and now the newly elected State Vice Commander of District 1&2 for his leadership and service which has impacted not only our district but the state as well. Also, I want to thank our Vice Commander Mike Ball for stepping in as interim Commander. I appreciate his dedication and hard work to make the transition flawless. Lastly, I would like to thank Post 22 for hosting our last District meeting as well as all those who attended.

We have great posts in our district. They are doing amazing things, not only within the American Legion realm but also thinking outside the box. Many are helping their local communities through various activities like food drives, school programs and fundraising. Our posts need this same enthusiasm, as we focus on this year's recruiting goal. I encourage you to think creatively when recruiting this year. In Boy Scouts, selling popcorn is one way a scout raises money for the scout. For some scouts, this can be a hard endeavor. To help a struggling scout to achieve their goal, they need to change focus from selling popcorn to the selling scouting experience through the popcorn. A Scout can easily share their experiences and goals, in turn developing a connection to consumers resulting in a positive experience. With a little change of thinking, we can easily achieve this year's recruiting goals.

3



Gene Opbroek, Gregory
www.facebook.com/SDLegion3

Hello Legionnaires. The District 3 meeting will be at Post 8 in Pierre on 24 October with a social at 11:30, Lunch at 12:00 and meeting at 1:00. Please make a point to attend your District meetings. A lot of good information is presented at the meetings, and it is also a great time to interact with other Posts to exchange ideas and renew old acquaintances. Fundraising for Honor Flight should be on the agenda for all posts. It only costs \$753 to send a veteran on the Honor Flight. These donations will be accepted at the District meeting. Let us do all we can to support this great program.

School has been in session and October is the month for the Posts to go into the schools, introduce yourself and speak with the School Principal, Counselor, speech teacher or whomever to promote our Youth programs. It is important to build relationships throughout the year with School staff. Take some cookies, rolls or donuts to the Staff break room once a month or so, or volunteer to take tickets at home athletic events, these are extra duties for teachers and is much appreciated if they can get a night off.

Lastly, I would like to thank LTC (ret) Jim Moore for volunteering to be the District 3 Education/Scholarship representative. Jim retired from the Air Force and is a High School/Middle School Math teacher in Burke, SD. I know Jim will do a great job representing District 3.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

4



Bob Thomason, Selby
www.facebook.com/SDLegion4

Greetings one and all.

I am writing this on Patriot Day.

As I lowered my Flag to half staff this morning, a great many thoughts and emotions flowed through me, not the least of these being WHY we are lowering our Flags today.

Another thought came through very strong, and that was that we, as the American Legion, should be not only advocating for our Flag, but teaching Flag Etiquette to our young people, and help them to understand the "WHY" of respecting our Flag, and everything it stands for.

Only by teaching proper respect and care for this LIVING symbol of our Nation, can we hope to stop the disrespect and desecration we see every day for our Flag.

I would encourage each American Legion Post to go into your local schools for this purpose. There are a number of tools and resources available from The American Legion for this very purpose.

With this thought in mind, and with Respect and Honor to those many souls that lost their lives 20 years ago today, I will go out at sunset, hoist my Flag to full staff, sound TAPS and render a slow white gloved salute.

I am certain I will again be flooded with emotion as I ask that these people rest in eternal peace.

Until next time, may God bless you all.

5



Matt Lagerstrom, White
www.facebook.com/SDLegion5

I would like you to take a few moments to consider your accumulated life-time of accomplishments... Your house, your family, your occupation, and your community which you consider important parts of your identity. Now, consider "something awful" that would have to happen in your little part of the world that would make you give it all up. And not just walk away from it to get help; but to walk away from it, crossing unknown miles of hostile terrain with only the shirt on your back and your family in tow. Eventually, you will come to a place where that "something awful" makes the decision to get into an inflatable bath toy that most of us wouldn't even consider seaworthy for using in a backyard swimming pool and then trying to cross an ocean a good idea. If you somehow reach a distant shore, you and your family will be in an extremely disadvantaged position, because everything that you were was left behind because of that "something awful" which made you take the journey in the first place. You will now work a menial backbreaking job for low wages and long hours for people who consider you easily expendable because there are so many more just like you. Amazingly, you consider this much better than the "something awful" that you are fleeing. There are a lot of "awful" things happening in the world today. It is because of our military that they aren't happening here. Thank you for your service

Oratory Contest Completion Dates Set

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

The Americanism Commission has set the following completion dates for the oratory contests: Post contests completed by January 9, 2022. District contests completed by January 30th, 2022. Department contest will be held February 20th, 2022 at MidWinter conference.

Current Contest Dates and locations:

DISTRICT 1
JAN 9, 1:00 PM
STURGIS POST

DISTRICT 2
JAN 9, 10:00 AM
SDSM&T CLASSROOM BLDG,
RAPID CITY

DISTRICT 3
JAN 23, 2 PM
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH PIERRE

DISTRICT 4
JAN 16, 2:00 PM
ABERDEEN CHURCH OF CHRIST

DISTRICT 5
JAN 16, 1 PM
CASTLEWOOD LUTHERAN
CHURCH

DISTRICT 6
JAN 16, 2 PM
ETHAN HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 7
JAN 16, 2 PM
DELL RAPIDS POST

DISTRICT 8
JAN 15, 10:00 AM
NFAA HQ ARCHERY YANKTON

ADVERTISE

in the South Dakota American Legion News

Reach 18,000 Veterans
across the state.

For rates and information, contact

david@leaderprinting.com

605-256-4444

The South Dakota Legion News reserves the right to refuse advertisement.

LETTERS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

Senator John Thune



As I've visited small and big towns across South Dakota, there have been a lot of issues on the top of people's minds – from Afghanistan to border security to keeping our communities safe. As I visited local businesses, though, one issue stood out above all else: worker shortages. No one can seem to

find enough workers to meet the growing demand as our economy continues to get stronger. In some cases, unfortunately, the inability to find workers has led to reduced capacity or hours of operation. Fewer employees means fewer people to serve customers.

These worker shortages are not just an illusion. In South Dakota, our unemployment rate is even lower than the national unemployment rate. This low rate, which means the available workforce is small, paired with our booming economy in South Dakota, which means consumer demand is high, has created the workforce shortages that South Dakotans are seeing and feeling.

