



Bliss Bugle



Your insight to VFW Post 628 Monthly Events

October-November-December, 2025



Words From The Commander

Comrades, I hope all is going well with you. It's been a busy and hectic three months. The Post has been involved with presenting

Colors for a VFW Baseball Tournament at Augusta, the USS South Dakota Day of Honor, and presenting Colors at the VA Car Show. We are still doing Pancake Breakfast on the third Sunday of each month (**a few more volunteers would be helpful, we'll even provide a free breakfast**).

The Post provided biscuits and gravy with an egg bake for breakfast for the Veterans Stand Down. The Post participated in the POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony and observed the retiring of the POW/MIA Flag for Lt. Col. Walter Renelt, whose remains were identified this summer. The Gold Star Mother's and Family Day will be held Sunday September 28th. The VFW Fall Council is being held at the

Military Alliance, October 3-5. The 250th Navy Ball is being held at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls, October 18th, contact the VFW Office at 605-338-0869 for questions. The Marine Corps Ball is being held at the Military Alliance, November 8th. One last note, there's a new Sea Cadet Program being started in Sioux Falls and will be held at the Navy Reserve Center, to coincide with their drill weekends. It will be named as the South Dakota Battleship Division, with their Open House taking place Sunday October 5th from 2 pm - 4 pm, at the American Legion/VFW building. - **Mark Winter, VFW Post 628 Commander**



Words from the Auxiliary President

We have been very busy the last few months helping the VFW Post with the Americanism Flag folding presentations. These are being presented to SXF elementary schools. We have gone to St. Marys, Terry Redlin, Pettigrew and Anne Sullivan. With more scheduled throughout the school year.

VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan visited Pierre on September 23-24th. Lunch was at Wall Drug with a personal tour by Rick Husted CEO. Dinner was provided by the Pierre VFW Auxiliary and the SD Dept Auxiliary, on Tuesday evening. Wednesday was spent visiting the Capital, the Governors Residence, Monuments on Capitol Lake, Verendrye Museum, Verendrye Center. Ending the day with dinner as a group, before Lois departed early on the 25th.

(Continued in Page 7)

The Bliss Bugle Page Index:

Page 1. Commander's & Aux President Comments

Page 2. VFW News

Page 3. Thank You's

Page 4. Pictures

Page 5. October's News

Page 6. Nov & Dec News

Page 7. Auxiliary News

Page 8. Last Page



Diane Dickman, Mr. Sparrgrove, Mark Winter, Larry Panning at USS South Dakota Day of Honor

VFW NEWS

Our post needs people to join and get involved in the VFW lifestyle, we look to fill 22 Program Chairperson Positions every year in May. Such roles may include attending 1 monthly VFW event or contributing 5 hours or more a month to an activity.

These events will surround you around like minded individuals, military personnel or veterans. Both supporting your community and allowing you to find new opportunities to renew your patriotism every day.

As a member myself, who got more involved in February. Learning more about the organization came by venturing out to events such as the weekly members coffee (**Saturdays, 8:30am to 9:30am in the Armory building 1700 W. Russell St**) and our monthly Pancake Breakfast (**Every 3rd Sunday, with volunteers starting to come in at 7:30am at the Alliance building (1600 W. Russell St)**). Finally after touching bases with the commander I was invited to go to the Rear Admirals Dinner in August and stand on the sidelines of an international golf tournament presenting the American Flag to the golfers in September. We hold many events such as these and our Post 628 Commander will be more than happy to sign you up if you leave your name and phone number at the VFW Office Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

Here are a list of Chairperson positions which are renewed every year in March & May. If you want to be more involved with the VFW these positions will get you started. And just like I told myself in Basic Training, if someone like my friend could still be here I surely can do this too. - Leo, VFW Post 628 Adjutant

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Americanism | 14. Safety |
| 2. Memorial Day Program | 15. National Home |
| 3. Veterans Day Program | 16. Youth Activities |
| 4. Loyalty Day Program | 17. Voice of Democracy |
| 5. Buddy Poppy | 18. Patriot's Pen |
| 6. Citizenship | 19. Guard/Officer of the Day |
| 7. Law Enforcement of the Year | 20. Membership & Recruiting Chairman |
| 8. Emergency Med Tech of the Year Award | 21. Publicity |
| 9. Firefighter of the Year Award | 22. Chief of Staff |
| 10. Teacher of the Year Award | |
| 11. Community Involvement | |
| 12. Aid to Other and Relief | |

