

From the Embers:

POST #13 SHOWS RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY



Photos by: Michael Hessman

The Wakonda Honor Guard supports Wakonda and surrounding cities during funerals and memorial services for Legion members.

Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer

On October 5, 2006, the Wakonda American Legion burned to the ground. It was utter devastation: the building was a complete loss, with the vast majority of Legion memorabilia was gone. Like the proverbial phoenix, members of the Gingrich-Dixon Post #13 rose through the ashes and rallied—the post building may have been gone, but the American Legion surely lived. With insurance money and incredible community support, a new building stood within a year in the exact footprint of the old.

The post hasn't rested on its laurels since. It is an incredibly active post, 107 members strong in a town with a population of 347. They stay on top of recruitment by signing up members as soon as they sign up for the service: as Paul Jensen, 55-year member of Post #13 stated, "If they're from Wakonda, they'll at least start as a member of the Wakonda American Legion." It's proven a successful tactic and combined with their innate ability to commit the younger members, Post #13 is thriving.

One such involvement has been the American Legion State Golf Tournament. As host three of the last five years, Post #13 is adept in fundraising, with younger members taking the reins. This last year, the Post

was able to present Midwest Honor Flight with a \$4000 check for the statewide "Send One" campaign, thanks to their efforts with the tournament.

Another participation opportunity is their Honor Guard. The Wakonda American Legion takes pride in their fully American Legion uniformed guard, which regularly supports not only Wakonda but many surrounding communities where fellow Legion posts struggle to field a full firing squad. Additionally, Post #13 volunteers at the State Veterans Cemetery once a month, performing funeral honors for any Veteran lined up that day.

They also take care of their own. When PUFL member Erlin Ellison was injured in a traffic accident earlier this fall, members of Post #13, Alsen Post #44 and other neighbors came together to help harvest the last of the soybean crops left in the fields.

Community involvement is imperative to their success as well: there's the annual Hunters Feed, with over sixty years of tradition in Wakonda and a draw of over 300 people every fall. Brent Frier, past Post Commander, reinstated a Tractor Pull in 2019 after a thirty-year absence, which has been a popular addition. In fact, this year looks to expand with a kid's pedal pull. The post has installed memorial plaques at local cemeteries noting the Veterans buried at each; Post #13 services six cemeteries for Memorial Day, and there are plans to have memorials at each of the six.

In addition to involving the town, the post allows community events to be held at no cost in their hall. The post recognizes that the community of Wakonda bears a big part in their success, and actively works to keep that symbiotic relationship going. As Post Historian Michael Hessman explained, "When the fire happened, the peo-

ple of Wakonda held a fundraiser where \$85,000 came in over the course of the auction. It was a major contribution in getting our building paid for. Our community wanted us back as much as we wanted to be back."

Looking forward, Post #13 doesn't plan on much different. With an ear to the ground on the needs of their community, and members active and engaged, they know they'll adapt to whatever changes may come their way. They've started from scratch before, and they've had incredible success with everything in between. Having the breadth of experience takes away the fear of the unknown, and gives them the ability to always try something new—which makes Wakonda a post to watch.



The Wakonda American Legion held their annual Hunters Feed on October 16, 2021. This is a historic event that has lasted for the past 60 years. According to Michael Hessman, they served about 230 t-bone and sirloin dinners and 30 to-go orders throughout the night. At the event, there was also an auction where Dan Redrick won the donated camo and Winchester shotgun for \$900.



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

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

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

Gary Wolkow
Department Commander



Legion Family,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 2021 is now history. The South Dakota American Legion can truly say they had a very successful year. We plan to enter 2022 with the same vision and plan as 2021. We will continue to hit the ground running and do everything possible to promote our programs and help veterans and their families. As I look back on 2021, since my last article we finished the Fall District meetings with District 6 in Chamberlain and District 3 in Pierre. Next, we had the pleasure to meet with the National Auxiliary President, Kathy Daudistel touring the DTOM Veterans Ranch in Warner and the District 4 Auxiliary meeting in Aberdeen. We had the pleasure to help decorate the Legion Family Christmas tree at the Capital in Pierre. There are many beautiful trees, and we can be proud ours is one of them. Thank you to all that helped decorate the tree. I have had the opportunity to travel all over the state attending Post meetings and visiting Legionnaires and am planning many more visits in 2022. If you would like me to attend one of your meetings, please contact me. We also purchased a newer vehicle. We were scheduled to upgrade last year, but thanks to the covid issues we were not able. We discovered there were not a lot of options and that new vehicles were not available so after a lot of searching a very nice 2020 Buick Enclave with low mileage was purchased. A new Legion wrap was put on and it will do a great job of promoting the American Legion and letting people know we are serving our veterans in South Dakota. I must talk about Midwest Honor Flight. I have had the honor and privilege to attend Honor Flight fundraisers at Legion Posts all over the state. This has to be one of the most amazing and successful

fundraisers the South Dakota American Legion has ever been a part of. We can only express our gratitude by saying THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the Legion Family for their hard work and dedication to give those deserving veterans "that one final tour with honor." We presented Aaron Van Beek, Midwest Honor Flight President, a check in the amount of \$126,000 on November 11th, Veterans Day and since then we have received another \$14,673 in donations with more promised. We can ALL BE VERY PROUD. The Midwinter Conference is coming up very soon at the Arrowood Convention Center in Oacoma. It will be great to be able to meet in person and the committee meetings, the training sessions and all the information available to our Legionnaires will be very helpful. Hope to see you ALL there. Please try to attend if possible. In closing I want to remind everyone of my motto. L.E.T.S. Lets End The Slide. The last National Membership report had South Dakota in the #2 position. That is great! But we have a ways to go and a big challenge ahead of us. Our goal is 17,733. National Commander Dillard is asking for 103%. That number would be 18,264. We have 13,890 members as of December 15, which is good. With ALL OF YOUR HELP we can achieve our goal. There are veterans all over this state just waiting to be asked to join the South Dakota American Legion. And please remember our female veterans, we want all veterans to be a part of our Legion Family. We just need to invite them. Lets End The Slide. I know we can do it!!!

Veterans Strengthening America
Gary Wolkow
Department Commander

Department Calendar

JANUARY 2022

- 12: South Dakota Veterans Council meeting and Legislative reception
- 17: Martin Luther King Day, Headquarters Closed
- 30: Districts complete Oratory Contest

FEBRUARY 2022

- 18-20: MidWinter Conference—Oacoma
- 20: Department Oratory Contest—Oacoma
- 21: President's Day, Headquarters Closed

MARCH 2022

- 12: District 6 Spring Meeting, Ethan with 1:00 social and 2:00 meeting
- 13: District 3 Spring Meeting, Gregory with 11:00 social, 12:00 meal and 12:30 meeting
- 19: District 7 Spring Meeting, Valley Springs with 11:00 social, 12:00 meal and 1:00 meeting
- 20: District 8 Spring Meeting, Location & Time TBD
- 26: District 4 Spring Meeting held in Stratford with 1:00 social, 2:00 meal and 3:00 meeting
- 27: District 5 Spring Meeting, Big Stone with 1:00 meeting and post events following

APRIL 2022

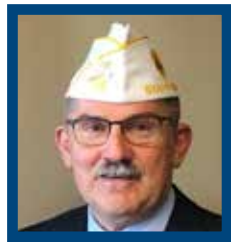
- 2: District 2 Spring Meeting, Mission, 11:30 social, 12:00 meal and 1:00 meeting
- 3: District 1 Spring Meeting, Location & Time TBD
- 25-29: National Commander visit to South Dakota

LONG RANGE

- May 2-5: National Spring Meetings
- May 30-Jun 3: Boys State
- Jun 16-19: Department Convention—Watertown
- Jun 20-24: Youth Trooper Academy
- Aug 26 – Sep1: National Convention, Milwaukee WI

From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant



The New Year is here, and we are looking forward to several events in the next couple of months. By now the Posts should have completed their oratory contest and the Districts should be finishing up theirs. The Midwinter Conference will be next month where the district oratory winners will compete for the top spot at the department. The Midwinter conference will also be host to a number of training events, watch the Up To Now for more information.