To be clear, an expanding economy and near record-low unemployment are good things. They are positive signs of a strong economy. That said, they are not without their challenges, which is why it is so important to keep our eye on the ball and implement positive solutions so these resulting workforce shortages don't stunt economic growth. I support allowing free market forces to adapt and address these shortages over heavy-handed government intervention, but we can implement common-sense changes to help specific areas that have been hit particularly hard. That's why I've made expanding the H-2B visa program a priority. Many South Dakota businesses rely on workers who temporarily come to the United States through this program. South Dakota businesses in industries from tourism and hospitality to construction and forestry have benefited tremendously from it.

The H-2B visa program gives our businesses an additional employment pool to pull from when there is a high seasonal demand. I've introduced multiple bills that would help raise the cap on this program. My Prioritizing Help to Businesses Act would set aside up to 2,500 H-2B visas for states like South Dakota that are at or below 3.5 percent unemployment with a capped increase of 25 percent over the previous year's H-2B total. It's a new approach that I hope will be considered as we evaluate ways to improve the worker shortage in South Dakota's seasonal industries.

Another industry that has struggled to find workers, even before the current shortage, is telecommunications. South Dakota is helping to lead the way in these technological advancements. As we work to deploy 5G technology and provide more of rural South Dakota with a reliable internet connection, we cannot afford a lack of qualified workers to hold us back. My Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act, which passed the Senate, would help address the shortage of trained workers who will be necessary to fill next-generation jobs in the telecommunications industry.

There is certainly more work to be done, and I will continue to look for light-touch ways to help South Dakota businesses find workers. All things considered, I would rather see "help wanted" signs posted in shop windows than long lines at the unemployment office. I am focused on continuing to develop solutions in Washington to address the side effects of low unemployment so our economy can continue to grow and create more opportunities for South Dakotans.

Senator John Thune (R-SD)

511 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2321 Fax: 202-228-5429 Toll Free: 866-850-3855
Website: <http://www.thune.senate.gov>

Senator Michael Rounds (R-SD)

Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5842 Fax: 202-224-7482 Toll-Free: 202-875-5268
Website: <http://www.rounds.senate.gov>

Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD)

Address: 1508 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-2801
Website: <https://dustyjohnson.house.gov>

Senator Mike Rounds



U.S. Army General Tommy Franks is the former Commander of Central Command (CENTCOM), an area encompassing the Middle East, Central and Southwest Asia. A decorated leader, he served as the commander who lead Allied Forces in the attack on the Taliban in response to the 9/11 attacks on the

World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001. He also oversaw the 2003 Invasion of Iraq and overthrow of Saddam Hussein. In his 2004 memoir, *American Soldier*, Gen. Franks reflects on a poem he wrote as a young Army Captain in 1971, after serving in Vietnam.

"Grant Me"

"One opportunity to influence the course of history.
The foresight to anticipate that opportunity.
The conviction to plan for it.
The fortitude to implement the plan.
The intensity of action to make it work.
The flexibility to change when it won't.
The loyalty to self to admit defeat.
The humility owed to victory.
The tenacity to continue."

Now, as we remember the 20th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, and reflect on the thoughts of Gen. Franks, truer words have never been penned. I and many of my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee have warned that a withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan should be based upon conditions on the ground; and not a date on the calendar. The conditions on the ground in recent months did not support a complete withdrawal of our forces by September, as called for by President Biden. The result is now a Taliban takeover of the country, setting back decades of progress for democracy, rule of law and human rights, while subjecting the Afghan people to rule by a brutal regime; and Sharia Law.

For me, one of the most worrisome results of the recent Taliban victory is the impact our withdrawal will have on the thousands of South Dakota service members and their families. I'm extremely proud of the service our men and women performed over these last 20 years. We have heard from many veterans recently questioning the administration's decision to withdraw and how, in turn, their service and the deaths of fellow warriors may have been in vain. Nothing can be further from the truth. If you're a veteran, service member or dependent who is struggling, there are resources available to help get you through these tough times and to gain stability and the confidence you did a "job well done" to protect our nation from further attacks. Over the last six years, more than forty percent of all the casework completed by our staff is related to veterans and the Veterans Administration (VA). We're here to listen. Here to help. We have a team of veterans at all of our offices who work with the VA on a daily basis to help you access the benefits you and your family have earned. Also, please know the VA has set up a comprehensive set of resources if you or someone you know is in need of mental health services. The Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Crisis Line is free to call and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Call 1-800-273-8255. Press "1" after calling to speak to a VA staffer. Any type of support is available, even just to talk. Additional resources are available on the VA website at www.mentalhealth.va.gov.

Always remember, it's not the orator or the media who protect our freedom of speech. It's not the politician who protects our right to vote. It's not the preacher who protects our freedom of religion. All of our freedoms are defended and protected by the men and women who wear, and have worn, the uniform of our great nation.

God Bless you, and God Bless the United States of America.

Congressman Dusty Johnson



As fall approaches and universities across the country head back to school, I am focused on getting one of my education priorities across the finish line.

Earlier this summer, the House of Representatives passed the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act, a bill I introduced alongside Representative Gallego from Arizona. Our bill connects Native veterans and their families to VA services and vocational support by expanding the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program to Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

The VSOC program places VA counselors on campus to help veterans, service members, and their qualified dependents complete their education and prepare them for future employment and success. VSOC has been providing services to thousands of veterans at 104 institutions of higher education across the country since 2009. This program is a tried-and-true path to long-term success for our veterans, and there's no reason it shouldn't include tribal colleges as well.

Expanding this program to TCUs is particularly vital to South Dakota. We have one of the highest tribal populations in the country and are home to three fully accredited TCUs. Native Americans serve in the U.S. military at the highest rate of any demographic, further highlighting the need of these services at TCUs.

If my bill is signed into law, our native veteran students will have the resources necessary to better succeed at university. The VSCO program provides tools such as adjustment counseling to help veterans complete education programs and ultimately secure employment, vocational testing services, expedited veteran readiness and employment (VR&E) services, and even referrals through VA Medical Centers, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, or Vet Centers.

Educational and career counseling programs are critical to the long-term success of our native veterans. My bill gets us one step closer to ensuring our Native veterans are able to take full advantage of the services they've earned, and I am focused on getting it signed into law.



