



# Bliss Bugle

February 2025

Your Connection For All The Latest Happenings

Words from our Leadership

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## Commander's Corner

### HELP WANTED

Need Post Members to volunteer and help with monthly Pancake feeds. Pancake Breakfast is a large exposure to the general public. Americanism programs give us even more exposure to our community. Supporting and teaching flag etiquette to young students or at community services projects, our Post Honor Guard is our Public image seen by hundreds in Sioux Falls. The Honor Guard has always been the flagship that provides and incredible and honorable service to veterans. We honor those that have gone before us by supporting our foundational programs. These projects give us great exposure in the community. If you can help, please contact the office at 605-338-0869 or office@vfw628.org.

## Auxiliary President

Hello, everyone. Hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Years. Just a reminder of the monthly meeting on February 5, 2025 at 7 p.m. Also, the 104 th VFW Post 628 Birthday party is on February 16 th social at 5 and dinner at 6. You can purchase tickets through the Post website and the cost in advance is \$15/person and \$20/ person at the door. Pancakes and bake sale are on the 16th of February from 0830 to Noon. There will be a sign-up sheet for the bake sale at the meeting. If you have been in the Auxiliary for least 6 months, think about joining the Cooties Auxiliary. Thank you for all you do for the Post and the Veterans.

Amy Bolduc  
Auxiliary President

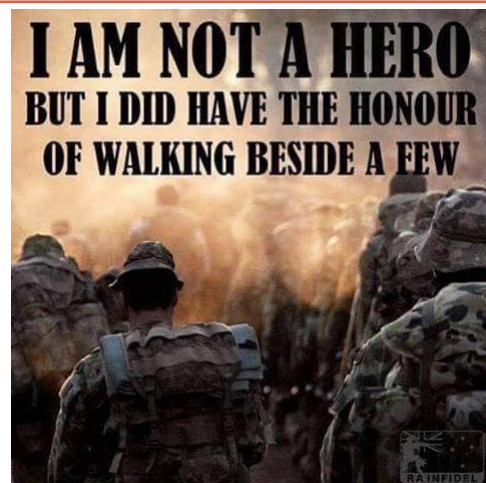
### Upcoming Days of Interest

#### February

- Black History Month
- Feb 5: Post/Aux Meeting
- Feb 14: Valentines Day
- Feb 16: Pancake Breakfast
- Feb 16: Cooties Chislic
- Feb 17: Presidents Day
- TBA Legislative in Pierre

#### March

- Woman's History Month
- Mar 5: Post/Aux Meeting
- Mar 9: Daylight Savings time Start
- Mar16: Pancake Breakfast/Cooties Chislic
- Mar 17: St Patrick's Day
- Mar 26: Executive Meeting
- Mar 29: Vietnam War Veterans



# John M Bliss Post 628 invites you to our 104th Birthday Celebration



\*\*\*\*\*

SUNDAY FEB 16, 2025

5:00PM SOCIAL

6:00 PM MEAL



POST/AUXILIARY MEMBERS & GUEST  
\$15 PRE PAY; \$20 AT DOOR PER PERSON

PRE-REGISTER BY FEB 6, 2025  
ONLINE AT [VFW628.ORG](http://VFW628.ORG)  
OR VFW OFFICE 605-338-0869

THE ALLIANCE  
1700 W RUSSELL ST  
SIOUX FALLS SD

## Post Birthday Party

- ◆ Door Prize Drawings
- ◆ Post and Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year Awards
- ◆ The Annual golden Spatula Award
- ◆ Year in Review slides
- ◆ Short message from Susan Bliss Hass
- ◆ Dinner Menu:

Chicken breast, Ham, Cheesy Potato's, Corn, Birthday cake Desert

- ◆ Special entertainment

## Donation to Air Force JROTC

Commander Don Kranz presents an donation to the Roosevelt High Air Force JROTC Program.

Pictured are Cadets Klinski and Webber and Air Force Major Instructor Erick Johnson



## Remembering our Brothers and Sisters

### POST:

Ruben Hofer-95-Army  
Bernard Aning-93-Navy

## Presumptive Service Connection

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing this interim final rule (IFR) to amend its adjudication regulations to establish presumptive service connection for acute leukemias, chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), and myelofibrosis due to exposure to Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The new presumptions would apply to veterans who served on active military, naval, air, or space service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or Somalia during the Persian Gulf War (hereafter Gulf War) on or after August 2, 1990, and in Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Yemen during the Gulf War on or after September 11, 2001.

Amy Davis, Regulations Analyst, and Robert Parks, Chief, Part 3 Regulations Staff (211C), Compensation Service (21C), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9700. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.)

## House Hearing on VA Community Care Access

VFW Communications and Public Affairs Associate Director Brittany Dymond Murray testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs regarding access shortfalls within the VA community care program.