The new MyLegion site has been online for about nine months now. Everyone will admit it had a very rough start and they are still working out some of the bugs. However, it seems to be working much better. If you are still having issues using the website, there are a number of training videos on the Legion.org site that might help. If you are still having issues with your log on or getting access to the areas you should have, please contact headquarters and we will see what we can help with. At the very least, we will get you connected with the experts at National Headquarters.

I want to again thank all the Posts that participated in the Send One fund raiser for the Midwest Honor Flight. We have raised over \$140,000, and because of that, Mission 11 which will be fall of 2022, will be named the South Dakota American Legion Honor Flight. A special thanks to those posts that went above and beyond for this campaign. There were a number of posts that raised well over \$5,000.

Now that the Honor Flight fund raiser is behind us, we really need to focus on membership. I have discussed it before, but membership is the life blood of the Legion. It funds our programs that support Veterans and our Children and Youth programs. There are a number of Posts that have 100% or more membership, but there are also quite a few that have less than 50% of their membership so far this year. Let's see if we can't get one more member than last year.

Kevin Hempel
Adjutant
American Legion Department of South Dakota



New brand mark ready for market

The American Legion

A new era of American Legion identity has begun. The American Legion brand mark is now available for a variety of promotional uses – from social media channels to membership drives – and can be downloaded at <https://www.legion.org/brand>. The logo does not replace the 1919-patented official emblem of the organization, which remains in use for official documents, memorial observances, uniforms and post signage.

“The American Legion brand mark was created to modernize our image to appeal to a new generation of veterans,” American Legion Chief Marketing Officer Dean Kessel said. “We launched this vivid new design on the American Legion-sponsored 48 car during the 2021 NTT INDYCAR Racing Series, and millions of fans got to see it every race. It's clear, sharp and effective, even at 225 mph. The design has gotten rave reviews, and now we are ready to advance it to all levels of The American Legion.”

The American Legion Marketing Division has established guidance to help departments and posts choose when to use the brand mark and when the official emblem is more appropriate.

The brand mark is to be displayed in all marketing communications, such as:

- Advertising
- Lifestyle apparel (such as polo shirts and ball caps)
- Community service activities
- Fundraising
- Sponsorships
- Membership recruitment materials
- Digital media
- Social media
- Updated post signage
- Event announcements
- E-mail signature lines

The American Legion emblem is reserved for official organization communications, such as:

- Legal documents
- Policy statements
- Official reports
- Press releases
- Business cards

- Traditional post signage
- Financial documents
- Official letterhead

Kessel explained that brand marks are often successfully used to promote organizations and institutions that similarly have, and keep, time-honored seals, including all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion Marketing Division studied the effectiveness of those brand marks during a three-month design-development process that involved focus group input earlier in 2021.

“When it comes to communications for events, recruitment and other marketing functions, the brand marks of the military branches are most familiar and positively recognized by the public, the official seals less so,” Kessel said. “This is fast proving true for The American Legion brand mark, which now appears on the national American Legion website, social media, e-newsletters and a growing number of promotional materials.”

Like the emblem, the brand mark is legally protected property of The American Legion National Headquarters. Any use outside of the organization – such as merchandising, marketing by groups unaffiliated with The American Legion or at political events – is legally restricted and requires authorization from the national adjutant.

The same rules of permission to use the official emblem apply to the brand mark. Those rules, along with an online application form, can be found at www.legion.org/emblem/request on the national American Legion website.

“Just like the emblem, the new brand mark should never be used in political rallies for candidates or to promote organizations and events unassociated with The American Legion, without prior written authorization,” Kessel said.

In the months ahead, new apparel, flags, signs and other materials adorned with the new brand mark will be available and promoted through Emblem Sales. The national portfolio of membership-recruitment media is also now being refreshed to display the new mark.



Photo by: Paul Mausbach

Veterans Affairs helps disabled vet

The man in grey is a disabled veteran on full disability relying on the Veterans Affairs and his disability check for his housing and daily needs. The gentleman needs to travel to physical therapy every week to keep up his ability to ambulate, but lives too far from public transportation to utilize that. When his transmission went out on his car, he was unable to come up with enough money for the repairs. Veterans organizations across the state chipped in money to help fund the repairs. Clem Egan, owner of Automatic Transmission Service in Sioux Falls, offered to rebuild the transmission at a reduced cost. When the amount raised was still \$400 dollars short, Egan gave this veteran a \$400 discount, rebuilt the transmission and got this disabled veteran on the road again so that he could continue getting to his physical therapy appointments and care for himself.

District Commander Updates

1



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

Hello everyone and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope your Thanksgiving went well and all your Christmas wishes were answered!

The Mid-Winter Conference is coming up soon and I'm looking forward to seeing you all there. The Department Training Committee has put together a top-notch training schedule for the weekend.

The Sturgis SD Veterans Fair was a great success and that was due to all the hard work by all those that helped organize. It was great to see so many of our Veteran organizations and vendors in attendance.

The District membership push is falling a little behind this year. Please get with your Post and start contacting your membership to finish their renewals. Also, if you know a Veteran who might be interested in joining please welcome them to your Post and provide any information they may need to join.

Our Spring Meeting, April 3rd 2022 (location to be determined), and the Post and County Elections are coming up quickly. Elections for our District County Commander and Vice Commander are coming up soon.

Last year was a tough year in our District as we have lost many of our friends to Post Everlasting. Post 308, Eagle Butte SD, lost WWII Veteran Marcella Rose-Ryan LeBeau, also Post 120, Isabel SD, lost Commander James Bolt. Both of these Veterans were wonderful people and their passing is a great loss for our communities. Please keep their families and all the other Veterans and their families we've lost this year in your thoughts and prayers.

5



Matt Lagerstrom, White
www.facebook.com/SDLegion5

Perhaps the hardest part of being a Service Member is the loneliness of duty. Sure, you are surrounded by people that you know and care about, but frequently, you are not near those that you love. For most of what those in uniform do, this is a benefit – honestly, whose spouse would enjoy laying in a snow-melt-filled hasty fighting position, standing watch over an entry control point when it is raining, or driving through a sand-storm when it is 120 degrees outside? Could you imagine having your kids along while mucking through a mosquito infested swamp, or making an attack run into anti-aircraft fire? How about the back-seat-bosun-ing of your mother-in-law as you try to run a fuel line in heavy seas?

Despite the blessing of not having our families near us while we are doing our best to preserve our uniquely American way of life, there is still a hole in our hearts as we face that time away from what we consider precious. Trying to fill that hole is a significant challenge, and for many in uniform the burden of being away from their loved ones is one that prevents them from doing their job well.

Right now there are South Dakotans deployed, and deploying, all around the globe to keep us safe so that we can enjoy our families in peace. Please take some time to say thank you to them. It won't fill the hole, but it will help them to know that we care.

2



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

Greeting District 2,

Our district 2 Post's have been busy this season. They have marched in parades, supported fellow vets on Veterans day, recognized teachers for their impact on our country's future generation, held oratorical competitions, and had numerous post activities, to include those famous Christmas parties and activities. It's been a great year for the American Legion in District 2.

As a district, I would like us to start focusing on two areas: membership and those legion

members who might not be doing well this season. Regarding membership, as a district, we are above the 70 percent goal, however I would like to see our post reach at least 85 percent by midwinter's conference in February. For those who have reached that goal already, thank you.

The second area of focus is supporting our fellow members. Christmas is a joyful time of year but unfortunately some of our members are going through a hard time for various reasons. Please reach out and do a buddy check by encouraging them.

Lastly, I want to thank each one of you and wish you all the best. I am looking forward to

what the new year will bring for our district. Happy Holidays!