**If you eat today
THANK A FARMER.**

**Because you eat in freedom
THANK A VETERAN.**

**Proud to Support
The SD Legion News**

Mueller Farms • Ethan SD

Welcome DMS: New SD Legionnaires

The following Legionnaires joined the South Dakota Legion Post #500 since July 2021. Welcome them to the family:

James Parsons, Aberdeen, SD	Dick Dondelinger, Harrisburg, SD	Kenneth Quarforth, Rapid City, SD	Mark Swanson, Sioux Falls, SD
Brent Wienk, Aberdeen, SD	John Eastman, Harrisburg, SD	James Collins, Rapid City, SD	Charles Van Hofwegen, Sioux Falls, SD
Andrea Smith, Arlington, SD	Michael Alexander, Hartford, SD	John Burg, Rapid City, SD	Robert Bryant, Sioux Falls, SD
Robert Stout, Avon, SD	Todd Even, Hartford, SD	Michael Reindl, Rapid City, SD	Craig Schotzko, Sioux Falls, SD
Ray Johnson, Avon, SD	Toni Larsen, Hartford, SD	Rodney Rice, Rapid City, SD	James Erick, Sioux Falls, SD
Richard Symonds, Belle Fourche, SD	Daryl Roerick, Hot Springs, SD	Clifford Bjerke, Rapid City, SD	Robert Mutcher, Jr., Sioux Falls, SD
Alan Leeling, Belle Fourche, SD	Kristi Petersen, Hot Springs, SD	William Boling, Rapid City, SD	Scott Walters, Sioux Falls, SD
Dave Fedderson, Beresford, SD	David Tennis, Hot Springs, SD	George Pagel, Rapid City, SD	William Schmidt, Sioux Falls, SD
Richard Busby, Box Elder, SD	Jacob Stockwell, Humboldt, SD	Corey Schmidt, Rapid City, SD	Dennis Olson, Sioux Falls, SD
Scott Conradi, Box Elder, SD	Jacob Waldner, Huron, SD	Darral Brooks, Rapid City, SD	Michael Chesley, Sioux Falls, SD
Dave Jungemann, Box Elder, SD	Raymond Geditz, Ipswich, SD	Stephen Miller, Rapid City, SD	James McQuisten, Sioux Falls, SD
James Anderson, Box Elder, SD	Garrett Pringle, Jefferson, SD	Vivian Dowdle, Rapid City, SD	Paul Soriano, Spearfish, SD
Jerry Bender, Brandon, SD	Lloyd Little-Whiteman, Kyle, SD	Micaela Jones, Rapid City, SD	Larry Moe, Spearfish, SD
Stephen Kohnen, Brandon, SD	Daniel Nelson, Lead, SD	Melissa Stetson, Rapid City, SD	Louis Huffman, Spearfish, SD
Stephen Butterfield, Brandon, SD	Gerard Ostgarden, Lead, SD	Jarrold Rayhill, Rapid City, SD	David Simons, St. Lawrence, SD
Lloyd Sikkink, Castlewood, SD	Harlan Krein, Leola, SD	Phyllis Alexander, Rapid City, SD	Christopher Gross, Summerset, SD
Robert Schilling, Custer, SD	Daryl Christensen, Madison, SD	Thomas Cantral, Rapid City, SD	John Chayka, Summerset, SD
Mary Clauser, Custer, SD	David Barnes, Madison, SD	Winston Cope, Rapid City, SD	Richard Peter, Summerset, SD
Darryl Cederholm, Custer, SD	David Johnson, Martin, SD	Neil Pryor, Rapid City, SD	Bob Graff, Tea, SD
Hal Hunter, Custer, SD	Leonard Sanderson, Mina, SD	David Sonnek, Sioux Falls, SD	Merwin VanBeek, Tea, SD
Douglas Crossen, Custer, SD	Delmar Fuller, Mina, SD	Cynthia Sonnek, Sioux Falls, SD	Steve Burtz, Tyndall, SD
Jeffrey Mortensen, Custer, SD	Dennis Geidel, Mitchell, SD	Dale Nustad, Sioux Falls, SD	Terry Mann, Tyndall, SD
James Haupt, Deadwood, SD	Rodney Moser, Mobridge, SD	Carroll Huffer, Sioux Falls, SD	John Weygaerts, Vale, SD
Joshua Adkins, Deadwood, SD	Jeffrey Jensen, Mobridge, SD	Gene Jorgensen, Sioux Falls, SD	Greta Mabry, Vermillion, SD
Frank King, Dell Rapids, SD	Bill Nehl, Morrystown, SD	Kelly Riedel, Sioux Falls, SD	Tom Moysis, Wagner, SD
Frank Gregg, Edgemont, SD	Kimberly Richter, New Underwood, SD	Brett Williams, Sioux Falls, SD	Garrett Young, Warner, SD
Howard Wagner, Elk Point, SD	Joe Sterna, Newell, SD	Matt Alvey, Sioux Falls, SD	Tracy Diefenbach, Warner, SD
Colin Campbell, Elk Point, SD	Richard Winter, Parkston, SD	Jeff Alvey, Sioux Falls, SD	Kenneth Hallquist, Watertown, SD
Raymond Osterloo, Emery, SD	Tom Lesselyoung, Philip, SD	Philip Alvey, Sioux Falls, SD	Frank Stecker, Watertown, SD
David Selby, Emery, SD	James Schmitendorf, Piedmont, SD	Don Berkhof, Sioux Falls, SD	Clinton Hillius, Watertown, SD
David Swanson, Ft. Pierre, SD	Duane Dickhaut, Piedmont, SD	Mark Morrison, Sioux Falls, SD	Gary Peterson, Waubay, SD
Duwane Decker, Frankfort, SD	Melvin Jones, Pierre, SD	Tim King, Sioux Falls, SD	Carl Hansen, Whitewood, SD
Ronnie Tanner, Gettysburg, SD	Thomas Bown, Pierre, SD	Richard Wollman, Sioux Falls, SD	Dale Doane, Worthing, SD
George Turner, Glenham, SD	George Lingle, Pierre, SD	Darell Poss, Sioux Falls, SD	Larry Sathe, Yankton, SD
Arvid Lindquist, Gregory, SD	James Knipp, Pierre, SD	Daniel Nelson, Sioux Falls, SD	Robert Stengle, Yankton, SD
Gerald Wolf, Gregory, SD	Terry Goings, Pine Ridge, SD	Robert Sterud, Sioux Falls, SD	John Sorenson, Yankton, SD
Carla Warnke, Gregory, SD	James Nielsen, Plankinton, SD	John Sing, Sioux Falls, SD	
Thomas Stengrim, Harrisburg, SD	Bruce Huber, Rapid City, SD	Brian Deruyter, Sioux Falls, SD	

From the Chair, Continued

The fundraising for MWHF is going strong: \$31,667 (42 seats) has been donated as of Sept. 15, 2021. We have the momentum to pay for all 120 seats for Veterans being honored on the MWHF which is impressive. If we raise at least \$50,000 we will get naming rights for the flight; with naming rights, we get significant airtime on TV and space in newspapers that gives us an opportunity to tell South Dakota the achievements of our organization. The MWHF we are donating towards will go to Washington D.C. in the Fall of 2022.