Upcoming Days of Interest

October

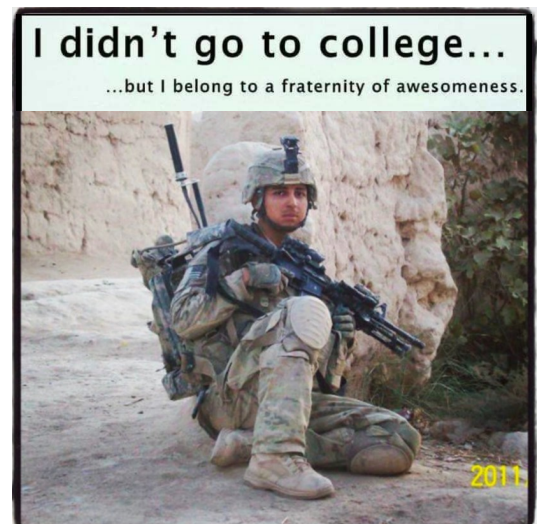
Oct 3-5 - Fall Council
Oct 18 - Navy Ball
Oct 19 - Pancake Breakfast
Oct 22 - Military Day
Oct 24 - Humor For Hero
Oct 27 - Navy Day

November

Nov 8 - Marine Corp Ball
Nov 11 - Veterans Day
Nov 16 - Pancake Breakfast
Nov 27 - Thanksgiving

December

Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 12 - Day County Coyote Hunt
Dec 13 - Wreaths Across America
Dec 21 - Pancake Breakfast
Dec 25 - Christmas Day



Thank You's from the Adjutant

We just wanted to give a moment to thank our volunteers and partners.

Thank You to Dakota Layers for Supporting our Pancake Breakfast



Dakota Layers have been furnishing the VFW Post 628 eggs, these donations have been vital for raising money for our youth programs. In this picture we have Co-Owner Tracy of Dakota Layers being presenting the Golden Egg Award from our Past Commander and Assistant Quarter Master.

A few more volunteers from our Post and Auxiliary members would be helpful, we'll even provide a free breakfast.

Our Post Jr. Vice Commander arrives at the Alliance building at 7:30am to open the doors for our trusted volunteers.
(1600 W. Russell St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

Thank you to The Alliance Center & Pepsi

I'd like to thank Pepsi for donating our beverages on our membership picnic and for the Alliance Center for hosting our Fall Council and participating in the Stand-Down.



pepsi

the **ALLIANCE**
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.



Thank You Marine Sgt. Major Bakken



For your support of our VFW Pancake Breakfast and your 20 plus years dedication to the Lincoln JROTC (Jr. Reserve Officer Training Course) Program. As well as your 20 plus years of Military Service.

"Our Lives Change when our habits change"
- Mathew Kelly

Pancakes Breakfast

Pancake breakfasts are held the third Sunday of the Month, starting at 8:30 AM until 12 PM.

Adults pay \$8.00, Children under 10 pay \$2.00

Cakes, Sausage, Eggs, Coffee, & Orange Juice.



EVERY 3RD SUNDAY!!

8:30AM - 12:00PM

Pancake
BREAKFAST

Held inside of the Alliance building
1600 W. Russell St. Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Adults- \$8 Kids- \$2

**CAKES, SAUSAGE & EGGS
COFFEE & ORANGE DRINK**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO OUR VETERAN
AND COMMUNITY CAUSES**



Chislic Feed

Great lamb chislic is served the third Sunday of the Month, starting at 3pm thru 6pm.

Come to the best chislic in Sioux Falls. Bring your friends, you'll be glad you did. **\$8.00 for Chislic or \$9.00 for Chislic and Fries.**