6



Vilas Kurtenbach, Plankinton
www.facebook.com/SDLegion6

Hello everyone in District 6

Thanksgiving is over so it is time to start thinking about Christmas and the new year. It is time to start working with the school counselors to start informing the Junior boys on Boy State also the Junior and Seniors boys and girls on Trooper Academy. It would be nice to have every school in the state represented at Boy State. In my mind one of the best things a post can do to help a young man is to send him to Boy State. When they return, they are very appreciative of what they have learned.

It is not too late to give to the Honor Flight. We have done very well already in the state a little more will not hurt.

Mid-Winter is February 18-20 in Oacoma. A wonderful time to meet old friends and make new ones. Also, a great time to learn about the many great programs that the American Legion is involved in.

Membership is year-round in the American Legion. It is challenging work for a post to make 103 per cent that the commander would like or even a 100 per cent would help. Membership is a way for veterans to help veterans. Remember that January 9th is the deadline for the Oratorical Contest completion.

I would like to thank Dean Hansen of Mitchell as our District 6 Vice Commander. He will do a very good job for the district now and in the future.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

3



Gene Opbroek, Gregory
www.facebook.com/SDLegion3

Greetings, I hope everyone had a Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

With Mid-Winter upon us I hope to see a lot of representation from District 3. As always, we must continue to work hard on membership. I sometimes do not think a lot of Legionnaires totally understand the importance of membership. We must always keep in mind that all our Four Pillars revolve around membership. Without it we have NO representation, NO Veterans assistance, NO Youth Programs. Remember, if you see someone wearing a military hat, shirt or getting out of a car with a military or veteran plate, JUST ASK!!

The Oratorical contest will be held on Sunday at Mid-Winter. I recommend everyone to attend and listen to some of the best speakers South Dakota has to offer. Boys State and Youth Trooper applications are available. Make sure to speak to your local High School Juniors and Seniors about Boys State and the Seniors about Youth Trooper. The positive feedback from these programs helps to generate next year's applicants. Make sure to get into your school and help the Counselor make the selection for both these programs. Once the selection has been determined call the students' parents!! Pressure to attend from Mom and Dad always helps.

Finally, bring a member to your Post meetings, pick them up at their residence bring them to the meeting. Maybe they will become an active member, or they know someone who is not a member that you can recruit. Enough from me!! Stay safe, God bless you and this great nation we live in.

7



Patrick Mullen, Madison
www.facebook.com/SDLegion7

Since last issue District 7 has been very busy

with the fund raising for Mid-west Honor Flight. I'm very proud of the response from District 7. Posts have done everything from Feather Bingo, Biscuits and Gravy and Donations. I thank you for your efforts and I know that we live in the best State in the United States and the reason is the People of this fine State stepped up and gave generously. Always remember to thank the people within your Post area without them we would have a hard time achieving goals that we set.

I have visited Posts from Ramona to North Sioux City and Posts in-between and always greeted with a friendly greeting this means a lot to me. In many instances Dan Wyatt Adj. From my Post #25 has been with me he enjoys the visitation as much as I do. We have talked with you and gained many good ideas from you, these ideas we pass onto other Posts and take home to ours. Keep up the amazing work you are the greatest! The Legion has had it ups and downs in the past, however I

4



Bob Thomason, Selby
www.facebook.com/SDLegion4

Greetings from District 4.

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season.

2021 was a very good year in District 4. We were second place in membership and District Vice Commander Kimball and myself have been busy getting awards distributed to our Posts. 2022 will find Ted and I continuing to visit our Posts.

I would like to remind everyone that membership is the driving force behind The American Legion. Each member is a voice on how the Legion operates, as well as being a voice for The American Legion when decisions are made in Congress that affect not only The American Legion, but each and every Veteran in America. Let's all work together in keeping membership numbers up in South Dakota. If you need assistance in this area, please reach out to your County Commander, District Commander or Department Leadership.

As another reminder, there are a few events coming up you might want to consider attending.

MidWinter Conference will be held in Oacoma February 18-22, and District Meetings will be starting in March. I encourage all of you to attend these events if you can. They are great opportunities to meet fellow Legion members, as well as seeing what is going on at the Department and National levels.

Until next time.....

feel that we have been born again and the best is yet to come. The men and women of the legion are uniting and talking to fellow veterans that may not have joined signing them up and we are experiencing growth when possible. Let's have an explosion of go getters. I'm Proud to be a member of the American Legion and Proud to be Dist. 7 Commander.

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LETTERS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

Senator John Thune Home of the Raider



Providing for our nation's defense is one of our most serious responsibilities as members of Congress. The Constitution requires

this solemn duty to ensure that our military is prepared to meet any threat, whether the danger comes from terrorism, rogue states, or major powers. And we have an obligation to ensure that our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to confront the threats we ask them to face.

With both China and Russia flexing their military power – China testing hypersonic missiles and continuing to threaten Taiwan and Russia massing troops on the Ukrainian border – it is critically important that we ensure our nation is prepared to defend itself and our vital national interests, whatever the threat might be.

Congress just passed the annual National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA. While I'm frustrated that it took so long for the Democrat majority to bring this year's bill to the floor, I am happy that we did at least manage to secure a solid piece of legislation that boosts defense funding above the president's request, provides a pay raise for our all-volunteer force, and removed far-reaching policies sought by congressional Democrats. I was proud to vote yes on this year's NDAA, which also contained many significant wins for South Dakota.

Most notably, this year's NDAA contains the necessary funding authorization to continue essential preparation for the B-21 mission at Ellsworth Air Force Base. In June of this year, we learned that Ellsworth had officially been named Main Operating Base 1 for the future

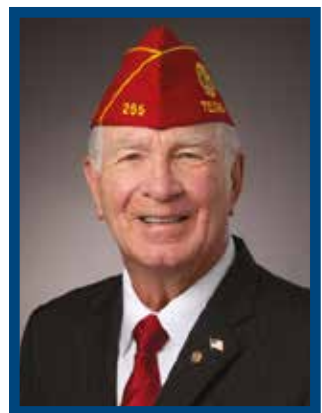
B-21 bomber – "Home of the Raider." This designation not only means that Ellsworth will be the first base to host the B-21 Raider, but that it will also host the formal training unit and the first operational squadron. Once operational, the B-21 Raider will be a critical part of our nation's long-range strike capabilities and nuclear deterrent well into the future.

I am incredibly proud that South Dakota and Ellsworth were chosen to serve as the first operating base for the B-21. When I first came to the Senate, the outlook for Ellsworth wasn't so rosy. I had barely arrived in the Senate when Ellsworth was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, list. It was an all-hands effort by the congressional delegation and Ellsworth, state, and community leaders to make the case to the Bush administration and the BRAC Commission to remove Ellsworth from the closure list. We stood our ground and won the day. Ellsworth was removed from the BRAC list that August. And we got right to work on building up the base so that we would never again find ourselves in the same position.

I am committed to ensuring that Ellsworth has everything it needs for its new mission, so that it can continue to serve as one of our nation's essential military assets for decades to come. To that end, I worked to ensure that this year's NDAA contained not only full funding authorization for B-21 development, but full authorization for six equipment and support facilities that will be needed for the B-21 mission.

Next, Congress must formally appropriate these funds, and I will continue to do everything I can in Congress to work with federal, state, and community leaders to support the men and women at Ellsworth who are conducting the ongoing B-1 mission as we prepare for the arrival of the B-21. The future of Ellsworth Air Force Base is bright, and this NDAA authorizes an important down payment on this next chapter of Ellsworth's distinguished legacy.

National Commander Paul Dillard



To my fellow Legionnaires in South Dakota,

This is a critical time for our organization. A recent report revealed a 15-per-

cent increase in suicide among active-duty troops. Preventing suicide among veterans is a top priority for The American Legion and it should be a top concern for all Americans.