Large donors to date are:

- South Dakota American Legion Foundation - \$10,000
- Sturgis Post 33 - \$6,024
- White Post 88 - \$5,300

Fundraising for MWHF formally goes through October 31, 2021, with a check being publicly given to Mid-West Honor Flight on Veterans Day. Donations that come in after October 31st will still be given to MWHF before the flight takes place in 2022 in our name.

We are requesting that Posts continue to use the hashtag "#sdlegionserving" in all the advertising and press releases to your local papers, with all Posts using this collectively the search engines of the internet will be able to easily record all the information into an easily searchable field to include stories and pictures. If you haven't done a search on Facebook for the hashtag, I strongly encourage you to do so; with just 6 months of using the hashtag there are numerous Posts covering the work we do in South Dakota that benefits our communities.

Keep up the great work Legionnaires, I am proud to be part of this organization.

Very Respectfully,

Travise Flisrand
Department Membership Chairman / USN Retired

Department Calendar

OCTOBER 2021

- 4-7: National Fall Meetings, Indianapolis
- 8: Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication: Cpt Elmer Rusch, SDSU DePuy Military Hall, Brookings, SD, 11am CST
- 11: Native American Day, Headquarters Closed
- 11: Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication: Sgt William Christensen, Post 194, Parkston, 1pm CST
- 13: Navy Birthday
- 16: Women Veterans Alliance Event, SD Military Heritage Alliance Center, 9am-2pm CST
- 20: SD Veterans Council Meeting, SD Military Heritage Alliance Center, 9am CST
- 31: Halloween

NOVEMBER 2021

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- 2: Election Day
- 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- 11: Veterans Day, State Headquarters Closed
- 11: Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication: SSG Gregory Wagner, Hanson HS Gym, Alexandria, SD, 10am CST
- 13: Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair, Sturgis Community Center, 12-3pm MST
- 25: Thanksgiving, State Headquarters Closed
- 26: Thanksgiving Observed, Headquarters Closed
- 28-Dec 6: Hanukkah

DECEMBER 2021

- 7: Governors Budget Address, Pierre
- 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 13: National Guard Birthday
- 18: Wreaths Across America, South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery, Sioux Falls, 11am CST
- 20: Space Force Birthday
- 24: Christmas Eve, Headquarters Closed
- 25: Christmas
- 26-Jan 1: Kwanzaa
- 31: New Years Eve, Headquarters Closed



The South Dakota State American Legion Golf Tournament was hosted by the Wakonda American Legion Post #13 on Sept. 11th and 12th. Saturday play was at Grendridge Golf Course at Irene, SD, and Sunday play was at the Bluffs Golf Course at Vermillion, SD. Ten teams participated with 40 players from around the state.

A evening meal was provided after Saturday's play at the Irene golf course. Pin prizes were announced at the social. The \$10,000 pin prize went unclaimed. \$1500.00 of the earnings from this year's tournament will be directed to South Dakota Veterans Freedom Flight. The winning team members were: Greg Brewer, Hermosa; Gene Gillen, Humboldt; Kerry Loudenslager, Hartford; Tom Puthoff, Humboldt. The second place team was from Wakonda. The team members were Wayne Beatty, Tom Larsen, Jim Logue, and John Peterson.

The annual South Dakota American Legion Golf Tournament is held after Labor Day. Next year's tournament site will be determined in January.

Department Americanism



Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

As we start our new Legion year, I hope we can hit the ground running! We have been tested and tried over the past year with shutdowns and canceled events. While we stayed safe, life for our Veterans and youth did not

take a pause. Our struggling Veterans, especially those with children in their homes, had increased pressures on them. Sharing our Americanism programs with our fellow Veterans and youth may help to calm the fears from the past year. The information regarding our Americanism program have recently been sent out to our Post Americanism officers. Post Americanism Officers are the only Legionnaires from your Post receiving these Packets. Please share this information with your school counselors/principals.

Gaining access to our schools can be a challenge. Post Americanism officers will need to make an appointment with their school officials early in the school year to deliver the packet to them and explain our various programs. You will also need to schedule visits to your school(s) to address the students. Senate Bill 83, authorizing certain patriotic societies access to public schools was signed into law on March 8th, 2018 and ensures your right to address the students "during the first quarter of each academic school year". Please do not wait to submit your Americanism information to the school as time draws closer to our event deadlines.

If your Post runs into problems gaining access to local schools after a reasonable number of attempts have been made, please be sure to drop a note to Adjutant Hempel. We are trying to document the number of districts that we are finding it difficult to gain access to. This is necessary to do before we can investigate school access issues any farther with the State. It is important to address students early in the year about the various programs offered in the Americanism packet so that the student has time to plan on their end and prepare to participate in the programs. Setting up a good rapport with the school also makes it easier for the Post to visit with the students again over the course of the year as a reminder of the programs.

The "Big 3 rack card" provides school officials and students with the most basic and hopefully "eye-catching" details on what, when, where, eligibility, deadlines, available scholarships, and where to find additional information online. The primary purpose of this product is to grab the staff and students' attention with the amount of money they can earn for postsecondary education as well as the opportunities for leadership experience. There will still be a pdf version of this sheet online at: www.sdlegion.org, under the Programs tab and then Big 3. You might consider printing out several copies of this online sheet to take with

you when addressing a group of students.

If you notice, we have added some new content to the packet this year. First you might see a square box on some of the literature that is full of dots. This box is not there by accident. This box is called a QR "quick response" code. This is basically like a bar code that you see on the back of any food item you purchase. The QR code allows the student the ability to take a quick photo of the code and that photo will take the student directly where they need to go to find out more information about the program.

Additionally, you will see some literature about some Auxiliary Americanism programs. The reason we are adding this information to your packet is there are some Posts that do not have Auxiliaries much like there are some Auxiliaries that do not have a Legion Post. The Auxiliary Americanism packet that will be sent to all Auxiliary Americanism chairs will also contain information about Legion Americanism programs.

This doubling up of information will help to reinforce that the American Legion and Auxiliary want to be a part of the school's curriculum. Plus, there are programs from both organizations that open to all students to participate with, i.e., Poppy Posters, Poems and Essays, Youth Trooper Academy, Shooting Sports, etc.... We are a Legion Family, and we should support each other's programs however we can.