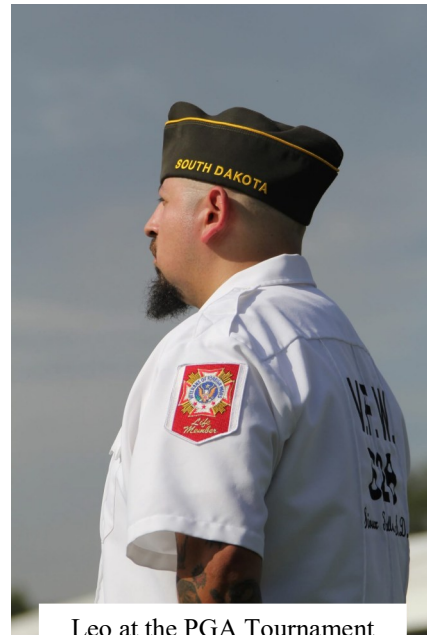




Doug Star at the VFW Picnic



Bobby Smith at the VFW Picnic



Leo at the PGA Tournament



Staff Sgt. Gulbranson at the PGA Tournament



Deb Felton, VFW Post 628 Auxiliary President & Lois Callahan, National VFW Auxiliary President



Admiral Wosje, Mr. Sparrgrove, Senator Thune



Hosea and Tadd at Pancake Breakfast



Mark Winter and Kelly Boysen IOOF table

October

Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary



Fall Council

SD Military Heritage Alliance Center in Sioux Falls
1600 W Russell St, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
October 3-5, 2025



Registration Fee: \$105 (Includes Friday & Saturday breaks, Saturday lunch, banquet, and band)
After September 3, 2025, registration price will be \$130
Banquet Only Ticket: \$40

Payment Options

Make checks payable to:
Department of South Dakota VFW
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Sheraton Sioux Falls & Convention Center
Room Rate: \$110/night
Reserve your room online:

Questions? Contact us at anna@vfwdeptsd.com or (605) 332-7441

Use QR Code or Pay online:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/department-of-south-dakota-vfw-and-auxiliary-fall-council>



Military Appreciation Day October 22

Market-Beat is having their open ATP Professional Men's Tennis Tournament at the Huether Family Match Pointe on the Sanford Sports Complex, October 19-26.

On October 22 all military veterans receive free admission on this day from 10am-10pm



You are cordially invited to the 250th Birthday

Navy Ball

Purchase Tickets on EventBrite

<https://tinyurl.com/250th-Navy-Ball-South-Dakota>
Saturday, October 18th at 5pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
605-728-9401 or info@navyleague-sodak.org
(or come into the Post and pay in person)

VOD and Patriot's Pen deadlines are October 31, 2025

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2025-2026 Theme

"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2025
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

PATRIOT'S PEN



2025-2026 Theme

"How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2025
Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award



Voice Of Democracy & Patriot Pen start July, 2026 for the next school year!!

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Veterans Day

November 11, 2025

Veterans Day Visit to Heritage Manor Senior Living Center Post 628 and our Auxiliary will be honoring our nation's heroes this Veterans Day with a special visit to **Heritage Manor Senior Living Center in Wakonda SD.**

Join us on **Veterans Day, Nov 11 at 2:00 PM** for a program and refreshments with the veterans. Post member Dick Wells is a resident at Heritage Manor. It would be wonderful to have a strong turnout from The Post and Auxiliary members to visit with Dick and the other veterans. Your presence will mean a lot and help make the day truly special for everyone. Let's come together to show our appreciation and make this a memorable afternoon for all.

Our VFW Post 628 Van is for SALE!!

Wheel Chair & Power Scooter accessible with
Electric Ramp.

Call or email for more information

Email: QM@vfw628.org

Phone Number: 605-338-0869



Marine Corp Ball

November 8, 2025

\$30 Per Person or \$220 for Table of 8

**Held inside of the Alliance Building
(1600 W. Russell St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota)**

4:30pm - Social hour

6:00pm - Ceremony

7:00pm - Dinner (Beef or Chicken Options)

Door Prizes, Raffles, Silent Auction

DJ and Dance Floor

**All Military Personnel & Civilians are Welcome
to Attend**

Day County Coyote Hunt

December 12-14, 2025

Pre-registration earns you a free Shirt and proceeds will be donated to non-profit military organizations

DEC 12-14, 2025

19th ANNUAL DAY COUNTY COYOTE HUNT

Roslyn SD

All money raised supports
South Dakota Military
and their family

**2 Person Team \$60
First Prize \$1,500**



Additional cash prizes in 9 categories

**Optional Buy-In for Big
Dog/Little Dog \$15
75% pay back**



Contact Patti at 605-280-0777

Pre-registration Due by November 11 or
Roslyn FireHall on Dec 12 at 5:30 PM

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!

