

Post Officers 2022-2023	
Commander	Hosea Bennett
Senior Vice Commander	Rich Stelter
Junior Vice Commander	Don Kranz
Quartermaster	Tom Anez
Judge Advocate	Harry Engberg
Surgeon	Glee Gile
Chaplin	Tom Henle
Adjutant	Nathan Beiningen

Auxiliary Officers 2022-2023	
President	Kim Vennard
Sr. Vice President	Kasey Jacobson
Jr. Vice President	Amy Bolduc
Secretary	Deb Felton
Treasurer	Cathy Jo Sanchez
Chaplin	Diana Wells

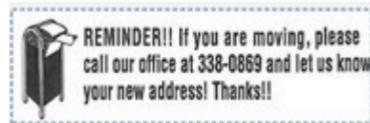
Office: 605-338-0869	Post Web Site: VFW628.ORG
Office email: Office@vfw628.org	Facebook: Sioux Falls VFW
Commander: cmd@vfw628.org	
Quartermaster: qm@vfw628.org	State VFW Office: 605-332-7441
	State Website: www.vfw628.org



John M. Bliss Post 628

1700 W Russell Street Sioux Falls SD 57104 605-338-0869

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE PAID
 SIOUX FALLS, SD
 PERMIT NO 345



Bliss Bugle



Your insight to VFW Post 628 Monthly Events

December 2022

Commanders Remarks



Hosea Bennett
 Commander
 JM Bliss VFW Post 628

Happy Holidays. I want to take the time to congratulate Post Member Stewart Turnwall for being selected as Veteran of the Year. This was a well deserved honor.

Please keep Post Member Chris Thesenvitz and his family in your thoughts and prayers as Chris awaits his surgery for his fight with Chondrosarcoma. You can also send him words of encouragement at:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/public/christopherthesenvitz>

In regards to the Camp Lejeune toxic water exposure, there has been a lot of mis-information out there and plenty of Ads from attorneys. If you have question on this issue, please contact our State

Service Officer, Cody Mangold:

OFFICE: 605.260.4420

Email yc-cvso@co.yankton.sd.us

VFW National is collaborating with two law firms to assist with Camp Lejeune claims. If you are at the stage that you are ready to contact an attorney, the VFW has vetted these firms:

Bergmann & Moore :

<https://camplejeunelitigationteam.com/vfw/>

Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea :

<https://www.camplejeunegroundwater.com/vfw/>

VFW National has also launched a website to streamline referrals to our cadre of accredited service officers for VA Disability Claims. Through a short series of questions, veterans can determine whether they're likely eligible for VA benefits and can request to be contacted by a VFW Accredited Service Officer. <https://pactactinfo.org/>

The Sioux Falls Skyforce will be hosting our Hometown Heroes Night game on Friday, Dec 9 FREE Tickets can be reserved using this link... <https://fevo.me/3DBR6RZ>

VFW Auxiliary President

Kim Vennard
 Auxiliary President



Hope all you Turkeys had a great Thanksgiving. We all have a lot to be thankful for.

We have been assisting the Post with Americanism programs in the schools.

It is great to see the kids excitement and questions on the flag and the military service of our members.

We have some sewing projects that will be coming up. If you are interested in helping, please contact me. When we have the work dates set up, I will contact you.

Informational references:

FACEBOOK

VFW Auxiliary John M Bliss Post 628

VFW Auxiliary – Department of South Dakota

WEBPAGE

Auxiliary Department website at: <https://vfwauxiliarysd.org>

National Website at: <https://vfwauxiliary.org>

Malta at: <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org>

There are additional events in the planning stages but not confirmed yet for the upcoming months.

Please watch your email for information. If you do not get the auxiliary emails, please contact me to update your email address.

We remember Shirley Reilly, Violet Miles, Mercedes Yesda, Lois Aulner, Dorothy Dempsey, Alica

Sample our members that passed. We would like to welcome new members Karri Klein

Please make sure you record all your volunteer hours. All hours will need to be sent to Amy Bolduc, JR. Vice President, at bluetopaz75@aol.com.

I hope you all have a very blessed Holiday Season. If you need assistance of any type, please make certain you reach out to the Auxiliary and the Post. Check on your neighbors. You never know...

sometimes all it takes is a caring word to know that someone cares that will make a difference in someone's day.