You do not need to be a first responder or a professional counselor to help a veteran in need; you just need to be informed. Please memorize and share the number to the Veterans Crisis Line with anybody whom you think could benefit from it. That's 1-800-273-8255, extension 1. Veterans in crisis can also chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text 838255.

A large and strong American Legion can ensure that our elected leaders in Wash-

ington hear our concerns. That means not writing off any generation of veterans. The LEGION Act not only opened our membership to Cold War veterans, but it also tore down walls that may have existed between various war eras. Last summer's events in Afghanistan continue to be particularly hard for many veterans of that war. We must be accessible to these men and women who may be experiencing a whole range of emotions.

I am extremely proud of the opportunities that The American Legion offers through our job and career fairs. Veterans and their spouses are disproportionately impacted in the job market due to their frequent address changes and other challenges associated with transitioning back to civilian communities.

At its heart, The American Legion is a grassroots community-service organization. The American Legion posts in your department prove it with your constant devotion to our four founding pillars.

I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion.

Best wishes for a productive conference.

Congressman Dusty Johnson

NDAA—What's in, What's out—A Breakdown



Readiness Center in Sioux Falls and \$2.87 billion for B-21 development.

While Congress debated many provisions that I'm sure you heard about in the news, several of those hot topic issues did not make it into the final text of the bill. The "red flag" laws that would allow a judge to issue ex parte protective orders to prohibit firearm possession were not included. Many people were concerned about this policy, as was I, which is why I joined dozens of my Republican colleagues to request this proposal be removed from any final package.

Congress also removed a proposal for women in the Selective Service, or the draft. America has not instituted a draft in over 50 years, and I think you'll see a push over the next year to do away with the Selective Service all together.

The final text of the NDAA also did not include a requirement for defense contractors to pay a \$15 minimum wage. I believe in supporting our workers, but a federal one-size-fits-all approach is not the right answer. We need a proposal that can benefit workers and allow for states and local communities to be in charge while being mindful of any harmful secondary effects of changing wages.

While this was not a perfect bill, there were many provisions I was happy to see included. I have and will continue to support sustained and robust funding for the U.S. Armed Forces to ensure our men and women in uniform have the resources necessary to do their jobs.

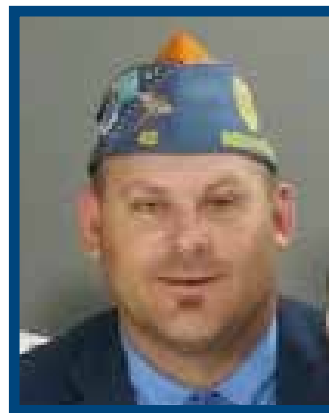
The National Defense Authorization (NDAA) for fiscal year 2022 passed the House with a 363-70 vote. The annual NDAA includes strong policies for our military and wins for South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force Base and the future of the B-21 bomber mission.

One of the biggest wins for the military is a pay raise for our troops. The holiday season is a great time to thank and honor our veterans for their sacrifice for our freedoms, and Congress approving this pay raise is just a small way to show our gratefulness for their service. I am truly thankful to all Americans who have chosen to serve our country.

Also included in final passage of the NDAA is a provision that prohibits the Department of Defense from dishonorably discharging servicemembers that refuse the COVID-19 vaccine. Servicemembers may only receive an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. The NDAA also includes provisions to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The final NDAA also included \$15 million for a South Dakota Guard

SAL Detachment Commander Casey Hanson



to go to meet our goal, but we are headed in the right direction. Membership is everyone's responsibility!

We have three new squadrons that have been chartered: Lake Preston, Custer, and Gregory. We also have Milbank, DeSmet, and Rock Creek that have charter applications in the works. Let's not forget about the Commanders Challenge to every squadron, where they host one fundraiser and 50% of the proceeds get sent into our detachment adjutant and we will send them into the Child Welfare Foundation. Midwinter is coming up. I encourage every SAL member in the state to attend. It is a great time full of knowledgeable experiences.

Make sure you're staying in touch with your legion post and area veterans, asking what you can do to help them out.

Casey Hanson
SD SAL Detachment Commander

Hello Legion Family,

I am very impressed with the way the SD American Legion Family has come together to support the Midwest Honor Flight fundraiser. It is great to see everyone work together for a common cause/goal. Congrats on all the funds that have been raised so far. South Dakota SAL currently sits third in the Nation, and we are leading the Midwest region in membership rate. We still have a long way



South Dakota American Legion raises \$126,000 for Honor Flight



Kevin Hempel Department Adjutant

It started out as an idea the Membership and Marketing Committee started to discuss. As a veterans organization, what could we do to help other organizations that help veterans? One of those ideas was to do a fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight. Midwest Honor Flight is a non-profit organization created to honor America's Veterans for their sacrifices. The organization offers paid transport and tours for veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of visiting veterans and those who have perished. The Midwest Honor Flight organization's service area includes veterans throughout Northwest Iowa, South Dakota and Southwest Minnesota.

As the idea grew, the committee started the "Send One" campaign where they asked each Legion Post to do a fundraiser with the purpose of raising at least \$753, which is the cost to send one veteran on an honor flight. The idea was to raise the funds and then present the check to Midwest Honor Flight on November 11th, Veterans Day. Through the research by the committee, they found out if \$50,000 could be raised, not only would it help fund veterans on the flight, but the Legion would earn naming rights

for the flight. With \$50,000 as the goal, the project started.

No one could have imagined the way the Posts pulled together. On November 11th, Department Commander Gary Wolkow presented a check to Midwest Honor Flight in the amount of \$126,150. There were a number of Posts that held several fundraisers with their communities and donated over \$10,000.

"We are grateful to have the South Dakota American Legion sponsor a flight for our veterans who are so deserving of this once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Aaron Van Beek, Volunteer President and Director of Midwest Honor Flight.

"This is a way to show our appreciation and say thank you to those who served, and we are grateful to each of the American Legion Posts throughout the state of South Dakota that participated in this 'Send One' campaign for showing their support and gratitude for military Veterans in such a generous way."

Commander Wolkow and representatives from area Posts gathered at the Military Heritage Alliance Building in Sioux Falls to present the check.

"Veterans helping Veterans is what the American Legion is all about," Commander Gary Wolkow said. "This year, we asked each American Legion Post across the state to 'Send One' Veteran on a Midwest

Honor Flight: each post would raise at least \$753 to allow one Veteran to tour the memorials in Washington DC. It has been amazing to witness the achievements of our Posts, the community engagement, and the incredible support of our Veterans. We are proud to be sponsoring Veterans for this flight and look forward to future involvement with Midwest Honor Flight."

The campaign was going so well, that many Posts conducted fundraisers after the Veterans Day presentation. As of December 15th, an additional \$15,000 has been donated with several Posts stating they have money yet to be turned in. Once last checks have been received, the Legion will present the additional funds to Midwest Honor Flight.



**If you eat today
THANK A FARMER.
Because you eat in freedom
THANK A VETERAN.
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The SD Legion News
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The Madison American Legion used their Thanksgiving Poultry Party (Turkey Bingo) as their fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight and the "Send One" campaign. They had a great turnout & support from the Madison Community. Together they raised \$5000 for Midwest Honor Flight and they thank everyone for their support and patronage.



(Above) Department Commander Gary Wolkow speaks at the check presentation event for the Midwest Honor Flight at the Military Heritage Alliance Building in Sioux Falls.

(Below) Veterans salute the flag as the National Anthem plays during the check presentation event in November.



(Right) Carroll McDonald Post 246 in Wall had a booth at the annual craft show at the Wall Community Center which is also home for the Legion Post. The fundraiser was a donation of \$25 for a bottle light. The light bottles were created as a hobby by Dave Olson, the post commander. After registration fee was taken out, Post 246 had \$600 which will be sent to state headquarters for the Honor Flight Fund.