If you need more of these materials to hand out, you can find all of them online. We want them to be as eye appealing as possible, so please try to print them in color. Most brochures are available for download and printing: <https://www.legion.org/publications> and on <https://www.sdlegion.org> under the Programs menu.

The 85th Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program takes place between December 2021 and April 2022 and requires the most urgent attention. Your school(s) and students' attention should be drawn to this as soon as possible so that the students have a chance to properly prepare. You should also provide a press release to your local newspaper to help stimulate interest in this program. Videos, briefings, and other information outlining the requirements and procedures for conducting an Oratorical Contest are available at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical> and <https://www.sdlegion.org/oratorical-scholarship/>.

Boys State will be held from May 30th through June 3rd in 2022. The big change for 2021 is the inclusion of both Juniors and Seniors. Only those finishing their junior year will be eligible for Boys Nation. Find the most up to date information at <https://www.sdlegion.org/boys-state/> with a link to the registration site. Registration will once again be online only. The fee remains \$200.00 per student. SD Boys State Registrar (Travise Flisrand) and Department Headquarters will need a point of contact with a valid email address from each Post. The online registration system will automatically notify the Post, at the email address provided, with the students and parents contact information provided during registration. Once a Post is notified, they should use their normal procedures for delegate selection from their Boys State applicants. If you find you have more students that want to attend Boy's State and your Post is unable to send them all, please reach out to your District

Commander or the Boy's State Registrar who may be able to assist with pairing the student up with other local Posts so that they can attend. More information pertaining to the 2022 Boys State session will be sent directly to all the schools and American Legion Posts around mid-January of 2022.

The Youth Trooper Academy will take place from June 20th through June 24th in 2022. Participation is once again limited to 24 slots for the entire state. One of the big applicant disqualifiers is a lack of a valid driver's license, so please make sure each applicant possesses this very important document before you let them fill out the application. The Youth Trooper Academy is an American Legion program. Please make sure that any student applying for the Academy knows what the American Legion is and how they are involved with the Youth Trooper Academy. Application cutoff is March 20, 2022!! Look for up to date information online at: <https://www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy/> The application can be found online, printed out and then sent to: South Dakota Highway Patrol, 1302 E. Highway 14, Suite 5, Pierre, SD 57501-8505, Attention Lt. Tony Maunu.

And let's not forget Baseball! Baseball has been an important part of the South Dakota American Legion since it's inception in Milbank in 1925. While it is not listed on the Big 3 rack card, it is our largest organized youth program, promoting the principles of 100 percent Americanism, sportsmanship, leadership, healthy living, citizenship, and character building. South Dakota is split into 7 regions, 2 age groups - Jrs and Srs, and 2 classes - A (larger schools) and B (smaller schools). Please check out the following website for more information: <https://www.sdlegion.org/american-legion-baseball/>.

These programs are our heavy hitters within the Americanism program, however there are additional programs that are equally import, i.e., Children and Youth, Education and Scouting. Please be sure to participate in these programs, where available. In addition, be on the lookout for information to come on how our local Posts can partner with their local 4-H groups to offer guidance/mentorship while supporting both organization's programs of public speaking/oratory and shooting sports.

As your year progresses, be sure to document it!!! Keeping your Consolidated Post report updated with your Americanism program work will also make it easier for you to fill out your year-end Americanism report, Post History report and the VA&R report if submitted. Let's have a great year.

Thank you for all your hard work on our Americanism Programs! Let's work together for successful year!

Harry Boner
Department Americanism Chair

Phone: 605-691-4571

Email: SDLegionAmericanism@gmail.com



Left: Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel, Past Department Commander Fred Nelson, Department Membership Chair Travis Flisrand and Department Vice Commander Eugene IronShell, Jr. receive the National O.L. Bondenhamer Trophy at the National Convention held in Phoenix, Arizona. This trophy is awarded annually to the department whose standing is number 1 on the Flag Day (June 14) membership report. It is limited to the 52 departments within the United States, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
A sincere congratulations to all South Dakota Legionnaires, Posts and Districts--this was a team effort, and your work was very much appreciated!



Above: Eugene Iron Shell, Sr., and Eugene Iron Shell, Jr. in front of the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C.. The two Veterans were there as part of a Midwest Honor Flight trip to view the memorials, Sr as the Honoree and Jr as the Guardian.

American Legion Around the State



Henry G. Fix Post 23 of Garretson had phenomenal success with their "Send One" Midwest Honor Flight fundraiser: they raised over \$10,000 in on day which will be used to send Veterans to DC on a future Honor Flight.



Post #22 members of Rapid City man a refreshment table at the Black Hills Veterans March, which had over 100 participants this year throughout the categories.



Post #42 member Don Karlstad poses with Arlington 6th Graders. American Legion members Terry Hanson, Dale Royer, Leon Josephsen, Genie Madsen, and Don Karlstad shared the significance of our nation's flag during a visit to Mrs. Antonen's sixth grade classroom.



Left: Philip and Ellen Egeberg display their medals for completing the American Legion "100 Miles For Hope 2021 Challenge" The Challenge supports "the American Legion's Veterans and Children's Foundation". Ellen placed 172 in the challenge and her husband placed 674. Philip is the Commander of Burrows-Young Post 114, Volga, SD and Ellen is the treasurer of Unit 114 Auxiliary in Volga, SD.

Right: Isabel Post 120 Commander Jim Boldt leads prayer during the District 2 Fall Meeting in Isabel. Our sincere condolences to the Boldt family on the sudden passing of Jim.





Jim Huls, Madison

From the NEC

Just returned from National Convention of the American Legion in Phoenix where temp was 110F every day (dry heat). Paul Dillard (Tx) was elected commander. Commander Dillard will visit South Dakota in April of '22 for a few days. Schedule hasn't been set but will probably travel across South Dakota. Vice Commander for the Midwest Region is Angel O Narvaez (PR). Thats Puerto Rico. 1st leading candidate for National Commander is James Troiola (NY), 2nd leading Candidate is Daniel J Seehafer (WI). James Troiola visited our Department for our Convention this past summer in Huron.

The South Dakota Delegation sat front and center and was housed in the Sheraton Hotel very near the Phoenix Convention Center because of our Department's Membership standing. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hon Doug Ducey spoke to those present as well as several Senators and Congressman from the Committees on Veterans Affairs. The Legion Riders Legacy Run raised \$1.1 M for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Veterans and Childrens Foundation has embarked on a \$25M fundraising to fund the foundation. As a Department we should think about a donation this next year.