Announcements

Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer

Each month the post hosts several events both at the post and in other facilities within Sioux Falls. It is imperative we as a post to be as active and visible to the public eye. We are our own best publicist and promoters at all levels. It is asked that members of this post step up and be more involved.

Our membership is the very backbone of all that we do and without participation, we will struggle. We need you.

Please just give one hour at a event, it is greatly appreciated.

Pancake Breakfasts & Cooties Chislic

December 18 and January 15. Start time is 8:30 am –12:00 pm.

Cooties Chislic will be held December 18 and January 15.

Kick off will be at 3:30 and run until 6:30 pm.

Bring your friends and Family.

Volunteers are always needed. If you or someone you know would like to give a couple of hours of volunteer time it would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteer by calling 605-338-0869

Inputs for the February/March newsletter are due to the office or b.haugen1959@gmail.com by January 15. Photos, articles, and announcements are welcome.

Upcoming Events

Dec 7— Post and Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm

Dec 7— Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day-All Day

Dec 9-11— Day County Coyote Hunt-Roslyn

Dec 15— Veterans Council Meeting-Alliance-7pm

Dec 17— Wreaths Across America-
 Veterans Cemetery-11am

Dec 25— Christmas Day

Dec 23-26— Post Closed, Observe Christmas Holiday

Dec 31— New Years Eve

Jan 4— Post and Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm

Jan 16— Martin Luther King Day

Jan 20— Past Presidents Meeting, Post Home, 9:30

Post Executive Meetings

Next executive meetings will be held December 22 and January 26 at regular Time. Changes are due to the Holidays.

Americanism in our Schools



John M Bliss Post 628 and Auxiliary spent the morning with Laura B Anderson 4th graders educating them on flag etiquette, folding a flag and Literacy.

Post Members included Commander Hosea Bennett, Kayle Decker,

Chaplain Tom Henley, Past Commander Doug Callahan.

Auxiliary Members President Kim Vennard, Deb Felton, Barb Anfinson Hayes and Roxann Zenobi!!

Approximately 35 students attended. We thank the teachers and staff at Laura B. Anthony for allowing their students this opportunity

VA Expands Mamogram Services



President Signs Veterans Legislation into Law: VFW Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace and VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet were in attendance at the White House as President Biden signed into law three VFW-supported

ills. The Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act will expand eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain areas during specific time periods. The Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act will address provisions of mammograms and breast cancer treatment within VA.

The purpose of a screening mammogram is to find abnormalities that are too small to be seen or felt. But, mammograms will not detect all breast cancers which is why it is very important to see your health care provider if you feel a lump or anything unusual in your breast. Getting a screening mammogram can be your best defense against breast cancer. Research has clearly shown that screening mammograms can increase breast cancer survival.

Contact your local VA Primary Care Provider for an appointment.

JROTC & Buddy Poppy

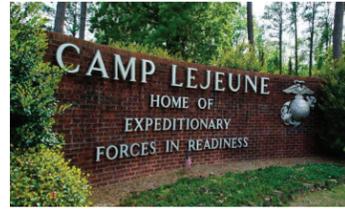
A BIG thank you to the cadets of the Lincoln High School Marine Corps JROTC for sticking it out in the cold to hand out poppies and collect donations for the VFW Post 628 Veteran relief fund. We also thank Hy-Vee for letting them stand at the store(s) entrances.



Camp LeJeune Justice Act Updates

Family Members Covered

Yes. Veterans and Families who served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River for at least 30 cumulative days from August 1953 through December 1987—and their family members—can get health care benefits.



- Bladder cancer *Breast cancer
- Esophageal cancer *Female infertility
- Hepatic steatosis *Kidney cancer
- Leukemia *Lung cancer
- Miscarriage *Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes *Neurobehavioral effects
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma *Renal toxicity
- Scleroderma

You must provide evidence:

Fill out the Camp Lejeune Family Member Program Application (VA Form 10-10068).

Fax it to [512-460-5536](tel:512-460-5536), or

Mail it to:

- **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Cootie Corner

For the last few months, we resumed with are chislic fundraiser, it has been going well.

Scratches are held on the second Wednesday 7PM.

Chislic feed Third Sunday 3-6PM at the Military Heritage Alliance

LOTCS,

Nathan Beiningen

Seam Squirrel 2022-23

Big Sioux Ticks PT 1

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced it has identified the remains of WO Larry Zich of the 37 Signal Battalion. WO Zich was the Pilot of a UH-1 in Vietnam.