(Left) South Dakota Legion members carry the United States and South Dakota flags at the start of the check presentation event, November 11th.



The Spearfish American Family #164 raised \$3,559 for the Midwest Honor Flight as part of the South Dakota American Legion service project to sponsor one of the missions. Our auxiliary unit gave \$1,753, the Post \$753, the Riders \$753, and the Sons \$300. It takes \$753 to give a veteran the opportunity to go on the Flight.

White's Legion Post #88 Hosts Building Contest

Matt Lagerstrom Post Adjutant

On November 13, 2021, Higgins-Jessen-Olson Post #88 of White, SD, hosted their first LEGO Building Contest and the children of the area had a fantastic and challenging time. The event was designed for kids age 5 to 15 and featured three events during the three hour activity. The first event was a LEGO Push-Car Race where the kids were challenged to make a vehicle that would go the furthest - to which the kids met the challenge with most making it 10 to 15 feet, after experimentation and watching other's mistakes, vehicles were reaching well over 40 feet of distance traveled. This was followed by a LEGO tower contest which sought to hold a baseball as far up as it could - and adding to the challenge, this tower

had to withstand the blast of a fan while doing so. During the experimentation phase of this event, there were lots of tips and totters resulting in many laughs which resulted in some of the "small block" towers eventually reaching two feet into the sky - the winning "big block" tower was in excess of three-feet tall. Finally, the kids were encouraged to demonstrate their creativity in three building categories: 1) Military Vehicles; 2) Patriotic Display; and 3) Artistic Talent. During this phase of the contest, the kids were able to play with their LEGOs and enjoyed some great social time talking with their friends as they perfected their creation. It was a fun event which all of the kids enjoyed and all are looking forward to the Post hosting it again next year.



Pictures by Post #88, White, SD
Left: Selection of Baseball Towers
Center: LEGO Push-Car Race Winners
Right: Selection of Building Contest Entries

2022 Midwinter Conference

Midwinter Conference Schedule

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center Cedar Shore
Oacoma, SD

Friday, February 18, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. Department Finance Commission Meeting
12:00 p.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
Boys State Board of Directors
1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m. SDAL Foundation Meeting,
6:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktails- Pre-Function Area, Conference Center
6:30 p.m. Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet

Saturday, February 19, 2022

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session - Conference Center Dept Commander Gary Wolkow, Auxiliary President
Mary Jo Stier and SAL Detachment Commander Casey Hanson Remarks
8:30 a.m. Angel Narvaez, National Vice Commander
8:45 a.m. Dee Dee Buckley, Auxiliary Vice President
9:00 a.m. Auxiliary VA&R Report
9:05 a.m. Auxiliary Children and Youth Report
9:10 a.m. SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock
9:30 a.m. Youth Trooper Academy, Larry Price Public Safety Committee Chair
9:40 a.m. Boys State Program, “Van” VanDelist
9:50 a.m. Scouting Program, Fred Nelson
10:00 a.m. Recess Joint Session – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
10:10 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION 1:
Room 1: MyLegion Room 2: Smart Phones and Social Media
Boys State Board of Directors Meeting
11:00 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION 2:
Room 1: MyLegion Room 2: How to be a successful Post

11:45 a.m. LUNCH BREAK (sandwich buffet available)
12:00 p.m. SAL Luncheon
1:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION 3:
Mentoring Panel Discussion followed by how to avoid scams - held in main convention room
Boys State Board of Directors
2:45 p.m. Reconvene Joint Session -
2:50 p.m. NEC Jim Huls Remarks
3:05 p.m. Doug Feltman, Department Legislative Chairman
3:20 p.m. Fred Nelson – LIT update
3:30 p.m. Travise Flisrand – Department Membership Chairman Membership Report/Awards/Turn-In
4:15 p.m. Rod Smith, VAVS Chairman, Popcorn Fund Turn-In
4:20 p.m. Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
4:30 p.m. American Legion Rider meeting
5:00 p.m. Dept. Membership and Marketing Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. Go-Getter Reception - Chamberlain Community Center
7:00 p.m. Go-Getter Smorgasbord - Chamberlain Community Center
8:00 p.m. Hospitality Rooms, Arrowwood Resort Hotel rooms

Sunday, February 20, 2022

- 8:30 a.m. Non-Denominational Service
10:30 a.m. SD American Legion – State Finals – Oratorical Contest

MidWinter Banquet

*Banquet buffet with fried
chicken, beef pot roast,
loaded mashed potatoes,
corn, potato salad,
coleslaw, rolls and dessert.*

Tickets are \$30, and can be ordered from:
John Payer
25120 344th Ave
Chamberlain, SD 57325
or john.payer@hotmail.com

ADVANCE TICKET FORM TAL FAMILY NOON LUNCHEON

All American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL) – Sat. February 19, 2022
NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Legion Family Noon Luncheon Buffet, Sat. February 19, 2022– 11:45 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
Sliced Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef, Salami, and Pepperoni, Assorted Bread, Swiss and Cheddar
Cheese

Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, and Pickle Spears. Chicken and Rice
Soup. Coffee.

Number of tickets requested @ \$20.00 per ticket _____
[] check box for special dietary needs adn list needs with your check

TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday Legion Family Noon Buffet \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Chamberlain ALA Unit #3

Send to: Lila Speckels

34465 249th St.

Chamberlain, SS 57325

For additional information, contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548

Deadline– February 11, 2022



From the NEC

Jim Huls, Madison

We are in the Christmas season as I write this, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families.

The new American Legion brand mark is now available for a variety of promotional purposes, from social media channels to membership drives. The logo does not replace the 1919 patented official emblem of the organization, which remains in use for official documents, memorial observances, uniforms and post signage. I personally like the looks of this brand mark. The last Emblem sales Catalog has Polo Shirts and T-shirts now available with this Brand Mark. Elsewhere in this issue of Legion News you will find the rules for use of this brand mark versus the Legion Emblem.

Two companion bills have been introduced into the Senate (S1040) and House (HR5562) known as "WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility Act" which exempts WWII vets from the means test needed to receive VA Health Care. This is long overdue and should pass as this is what the country did for WWI vets years ago.

Mid winter is the next Department function held at Arrowwood Resort near Oacoma. National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez from the Dept of Puerto Rico will be our guest. National Commander Paul Dillard from the Dept of Texas will be touring South Dakota for 4 days in April visiting Legionnaires and their Posts. Also Dan Seehafer from the Dept of Wisconsin will be with us for our Department Convention in Watertown, Dan is the Second Leading Candidate for National Commander after Vincent James Troiola who visited us at our last Convention.

See you all at Mid-Winter in Oacoma.



From the Vice

Doug Feltman, Chamberlain

My how the time goes by, time for another edition of The Legion News. As you read this issue it will be another year and we want to make this one a very good year for The American Legion in South Dakota. It looks like there may be other variants of the virus coming to the United States. With that said please do not slow up or stop our "buddy checks". I know everyone is busy but it is now more important than ever to let our fellow veterans know that we are concerned and do care about them. Some people have really cut back on getting out, meeting and talking to others. Please make the call and do what you can to give them assistance if it is necessary. That is what we do as Legionnaires, let them know that they are not alone.

Do not think that "buddy checks" are only for our older generation. About 20 veterans a day take their own lives and we must stop this. They may be struggling with PTSD, covid issues, returning from a deployment and readjusting to family life again. It makes no difference we must be there to assist them. I think everyone can agree that if we are having a down day and we talk to someone that is upbeat and cheerful it makes us feel better. Let's show our fellow veterans that we do care about them. Thank you for caring and lets have a very good year in 2022.

Doug Feltman
Vice Commander
District 3/8



From the Public Safety chairman

Larry Price, SDALPSC

By the time you read this our SDAL Public Safety Committee will have judged the applications for our 2021 Law Enforcement and Fireman /EMT of the Year awards. Thank you to the posts that took the time to recognize these first responders from your communities. We will continue to stress the need for better participation. All of us recognize the importance of First responders and we need to let them know we support them. If your post has not participated in the past, please do so.