The Featured Program of the National American Legion this next year is Veterans Suicide Prevention. This is a serious problem for our veterans and we as a Veterans Service organization must do whatever we can do to prevent this terrible problem. Watch for signs of this among your veteran friends and get help if you see things aren't going well.

District Fall Meetings start this weekend and I plan on attending most of them. National Fall Meetings are October 2-5 in Indianapolis.

Veterans Strengthening America



Doug Feltman, Chamberlain

From the Vice

The 102nd National Convention of The American Legion is in the scrap book. It was a very successful convention and Phoenix was a great host city, and HOT. The convention attendance was down some because of the virus, but not the quality of the speakers or the content of their presentations. There were ample training sessions for anyone who wanted some very good training on relevant topics. The various committee meetings were very interesting and a good way to learn what The Legion is doing for our veterans and our communities. We also got some good news in that there will not be a dues increase next year.

Attending a National Convention and attending the various meetings and presentations make a person very proud to be a member of the largest veteran's organization in the Nation. Next year's convention will be in Milwaukee. That is not too far away and I encourage you to attend if at all possible. I don't think you will be disappointed.

On the way home from Phoenix I stopped and helped in the Veterans building at the State Fair for two days. What a great time to meet and talk to those that have served, those currently serving and those that will serve. Many people came through the building and we distributed a lot of information about our programs and what the Legion does for our veterans and our communities.

I look forward to visiting your post and attending your functions as I travel around the State. Commander Wolkow, Department Commander, Eugene Ironshell, Department Vice Commander and I will do everything that we can to help and support you, your Post and your communities. Please feel free to contact us.

Doug Feltman
Department Vice Commander

Recognize Local Heroes: Nominate "Of the Year" Candidates Today

We all have them: the local heroes who, day in and day out, work to keep our communities safe. The American Legion recognizes these individuals every year through the Firefighter/EMT, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards. While it goes without saying that the Department wants Posts to recognize its local heroes for what they do, these awards also serve an important secondary purpose: It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement and firefighting agencies, which is more critical now than ever.

Firefighter/EMT of the Year:

The Firefighter/EMT of the Year Award to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, will be given annually at the Legion's Department and National Conventions.

Nominees must A: be a citizen of the United States, male or female; and B: be a certified, living, active, full-time, paid, or volunteer firefighter. Military firefighters are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state firefighter certified.

Nomination packages cover the time period of 1 July to 30 June. District Commanders are responsible for ensuring their nominees are forwarded to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Firefighter/EMT of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here:

<https://www.legion.org/security/firefighter>

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:

Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The award, which especially takes into account heroic acts, is presented annually at the Legion's Department and National Convention.

Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest. Posthumous awards will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the department's selection.

Nominees must be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshal, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.) Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified. Nominees must also reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the nominating department.

Nomination packages cover the time period of 1 July to 30 June. District Commanders are responsible for ensuring their nominees are forwarded to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here:

<https://www.legion.org/security/officeraward>

Show Post Appreciation For Community Businesses with Employer Awards

Recognizing businesses that support Legion ideals by hiring Veterans, Older, and Disabled Workers builds reciprocal relationships that benefit the entire community. Every Post should try to recognize one business in each of the categories below:

Employer of Older Workers Award: In 1958, the National Veterans Employment & Education (VE&E) Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program by creating an award for employers of older workers. Because the commission saw older workers as a valuable economic resource of proven skills, stability and experience, it wanted to encourage employers to hire and retain older workers in the work force. National "Employ the Older Worker Week" was established by The American Legion and is observed during the last full week of each September. The National VE&E Commission believes that this particular award category will become increasingly important over the next few years. Several major studies have concluded that as we move through the twenty-first century there will be fewer young people entering the labor market. As a result, it will be necessary for employers to encourage older workers to stay in the labor force.

Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons: The purpose of the National Organization on Disability (NOD) Awards competition is to confer national recognition on organizations, such as The American Legion, for their involvement in enhancing the lives of disabled persons by providing opportunities for their participation in community activities. Any Legion project or program that improves the quality of life for disabled persons will be considered.

The Employment Service Award: The purpose of the ES awards program is to confer national recognition annually on one outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER), one Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialist (DVOP), and one local ES office. LVERs, DVOPs, and the ES office provide job counseling, testing and placement assistance to unemployed and underemployed veterans

Homeless Veterans Outreach Award: This award will be given to The American Legion department that demonstrates American Legion family involvement in homeless veteran initiatives that show outstanding support for activity in any or all of these areas: volunteerism, prevention, supportive housing, advocacy and fundraising

Employer of Veterans Award: The Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program in 1969 when it created an award category for employers of veterans. Originally, departments were permitted to submit one nomination each for a large and a small employer of veterans. In 1992, the number of awards for employers of veterans was increased. Today, departments may submit a total of three nominations for this category for national consideration.

- One nomination for a small company with 50 or fewer employees
- One nomination for a medium sized company with workforces of 51 to 200
- One nomination for a large company with 201 or more employees

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form with no more than two pages of narrative, along with supporting documents and received by November 15, 2021. Official forms can be found at <https://www.sdlegion.org/employment-award-forms/>

Mail all official nomination forms to:

State Legion Headquarters
PO Box 67
Watertown, SD 5720

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

Children and grandchildren of veterans are eligible to apply along with veterans. Scholarships will be paid to the Recipient and the post-secondary school that they attend after the completion of the 1st semester.

Applications due
February 15, 2022

<https://www.sdlegion.org/scholarship-information/>



Looking for the perfect Christmas present? The South Dakota American Legion has the gear for you! Check out our line of clothing offered through Sign Design of Colton, SD. South Dakota Sons gear is also available, and Auxiliary is in the works for emblem approval. Posts can request gear to be customized for their specific post--a great option for Honor Guards or Post Officers.

The line includes a large variety of items: ballcaps, jackets, polo shirts, quarter zips, long and short sleeve dress shirts and t-shirts. Items can be purchased in multiple colors, with no minimum order required. Additionally, the T-shirts and jackets are available with the general American Legion emblem. Shipping is available.

Sign Design is owned and operated by Shane Lamer, an Army veteran and member of the Ruste-Wahl Post #154 of Montrose, SD. Lamer is excited to bring high-quality gear to the Department for this project, and welcomes suggestions for any future products. Find the store here:

americanlegion.signdesign1977.club

Support the South Dakota American Legion Foundation through Amazon Smile this Holiday Season



Did you know you can support South Dakota American Legion programs while online shopping?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, such as the South Dakota American Legion Foundation, every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation.