Sponsored by
John M Bliss Post 628 VFW Auxiliary



Continued from page 1

Greetings from Post 628 Auxiliary

October is a much quieter month. We have Fall Council, being held here in Sioux Falls this year on Saturday Oct 4th, in the Armory, 1700 W. Russell. Meetings, lunch and a banquet for those registered. There is still time to register to join us for this years event. You do not need to register if you only plan to attend the meetings.

October 12th will be our New Member Installation ceremony and Member Appreciation luncheon at 1pm in the Armory. **Please RSVP to 605-359-2091**, Deb. Please call or text, leave a message with your name if you are able to attend.

October 18th There will be Lefse making. 8am-1pm in the SD room at the Armory - 1700 W Russell
Lefse will be sold at the 10/19 bake sale during Pancakes.

October 31 Happy and Safe Halloween

November 11th Veterans Day. The 628 Auxiliary will be hosting a program in Wakonda, SD at Heritage Manor to honor their resident Veterans. VFW Member Dick Wells is a resident at Heritage Manor. The program will be at 2pm with refreshments afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us

November 15th Lefse making from 8am-1pm in SD room at Armory. To be sold at the 11-16-2025 bake sale during Pancakes.

December 12-14th is Day County Coyote Hunt... Early registration by November 15th (free t-shirt). \$70 per 2 person team.

We would like to request items for the silent auction, and some items also being given as gifts for the hunters.

All proceeds will be used for Veterans and Family Support.

December 25th Wishing you and your family a Very Merry Christmas.

Deb Felton
VFW Post 628
Auxiliary President

October 2025

Oct 1st Post and Auxiliary Meeting
Oct 3-4 Fall Council in Sioux Falls
Oct 18th Lefse making
Oct 19th Pancakes and Bakesale
Oct 31st Deadline for Patriots Pen, VOD and Teacher of the Year

November 2025

Nov 2nd Daylight Savings
Nov 5th Post and Auxiliary Meeting
Nov 11th Veterans Day
Nov 15th Lefse making
Nov 16th Pancakes and Bakesale
Nov 27th Thanksgiving



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

December 2025

Dec 3rd Post and Auxiliary Meeting
Dec 7th Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 13th Wreaths Across America
Dec 12-14th Day County Coyote Hunt
Dec 21st Pancakes and Bakesale
Dec 25th Christmas



John M. Bliss VFW Post 628

Suite 503
1700 W Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
605-338-0869



REMINDER!! If you are moving, please
call our office at 338-0869 and let us know
your new address! Thanks!!

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SIOUX FALLS, SD

Office: 605-338-0869

Office email: office@vfw628.org

Commander: cmd@vfw628.org

Quartermaster: qm@vfw628.org

Post Web Site: www.vfw628.org

Facebook: VFW JM Bliss Post 628

Office Hours 9am to 3pm

SOUTH DAKKOTA VFW LEADERSHIP

<u>STATE DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>VFW POST 628</u>	<u>VFW POST 628 AUX.</u>
Commander Dr. Martin Christensen	Commander-Mark Winter	President Deb Felton
Sr. Vice Commander Rick VandenHoek	Sr.Vice Commander- Hosea Bennett	Sr. Vice President Amy Bolduc
Jr. Vice Commander Dale Greenfield	Jr.Vice Commander-Tadd Goehring	Jr. Vice Anne McGoffin
Adjutant/Quartermaster Anna Arnold	Quartermaster-Jim McQuisten	Treasurer Kim Vennard
Chaplain Russel Dramstad	Chaplain-Patrick Morgan	Chaplain Diana Wells
Judge Advocate Katherine Pyka	1 Year Trustee-Wilfred Bolduc	Conductor Jennifer Kranz
Surgeon Dan Klimisch	2 Year Trustee-Joseph Worley	Guard Nancy Renner
Past State Commander Glynis Collier	3 Year Trustee-Donnally Kranz	Secretary Beth Honerman
Chief of Staff Tom Hafner	Adjutant-Eduardo Leanos	Trustee 1-Roxann Zenobi
Inspector Alan Ochsner	Service Officer-Joseph Worley	Trustee 2-Barb Hayes
District 1 Commander Don Kranz	Judge Advocate-Harry Engberg	Trustee 3-Sue Peters
District 4 Commander Troy Foster	Surgeon-Hosea Bennett	
District 6 Commander Chris Forster		
District 7 Commander Brent Jones		