The Public Safety committee met with LT. Maunu on Dec. 10th to plan for the 2022 South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy. This year's academy will be held 20-24 June 2022. We are again asking Posts from across the State to help us find applicants. Please go to your schools and visit with staff and students about this outstanding program. We will be selecting the top 24 applicants who are interested in Law Enforcement careers and or the military to attend. The SDAL offers a \$500 scholarship to an outstanding graduate and in the past, the SDHP has done the same.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions about these programs, please contact me.

Larry Price
Public Safety Chairman,

Department Americanism



"Happy New Year's" my fellow Legionnaires! We have put another year behind us, one that was full of its own ups and downs. It is time for us to keep moving forward with our mission and continue to work all of our Legion programs. Post Americanism

Officers have been sharing the good news about all the programs we offer with our local school systems and the generous scholarships associated with those programs.

The Scholarships for the 2022 American Legion National Oratorical Contest will continue at the same rate as first published in 2020/2021: Up to 53 department winners competing in first round quarterfinals will receive \$2,000 each. Up to 15 finalists advancing from the first round to second round semifinals will receive an additional \$2,000 each. The top three finalists receive \$25,000 for first place; \$22,500 for second place; and third place will receive \$20,000. To find out more about the Oratory program, visit The American Legion site: <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>. Your Post Oratory contests should be close to completion by now and all Post finalists should be provided information about

when and where District contests will be held. Keep up to date with your District's Oratorical contest by looking at posted times found in the Up to Now.


The State competition will be held on February 20th, 2022, at 10:30 AM following the Midwinter Conference held at Oacoma, SD. I'm seeking volunteers to help me with that contest. If you are interested, please email me at SDLegionAmericanism@gmail.com.

There are additional programs that fall under the Americanism umbrella, including the other programs noted on the "Big 3" rack cards. Each Post should be actively recruiting students for the Boys/Girls State and Youth Trooper Academy programs. Posts should be visiting with their local school students, Scout troops, 4H clubs and American Legion Baseball players for participation. More information about these programs can be found at <https://www.sdlegion.org> under the programs tab.

We ask that each Post continues to document their year with all these program activities in their annual Post Americanism report, which should be submitted during your Spring District meetings or until May 1st to HQ in Watertown. We ask that all members do what they can to assist their Posts Americanism and History officers to collect and document the year and let's make 2021-2022 a truly outstanding year."

Harry Boner
Department Americanism Officer
Phone: 605-691-4571
Email: SDLegionAmericanism@gmail.com

**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/>

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

Membership & Post Activities



From the Chair

Travis Flisrand, Castlewood

Happy New Year South Dakota Legionnaires!! It has been very impressive to see what we can achieve together as an organization. The Midwest Honor Flight (MWHF) "Send One" campaign has been a huge success in surpassing our goal of at least \$50,000. Mission 11 for the MWHF in the fall of 2022 has been almost entirely paid for by the South Dakota American Legion Posts and their communities, as of December 15, 2021.

2022 now officially here, all Posts "should" be at 100% membership at this time. Those members who have not paid for 2022 have a 1-month grace period to renew their membership by January 31st. If they do not, they are no longer a paid/active member and lose the eligibility to vote as a member. They also lose the Legion magazine and LIT insurance coverage. It is to the benefit of our members to ensure they due to lose their eligibility.

Our next important membership target date is the American Legion birthday in March. There are several big National competitions that occur. The one most impactful for Districts is the National Race to the Top competition. Districts need to be at least at 100% membership by March 31st, if the district's total members on that date exceeds their 2021 membership, they will be eligible to be submitted for this competition. Those who place in the top 3 nationally get a monetary award along with banners to add to their flag.

National Commander Dillard has challenged all Departments to reach 103% of their membership goal by the May target date. The growth of The American Legion is a vital part of keeping our strong voice in Pierre with our legislators and in Washington D.C. in Congress. Every member does make an impact in our ability to lobby to take care of our veterans who have served our country.

The Legion Posts in South Dakota have a history of taking care of their communities, in return the communities of South Dakota have provided a home where veterans and their families are taken care of. We need to continue this strong heritage and mentor the new veterans who join our ranks. Veterans with younger families are incredibly busy and have limited time to volunteer; make the time to educate them, help them and stand by them as they take on roles within your Post. If you support them now, they will be stronger leaders for our future.