Already have the app on your phone? AmazonSmile is available for Amazon customers with the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on their mobile phone, including Android devices with version 7.0+ or iOS devices with version 12+. To activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app, simply tap on "AmazonSmile" within the Programs & Features menu or Settings and follow the on-screen instructions.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization (like the South Dakota American Legion Foundation--hint, hint) to receive donations from your future eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Amazon will remember your selected charity whenever you shop at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile activated in the Amazon Shopping app, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation for your selected charity.

And yes, you can change your charity at any time. Simply visit smile.amazon.com/change, or tap "AmazonSmile" within the Settings menu in the Amazon Shopping app on your phone and select "Change your charity". Your AmazonSmile purchases made after changing your charity will count towards your newly selected charity--so if you aren't supporting your South Dakota American Legion Foundation yet, let's fix it!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Karl's carries Quality Products with Personalized Service!

Conveniently located in 13 South Dakota cities & small towns.

Karl's has 31 locations in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

We Sell & Service the Industry's Top Brands!

BOSCH LG SAMSUNG GE APPLIANCE SUB-ZERO

KitchenAid Whirlpool MAYTAG AMANA Speed Queen

Nicolet beko Electrolux FRIGIDAIRE SONY Serta

"Your Servicing Dealer Since 1956."

www.karlsonline.com

Elmer Karl
Founder and President of Karl's
Korean Veteran

KARL'S
TV • AUDIO • APPLIANCES • FURNITURE

MOLLET MEMORIALS

Monuments • Markers • Veteran Projects

For all memorial needs the experts at Mollet Memorial can create a memorial that will help you Remember, Honor and Share Your Memories of your loved ones.

Marlon Mollet - Army Veteran 605-334-1816 • C 605-360-9656 Sioux Falls SD	Stan Hegg - Navy Veteran 605-350-2797 Huron SD
Cal Plienis - Navy Veteran 605-359-1591 Sioux Falls SD	Betsy Lingbeck 605-983-4738 • C 605-270-4782 Arlington SD

You Can Still Have Your Dream

Finish Your Degree

ILT is an online institute of higher education helping fulfill the dreams for many Veterans.

Contact ILT today to complete your Associates Degree, Bachelor Degree, PHD Degree or your Military Chaplaincy Degree.

www.ilt.edu • (605) 692-9337
910 4th St. • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD 57006

Parkston to host traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall next June



The Parkston American Legion and Auxiliary and the Hutchinson County Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, along with other local organizations, will host the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall.

The Wall arrives Wednesday, June 29, 2022, with a parade through Parkston to the East Park, where it will be set up with volunteers the morning of Thursday, June 30, 2022. A soft opening and viewing is planned for noon that day. While the 180' x 180' Wall is at the center of attention,



South Dakota Taps

As reported to Department Headquarters, June 16, 2021-September 21, 2021
"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