One of the crew members was SFC Allen Christensen of Flandreau. It is with hope and prayers that we are closer to locating and identifying the remains of one of South Dakotas own so he may return to a grateful nation and his family.

100 Years the Story Continues

The WWII Years

Part 4

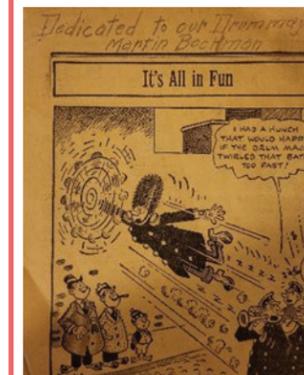
As the 40s rolled in, so did Americas involvement in WWII. Europe was changing and many parts were devastated through out the 1940s.

Changes began in December 1941 at Post 628. It was at the December meeting, as a vote was taken to sing the National Anthem at both, opening and closing of post meeting during the State of War. Two \$100 Defense Bonds were also purchase during this time.



Through daily headlines, the post staid abreast of mobilizations and war headlines. It was at the

March



42 meeting approved sending condolence cards to the next of kin of servicemen who died in the nations conflict. To support the war effort members sold Defense Bonds and Stamps in the community. Who sold the most was awarded with a \$25 Defense Bond.

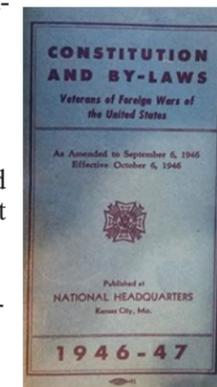
In the years of 1942/43, Martin Bachman was commander and Mary Barber was President.

Martin Bochman was also the Drum Major for the Post 628 Marching Band. The Cartoon was dedicated in Honor of Martin Bochman.

As encouraged by the National Headquarters, Post 628 as well as other post across the nation donated \$1 for each member of the post to the War Department for the purpose of purchase of training planes. A motion was also passed to purchase Red Cross Kits in support of the Red Cross.

In 1945/46, the Post Auxiliary worked very hard to raise funds to build a post home. The building was located at 210 West Ninth Street. The new Post Home was purchased for \$44,000 dollars. The new Home was remodeled under the direction of Architect Spitznagel. Much more was put into the building before it could be occupied, with a cost of \$85,000.

During November 1948 a formal dedication ceremony was held with National Jr. Vice Charles Rails. The balance of the mortgage was \$20,000.



Remembering Pearl Harbor

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U. S. military and Naval forces in Hawaii. In a devastating defeat, the United States suffered 3,435 casualties and loss of or severe damage to 188 planes, 3 light cruisers, and 4 miscellaneous vessels. Japanese losses were less than 100 personnel, 29 planes and 5 midget submarines.

The Day after the attack, before a joint session of Congress, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan. The Day of Infamy address followed.

President Franklin Roosevelt issued a national call to arms on the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. He expressed outrage at Japan and confidence in the "inevitable triumph" of the United States. On December 8, 1941, the United States declared war against Japan; on December 11 Germany and Italy declared war against the United States.

The end result was a resounding victory by the United States, through the use of nuclear weapons and resulting in the surrender of Japan.

Veteran of the Year: Steward Turnwall

Eureka, SD native, Steward Turnwall joined the US Army right out of High School. As a E4 attached to the 7th Maintenance Battalion, he served in Vietnam War and earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal. After completing his service, he started Turnwall Trucking which he owned and operated until his retirement in 2017.



Turnwall has 4 children and 5 grandchildren. He is a widower, lost his wife Christine last year at the age of 64.

Turnwall is very active with his church, Renner Lutheran, where he has be part of organizing of a back

to school program for the last 10 years for the Crow Creek Reservation in which back packs and school supplies are donated to 40 children.

Turnwall has be an active member of the El Riad Shriners in which he has logged over 7200 volunteer hours.

As an active member of the VFW, Turnwall has volunteered to properly dispose of the American Flag from the drop boxes thru out the city and surrounding areas. He has been do this for past 10 years and has logged over 9000 hours and over 26k miles and also has donated his own funds for fuel and miscellaneous expenses.

Turnwall volunteered for the past 20 years to help clean up a portion of Hyw 111 twice a year.

In his spare time he also helps his neighbors with lawn and snow removal.