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

Very Respectfully,

Travis Flisrand
Department Membership Chairman / USN
Retired



RETAIN, RECRUIT & EDUCATE

POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL	Long Lake	16	18	88.89%	Badger	23	25	92%
DISTRICT 1	1,104	1,496	73.8%	Mansfield	11	15	73.33%	Ethan	91	113	80.53%
Lead	86	102	84.31%	Tulare	17	24	70.83%	Virgil	20	36	55.56%
Belle Fourche	31	43	72.09%	DISTRICT 5	2,279	2,758	82.63%	Iroquois	57	69	82.61%
Sturgis	225	285	78.95%	Milbank	90	132	68.18%	DISTRICT 7	2,955	3,610	81.75%
Lemmon	76	112	67.86%	Watertown	399	498	80.12%	Sioux Falls	1169	1413	82.73%
Bullhead	1	22	4.55%	Bryant	50	57	87.72%	Garretson	178	212	83.96%
Timber Lake	16	16	100%	Webster	127	164	77.44%	Madison	120	147	81.63%
Faith	9	15	60%	Rosholt	21	22	95.45%	Harrisburg	70	88	79.55%
Isabel	26	28	92.86%	Clear Lake	67	76	88.16%	Canton	34	46	73.91%
Mc Laughlin	28	40	70%	Sisseton	199	222	89.64%	Humboldt	61	65	93.85%
Dupree	7	15	46.67%	Clark	56	61	91.80%	Dell Rapids	161	192	83.85%
Mc Intosh	22	24	91.67%	Wilmot	25	29	86.21%	Flandreau	31	40	77.50%
Buffalo	24	31	77.42%	Brookings	125	168	74.40%	Beresford	76	97	78.35%
Spearfish	154	198	77.78%	Veblen	52	55	94.55%	Alcester	17	24	70.83%
Nisland	19	23	82.61%	Britton	61	65	93.85%	Egan	3	16	18.75%
Little Eagle	4	17	23.53%	White	76	81	93.83%	Nunda	13	16	81.25%
Bison	31	42	73.81%	Pierpont	9	15	60%	Bridgewater	12	17	70.59%
Thunder Hawk	56	73	76.71%	Astoria	16	21	76.19%	Hartford	107	127	84.25%
Eagle Butte	24	56	42.86%	Bradley	10	15	66.67%	Trent	23	24	95.83%
Piedmont	184	215	85.58%	Gary	107	135	79.26%	Hudson	77	97	79.38%
Box Elder	79	121	65.29%	Willow Lake	22	24	91.67%	Valley Springs	69	78	88.46%
Bullhead	2	18	11.11%	Volga	77	97	79.38%	Elk Point	34	46	73.91%
DISTRICT 2	1,316	1,808	72.62%	Waubay	39	48	81.25%	Chester	57	90	63.33%
Wood	12	15	80%	Sinai	3	15	20%	Salem	91	90	101.11%
Rapid City	470	583	80.62%	Langford	17	16	106.25%	Montrose	104	104	100%
Kadoka	24	33	72.73%	Carpenter	10	15	66.67%	Wentworth	21	27	77.78%
Custer	71	91	78.02%	Lily	7	15	46.67%	Canistota	27	31	87.10%
Hot Springs	203	251	80.88%	Strandburg	15	21	71.43%	Lennox	60	81	74.07%
Murdo	31	28	110.71%	New Effington	60	60	100%	Baltic	39	60	65.00%
White River	33	42	78.57%	Estelline	64	76	84.21%	Worthing	18	21	85.71%
Rosebud	19	33	57.58%	Elkton	33	47	70.21%	Colton	26	31	83.87%
Midland	22	27	81.48%	Bruce	26	29	89.66%	Ramona	17	22	77.27%
Belvidere	3	15	20%	Raymond	41	49	83.67%	Tea	39	64	60.94%
Hill City	15	25	60%	Hayti	32	39	82.05%	Colman	19	25	76%
Edgemont	14	24	58.33%	Big Stone City	140	154	90.91%	Renner	53	58	91.38%
Philip	56	66	84.85%	Aurora	33	28	117.86%	Brandon	44	71	61.97%
Oelrichs	5	15	33.33%	Castlewood	58	74	78.38%	North Sioux City	49	54	90.74%
Martin	72	91	79.12%	Roslyn	17	26	65.38%	Sioux Falls	36	36	100%
Wall	29	36	80.56%	Andover	6	15	40%	DISTRICT 8	1,438	1,843	77.92%
Pine Ridge	1	16	6.25%	Grenville	29	29	100%	Vermillion	34	56	60.71%
New Underwood	24	24	100%	Kidder	16	22	72.73%	Tyndall	51	55	92.73%
Kyle	0	16	0%	Agency Village	44	43	102.33%	Lake Andes	11	15	73.33%
Wanblee	2	18	11.11%	DISTRICT 6	1,901	2,297	82.76%	Wagner	134	174	77.01%
Batesland	0	16	0%	Chamberlain	78	95	82.11%	Yankton	169	230	73.48%
Mission	5	15	33.33%	Plankinton	36	33	109.09%	Wakonda	86	101	85.15%
Porcupine	2	16	12.50%	Huron	245	279	87.81%	Hurley	31	40	77.50%
Parmelee	2	16	12.50%	Wessington Springs	82	110	74.55%	Parker	1	15	6.67%
St Francis	1	15	6.67%	Gann Valley	12	18	66.67%	Centerville	45	69	65.22%
Draper	13	15	86.67%	Mitchell	244	323	75.54%	Alsene	29	34	85.29%
Manderson	1	17	5.88%	Stickney	43	51	84.31%	Armour	27	39	69.23%
Hermosa	97	132	73.48%	Woonsocket	48	48	100%	Geddes	47	57	82.46%
Norris	6	16	37.50%	Alexandria	31	36	86.11%	Platte	71	75	94.67%
Allen	16	16	100%	Arlington	198	221	89.59%	Viborg	14	20	70%
Rapid City	67	85	78.82%	Artesian	17	17	100%	Springfield	58	63	92.06%
DISTRICT 3	1,211	1,574	76.87%	Wolsey	39	37	105.41%	Tripp	51	59	86.44%
Gregory	59	90	65.56%	Canova	29	33	87.88%	Avon	31	32	96.88%
Pierre	250	332	75.30%	Lake Preston	118	130	90.77%	Menno	74	104	71.15%
Fort Pierre	66	90	73.33%	Hitchcock	21	23	91.30%	Scotland	26	34	76.47%
Burke	18	26	69.23%	Fulton	23	28	82.14%	Davis	6	15	40%
Highmore	30	39	76.92%	Letcher	44	52	84.62%	Tabor	48	61	78.69%
Bonesteel	23	33	69.70%	White Lake	25	27	92.59%	Irene	34	40	85%
Miller	45	46	97.83%	Wessington	41	52	78.85%	Parkston	108	117	92.31%
Blunt	18	21	85.71%	Alpena	18	26	69.23%	Marion	29	42	69.05%
Onida	50	67	74.63%	Kimball	35	46	76.09%	Gayville	29	42	69.05%
Presho	19	22	86.36%	De Smet	127	145	87.59%	Freeman	14	16	87.50%
Dallas	21	29	72.41%	Howard	78	113	69.03%	Delmont	26	43	60.47%
Gettysburg	88	110	80%	Oldham	6	15	40%	Greenwood	4	15	26.67%
Colome	69	81	85.19%	Emery	13	18	72.22%	Corsica	36	50	72%
Vivian	18	20	90%	Pukwana	12	15	80%	Pickstown	17	17	100%
Hoven	80	90	88.89%	M T Vernon	29	43	67.44%	Chancellor	76	95	80%
Witten	13	17	76.47%	Erwin	18	20	90%	Springfield	21	18	116.67%
Winner	209	290	72.07%								
Kennebec-Reliance	60	70	85.71%								
Fairfax	12	15	80%								
Herrick	31	37	83.78%								
Polo	32	49	65.31%								
DISTRICT 4	1,501	1,745	86.96%								
Mobridge	73	96	76.04%								
Aberdeen	398	462	86.15%								
Groton	47	52	90.38%								
Rockham	18	29	62.07%								
Columbia	34	36	94.44%								
Ipswich	26	30	86.67%								
Hecla	24	23	104.35%								
Doland	20	26	76.92%								
Leola	74	83	89.16%								
Redfield	142	156	91.03%								
Selby	53	74	71.62%								
Faulkton	34	39	87.18%								
Warner	41	49	83.67%								
Conde	53	63	84.13%								
Northville	17	16	106.25%								
Mellette	15	20	75.00%								
Herreid	40	35	114.29%								
Eureka	74	91	81.32%								
Hosmer	64	65	98.46%								
Stratford	28	47	59.57%								
Cresbard	37	36	102.78%								
Brentford	14	15	93.33%								
Roscoe	44	45	97.78%								
Claremont	35	36	97.22%								
Bowdle	37	40	92.50%								
Frederick	15	24	62.50%								

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Left: On November 6, Potter Post #3, VFW Post #6436, PAC 93 and Troop #249 Scouts BSA held a Flag disposal ceremony at the South Dakota Veterans Park. We properly disposed of 338 Flags. Thanks to everyone who helped and contributed to this event.



Right: On Saturday 20 November a group of Legionnaires & Auxiliary members decorated the Legion & Auxiliary Christmas tree in the Capital.

American Legion Around the State



Above: On October 15, Post #15 held a potluck dinner for their Honor Guard. Legion member Edward Hruska holds his plate up excitedly while going through the line for food.



Left: A portion of the 62 Honor Guard members from Post #15 pose at the October 15 Honor Guard potluck. As of Oct. 24, there were 130 veteran funerals in 2021. The Honor Guard is activated to serve as pallbearers for funerals and memorial services for actual or retired members. Retired General Dean Mann, third from left in bottom row, is one of the oldest Honor Guard members.



Left: December 15th, the 2021 South Dakota American Legion "Educator of the Year" Award was presented to Mrs. Audra West at the Black Hawk Elementary School by PDC Fred Nelson and other Legion members. Mrs. West teaches 4th grade. Besides being honored with the plaque, Post 22 Commander, Lyle Tolsma, presented Mrs. West with \$300. Thank you, Mrs. West, for your dedication and devotion to the children of South Dakota.



Post #75 members received their Commander Cap Pins on October 25, 2021. Warren Melcher, Richard Nix, Sam Seymour, Allen Peters, Gale Richardson, Norman Buxcel, Miles Kennie and Roger Larson are pictured.