Benjamin Disraeli

#3 Chamberlain	Robert Fahy	#50 Sisseton	Arvice Lewis	#145 Howard	Gregory Dornbusch
#3 Chamberlain	Larry Hosek	#50 Sisseton	Thomas Predergast	#145 Howard	Winston Genzlinger
#3 Chamberlain	Leonard Marsh	#50 Sisseton	Louis Quinn	#145 Howard	Curtis Hueners
#6 Gregory	Howard Hogrefe	#50 Sisseton	Joe Schuch	#145 Howard	Wallace Jacobson
#7 Huron	Lawrence Ames	#50 Sisseton	Burdell Simonson	#145 Howard	Elton Ristesund
#7 Huron	Dale May	#52 Armour	Lowell McFarland	#145 Howard	John Weidler
#7 Huron	Grant Vanduzee	#53 Canton	Omar Petterson	#146 Colome	Vernon Fischer
#8 Pierre	Ed Assman	#56 Geddes	Virgil Fuerst	#146 Colome	George Soles
#8 Pierre	Carol Schmautz	#60 Clark	James Weaver	#146 Colome	Jack Steffen
#11 Wagner	Francis Beeson	#62 Humboldt	Roger Begeman	#147 Buffalo	Clarence Hunsucker
#11 Wagner	Francis Lhotak	#63 Lake Preston	Howard Melstad	#147 Buffalo	Gene Stensland
#12 Yankton	James Kennedy	#65 Dell Rapids	Avor Boeve	#150 Avon	James Lukkes
#12 Yankton	Chuck Levinger	#65 Dell Rapids	Gerald Crisp	#150 Avon	Albert Simek
#14 Wess. Springs	Ronald Mook	#65 Dell Rapids	William Huntimer	#155 Scotland	Budd Pedersen
#15 Sioux Falls	Donald Burnett	#65 Dell Rapids	Jay Nebben	#155 Scotland	Eugene Weidenbach
#15 Sioux Falls	Robert Kilborn	#65 Dell Rapids	William Northrop	#161 Wentworth	Harvey Mahood
#15 Sioux Falls	Leroy Liesinger	#65 Dell Rapids	Alfred Thomas	#161 Wentworth	Vernette Stodtmeister
#15 Sioux Falls	Jerome Rupp	#66 Lemmon	Melvin Haugen	#162 Canistota	Karl Voeltz
#15 Sioux Falls	Ralph Scouler	#66 Lemmon	Robert Hermann	#164 Spearfish	Don Breidenbach
#15 Sioux Falls	Arden Smith	#66 Lemmon	Ronnie Holdahl	#164 Spearfish	Charles Clapp
#15 Sioux Falls	Rodney Thompson	#66 Lemmon	Donald Merriman	#164 Spearfish	Joseph Frampton
#17 Codington Co.	Ira Davis	#67 Ipswich	Jacob Hammrich	#164 Spearfish	Keith Larson
#17 Codington Co.	Hilmer Moen	#67 Ipswich	Robert Olson	#164 Spearfish	Larry McCollam
#17 Codington Co.	Donald Redlin	#67 Ipswich	William Steen	#169 Winner	Gerald Bachmann
#17 Codington Co.	Robert Swanson	#70 Flandreau	Thomas Spiering	#169 Winner	Harold Benson
#17 Codington Co.	Glenn Tesch	#71 Hot Springs	Earneest Lively	#169 Winner	Leo Froning
#17 Codington Co.	Carl Weber	#72 Beresford	John Fitzgerald	#169 Winner	James Kucera
#18 Mitchell	Joseph Kiner	#72 Beresford	Derrell Hubert	#169 Winner	Verlyn Parkis
#18 Mitchell	Clayton McLaughlin	#74 Brookings	Arnold Adams	#172 Edgemont	Jack Brunson
#18 Mitchell	Marlin Neugebauer	#74 Brookings	Maurice Hale	#173 Philip	Ralph Gebes
#18 Mitchell	Duane Nygaard	#74 Brookings	Thomas Raines	#174 Lennox	John Bruns
#18 Mitchell	Millard Stunes	#75 Murdo	Dean Faber	#179 Kenn-Rel	Dennis Whitney
#20 Ft. Pierre	Marlin O'Daniel	#76 Veblen	Roger Soli	#183 Tabor	Donnley Dvoracek
#20 Ft. Pierre	Raymond Rathbun	#78 Leola	Delmer Wahl	#183 Tabor	Jack Lundy
#22 Rapid City	James Huggines	#80 Britton	Ronald Jarrett	#184 Estelline	Roger Oines
#23 Garretson	Jerry Muchow	#86 Alcester	Thomas Briggs	#187 Fairfax	Don Davis
#24 Aberdeen	Ronald Brandly	#86 Alcester	Gorman Nygard	#187 Fairfax	Terrence Liewer
#24 Aberdeen	Hurley Gelhaus	#86 Alcester	Marvin Schempp	#216 Ramona	Francis Asmussen
#24 Aberdeen	Steven Hermansen	#91 Dallas	Vernon Kerner	#217 Hayti	Keith James
#24 Aberdeen	Stephen Oakes	#92 Redfield	Wilbur Pudwill	#217 Hayti	Delbert Petersen
#25 Madison	Donald Dragseth	#96 White Lake	Theodore Meier	#241 Erwin	Jerome Penn
#25 Madison	Lloyd Schultz	#96 White Lake	Wallace Mohnen	#246 Wall	Bernard Foster
#26 Stickney	Lloyd Vangendere	#100 Selby	Earl Frank	#246 Wall	Paul Goldhammer
#26 Stickney	Robert Wieszczonek	#100 Selby	Granville Glerup	#253 Roslyn	Howard Kjos
#27 Kadoka	Jim Mansfield	#100 Selby	Jack Lemburg	#253 Roslyn	Allen Svare
#27 Kadoka	Richard Olney	#100 Selby	Dean Lemburg	#255 Bison	Arthur Christman
#31 Lead	Dorothy Erhart	#106 Faith	Walther Weichert	#261 Ethan	Robert Oberembt
#33 Sturgis	William Stewart	#108 Bradley	Maurice Rick	#262 Claremont	John Kimball
#33 Sturgis	Juno Sundstrom	#116 Alpena	Earl Neumeyer	#264 Bowdle	Dwayne Lee
#37 Bryant	Kenneth Steever	#118 Hartford	Howard Davis	#267 Grenville	Larry Sichmiller
#38 Miller	Hubert Clement	#118 Hartford	Warren Johnson	#273 Frederick	Dennis Pelkofer
#38 Miller	Frederick Hibbison	#118 Hartford	Ernest Kroeger	#273 Frederick	Eugene Pence
#38 Miller	Jack Ufen	#118 Hartford	Dale Mustar	#273 Frederick	Lee Wilson
#38 Miller	Frank Wellner	#121 McLaughlin	Quenton Heid	#279 Thunder Hawk	John Schell
#40 Webster	Pete Bedessem	#125 Rosebud	Andrew Points-At-Him	#283 Chancellor	Donald Otten
#40 Webster	Charles Chilson	#125 Rosebud	Kayo Smith	#289 Mansfield	Allan Anderson
#40 Webster	Richard Denouden	#132 Springfield	Terry Kaul	#292 Tulare	Barry Sires
#40 Webster	Percival Monson	#132 Springfield	John Lundin	#303 Hermosa	Don Brickheimer
#42 Arlington	Lyle Henrikson	#135 Gettysburg	Curtis Eliason	#307 Renner	Charles McGaha
#42 Arlington	Clair Husby	#135 Gettysburg	Dale Nauman	#500 South Dakota	Mike Neuroth
#42 Arlington	Gary Madsen	#136 Chester	Richard Erickson	#500 South Dakota	Rodney Zenk
#44 Alsen	Leonard Bottolfson	#142 Tripp	Kenneth Buehner	#500 South Dakota	James Beal
#45 Harrisburg	Carroll Irvine	#143 Midland	Lawrence Donelan	#500 South Dakota	Kenneth Klebsch

Parkston is planning on holding a Celebration of Freedom, continuing through Monday, July 4, 2022, when the Wall will be loaded back onto the trailer for its next destination. The centerpiece of the celebration is the Wall, but all veterans of past wars will be recognized and honored during the exhibit.

Preliminary plans for each day it is open are Reveille, posting of the colors, Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. There are plans for speakers, food, patriotic displays and entertainment throughout the four-day event, with closing ceremonies each day of a 21-gun salute, Taps and retrieval of the colors.

Other preliminary plans include a car show Saturday, July 2, 2022, and a non-denominational church service on Sunday, July 3, 2022.

Planners also will be sending out invitations to many national and state leaders, as well as the local and national congressional delegation.

The Celebration of Freedom committee would like to invite everyone to come and visit the memorial. They also are asking for any volunteers who would like to assist in a variety of ways during the celebration. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 7 p.m., at the American Legion Hall on Main Street, Parkston.

Contact local American Legion Representative Cal Luecke, 605-690-3394, or the state Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Barb McKean, also from Parkston, 605-630-0771, for more information.

The Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. It stands six feet tall in the center and tapers off in two directions. The Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War and is meant for the purpose of helping rekindle friendships and to allow people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home towns who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington, D.C.

Family Memorials by Gibson - We know Granite!!

Sioux Falls
605-335-0980
Watertown
605-884-0980
Yankton
605-664-0980

Chamberlain Monument Co.
605-234-0980

Pierre Monument Co.
605-224-4980

See us for all your War Memorial & Cemetery needs.

SOLDIER'S PRAYER
LORD, PLEASE BLESS OUR VETERANS! GUARDIANS OF THIS LAND, ALWAYS READY FOR BATTLE WHEN ENEMY THREATS ARE AT HAND!

GIVE THEM THE STRENGTH, COURAGE & RESOLVE TO STAND FIRM WHEN DUTY CALLS, AND THE COMPASSION, PEACE & INTEGRITY WHEN SUPPORT IN THEIR MISSION FALLS.

AS OUR NATION'S PRAYERS GO OUT, WITH THEM WE LAUGH & MOURN, IT IS THROUGH THESE BRAVE & SELFLESS VETERANS THAT FREEDOM CAN BE BORN

Visit us online at www.gibsonmonuments.com - See our work on Facebook & Instagram