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South Dakota Taps

As reported to Department Headquarters, September 22, 2021- December 15, 2021

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

Benjamin Disraeli

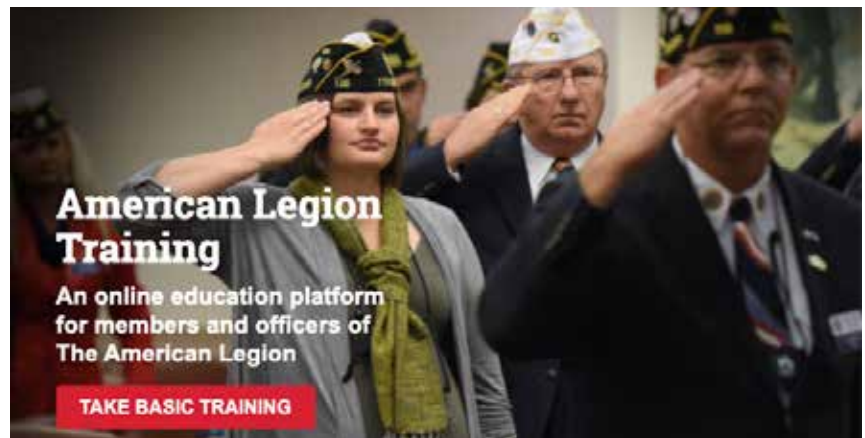
#3 Chamberlain	Lowell Carlson	#27 Kadoka	Larry Parkinson	#159 Hoven	Clifford Gerber
#7 Huron	James Rudy	#29 Woonsocket	William Zell	#159 Hoven	Rick Hoefert
#7 Huron	Deborah Weston	#32 Belle Fourche	Pete Krush	#164 Spearfish	Jack Copeland
#8 Pierre	Andrew Deis	#33 Sturgis	Harlan Hanson	#164 Spearfish	Richard Hauck
#8 Pierre	David Gerdes	#33 Sturgis	Robert Siedschlaw	#164 Spearfish	Leon Lowe
#8 Pierre	Leroy Mernaugh	#35 Highmore	Richard Straight	#164 Spearfish	Donald Miller
#8 Pierre	Larry Miller	#40 Webster	Andrew Breske	#164 Spearfish	A Smith
#11 Wagner	Dwayne Lindgren	#40 Webster	Sheldon Majeske	#169 Winner	Jonah Mialawi
#11 Wagner	Joseph Stastny	#40 Webster	Leon Vanderlinden	#170 Herreid	Melvin Champion
#12 Yankton	Harold Diede	#40 Webster	Percival Monson	#173 Philip	Melvin Denke
#12 Yankton	Robert Kellen	#41 Alexandria	Tom Haiar	#174 Lennox	Arlin Rops
#13 Wakonda	Lloyd Babb	#43 Centerville	Noble Nelson	#175 Baltic	Verne Endahl
#13 Wakonda	E. Dwyer	#46 Custer	Ronald Enderby	#184 Estelline	Donald Reconnu
#13 Wakonda	Larry Mart	#49 Clear Lake	Merle Bleeker	#184 Estelline	Einar Salmonson
#13 Wakonda	Kenneth Peterson	#50 Sisseton	Lyle Ginsbach	#189 Hosmer	Lynn Hieb
#15 Sioux Falls	Gerald Baade	#50 Sisseton	Joseph Valentine	#194 Parkston	Patrick Bowar
#15 Sioux Falls	Roger Berger	#50 Sisseton	Roger Wright	#194 Parkston	Arnold Burmeister
#15 Sioux Falls	Orlen Hansen	#53 Canton	Dennis Aasheim	#194 Parkston	Herbert Degen
#15 Sioux Falls	Wendell Hanson	#62 Humboldt	Lowell Devries	#194 Parkston	James Fergen
#15 Sioux Falls	Lyle Helgeson	#70 Flandreau	Harry Jepsen	#194 Parkston	Raymond Fischer
#15 Sioux Falls	Paul Johnson	#70 Flandreau	Ronald Smith	#194 Parkston	Stan Gerlach
#15 Sioux Falls	Richard Kallemeyn	#71 Hot Springs	James Snow	#194 Parkston	Bob Rekmans
#15 Sioux Falls	Gilmore Koepsell	#74 Brookings	Dallas Gulseth	#194 Parkston	Clarence Thury
#15 Sioux Falls	Darold Morey	#75 Murdo	Eldon Esmay	#194 Parkston	Clarence Tiede
#15 Sioux Falls	Dennis Nelson	#80 Britton	Frank Farrar	#194 Parkston	Ina Widmer
#15 Sioux Falls	Dale Oren	#92 Redfield	Richard Crawford	#194 Parkston	Donald Winter
#15 Sioux Falls	Thomas Pappas	#93 Letcher	Randy Herron	#194 Parkston	Roland Winter
#15 Sioux Falls	Darrell Reyelts	#93 Letcher	Bill Zoss	#200 Bruce	Derald Christensen
#15 Sioux Falls	William Rossing	#103 Astoria	Elwood Bakke	#210 Mt. Vernon	Thomas Greenway
#15 Sioux Falls	Melvin Selken	#103 Astoria	Richard Bruns	#210 Mt. Vernon	Wesley Johnson
#15 Sioux Falls	Gene Tooley	#105 Nunda	Dennis Pederson	#213 Cresbard	Vernon Lerew
#15 Sioux Falls	Norman Varns	#109 Gary	Lee Denekamp	#220 Herrick	John Baxa
#15 Sioux Falls	John Verwey	#109 Gary	Elmer Fritz	#221 Ashton	Gary Fuhrman
#15 Sioux Falls	Robert West	#109 Gary	David Hanten	#222 Roswell	Walter Hein
#15 Sioux Falls	Donald Wylie	#109 Gary	William Webber	#223 Wakpala	Floyd Wulf
#16 Gann Valley	Robert Speck	#110 Wessington	Wayne Ganske	#229 Big Stone City	Daniel Petersen
#17 Codington Co.	Lawrence Howell	#110 Wessington	Ken Glanzer	#229 Big Stone City	Larry Roggenbuck
#17 Codington Co.	Henry Rauen	#111 Bridgewater	John Hofer	#258 Andover	Ivan Morehouse
#17 Codington Co.	Gerald Rowland	#118 Hartford	Maurice Jundt	#259 Roscoe	Roger Hauck
#18 Mitchell	Delvon Ammon	#121 McLaughlin	Antonn Schneider	#261 Ethan	Marvin Hohn
#18 Mitchell	Robert Lobsiger	#121 McLaughlin	Leo Thole	#264 Bowdle	Morris Kurle
#18 Mitchell	Earl Nebelsick	#131 Valley Springs	Wayne Allen	#280 Iroquois	Nicholas Gunderson
#19 Wood	JohnSchmitz	#131 Valley Springs	Jake Bodewitz	#283 Chancellor	Rolan Miller
#22 Rapid City	Thomas Gibson	#135 Gettysburg	Jerry Hawkinson	#283 Chancellor	Dannie Peters
#22 Rapid City	Edward Hellman	#135 Gettysburg	Steve Sheldon	#298 Kidder	Dennis Boone
#22 Rapid City	Daniel Oliver	#137 Warner	Keith Breidenbach	#303 Hermosa	James Witte
#22 Rapid City	John Powell	#140 Salem	Rod Blindert	#308 Eagle Butte	Robert Chasing-Hawk
#22 Rapid City	Donald Tidwell	#140 Salem	Robert Feterl	#308 Eagle Butte	Arlee Eagle Chasing
#22 Rapid City	JamesWalton	#140 Salem	Neal Myren	#308 Eagle Butte	Marcella Ryan-LaBeau
#23 Garretson	Mark Westover	#146 Colome	Arthur Gealow	#314 Agency Village	Gordon Redday
#24 Aberdeen	Byron Gross	#152 Menno	Leland Wiedmeier	#314 Agency Village	Robert Shepherd
#24 Aberdeen	Bruce Mannes	#152 Menno	Morris Handel	#317 Allen	Rex Herman
#24 Aberdeen	Donald Miller	#153 Carpenter	Gordon Wicks	#500 Watertown	Conrad Buse
#24 Aberdeen	Weston Plagman	#154 Montrose	Antonio Armagno	#500 Watertown	Daniel Hofman
#24 Aberdeen	Peter Schmitt	#154 Montrose	Donald Erickson	#911 Sioux Falls	James Scouler
#26 Stickney	Bernard Hargreaves	#157 Vivian	Jim Burns	#911 Sioux Falls	Ed Stringer
#27 Kadoka	Stanton Anderson	#158 Oldham	Michael Bethke		

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