## Meeting Notes

- No Post or Auxiliary meeting was held in the month of January. Next meeting is February 5, 2025
- Needed are members to participate and grow our Post Honor Guard.
- Need Post and Auxiliary members for an events committee. Please contact the office if you are interested.
- A call to STEP UP and seek prospective members to grow Post 628's membership
- Post Birthday February 16, 2025, 5PM. See the ad on page 2

## Patient Advocates at the VA

The patient advocates at VA Sioux Falls health care are specially trained to help you resolve issues with your care. If you've experienced any problems that you haven't been able to resolve by talking with your care team, please reach out to one of our patient advocates.

### **Don Kranz**

Patient Advocate  
VA Sioux Falls health care

**Phone:** 605-336-3230, ext. 6688

**Email:** VHASUXPatientAdvocate@va.gov

### **Keith Seymour**

Patient Advocate  
VA Sioux Falls health care

**Phone:** 605-336-3230, ext. 6688

**Email:** VHASUXPatientAdvocate@va.gov

- The patient advocates work hard to make sure you receive the best possible care. Advocating for patient and family rights

## OYSTER AND CHILL FEED

Oyster and chill feed to be held on February 15 from 11:30 until gone at the Armory. Free will offering, with proceeds going to relief fund.

## Good of the Order

- **Attention:** For those of us with email, it is the intent of the post to have the Post Newsletter deliverable by email or text only. Please provide your correct email and phone number to the office at: [office@vfw628.org](mailto:office@vfw628.org) or call the office at 605-336-8092
- Make an effort to reach out to our veterans: Ray Recker, Harold Hanson, Paul Weckman and Dave Cauley.
- **Post Birthday Party** will be held February 16, 2025. 5PM Social, 6PM dinner. Bring a guest. Cost \$15 per person in advance, \$20 at the door.

Several door prizes and a few awards will be presented. We will entertain and pay as you go bar.

Reserve your seat by calling 605-338-0869



## Become a Plank Owner

in the  
South Dakota Council  
of the  
Navy League of the United States

Deadline to join as a charter member  
February 3, 2025

This nonprofit civilian organization supports and advocates for America's sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine.

605-728-9401

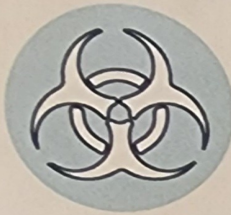
[www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/](http://www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/)



We are on line  
at [vfw628.org](http://vfw628.org)

★  
★  
★  
**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SERVICE.  
WE'RE HERE FOR  
YOU IF YOU NEED US.**

**PACT ACT ELIGIBILITY** .....



The PACT Act expands eligibility to VA benefits and services for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

Learn more at [va.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)



1700 W. Russell Street  
Sioux Falls SD  
57106  
605-336-8092

**Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits**

The Airborne Hazard and Burn Pits Center of Excellence (AHPCE) located at the New Jersey War related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) now has 5 years under its belt of being designated by Congress and Public Law 15-929. The AHPCE play an integral role in furthering the goals of addressing comprehensive toxins. The purpose is to advocate for veterans who have concerns about potential adverse health outcomes related to airborne hazards. Through ongoing research the goal is to understand and find solutions for exposure-related health issues. The research and findings can lead to better care management. The leaders of this study is headed by Anays Soto-longo, MD and Michael Falvo PHD, director and Co Director respectively.

More information can be found at: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>



**Chaplin's Words**

"My best advice- visit the cross every day"  
Past Post Chaplin Dennis Thomas  
That I may know him Philippians 3:10

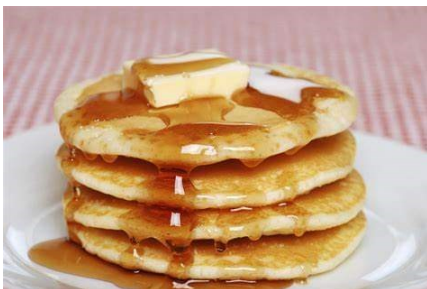
**Pancakes**

The next pancake breakfast will be held February 16, 2025 starting at 830 AM.

Adults \$8, Children under 10yo \$2

Cakes, Sausage, Eggs, Coffee, Juice and all the fixings.

Revenues help us support the Lincoln High School Marine JROTC, veterans issues around the Sioux Falls Community and surrounding area.



**Chislic**

No Chislic the month of February. Join us for Post 628 104 Birthday on the 16th. See the ad and information on page 2. See you next month.

Come to the best chislic in Sioux Falls. Bring your friends, you'll be glad you did.



## Veteran Health and Wellbeing

### Research is Vital

(Part 1)

Watching, Listening and learning are activities of everyday life we seem to take for granted. It's not always so easy for Veterans.

For hundreds or maybe even thousands of years, war veterans are forever changed. Injuries vary from war to war. Injuries can be physical, mental and even spiritual. Injuries can be simple to very complex when you consider the complexity of our bodies, brains and our own spirituality.

Many have come home with devastating physical injuries. Amputees adapt to walking with a prosthetic or confinement to a wheelchair. Others may need help with getting their mind back into a "normal life". Some may even find a new spirituality, finding a new spiritual path or maybe losing or changing their faith.

The largest portion of veterans in various levels of care are from the Vietnam Era (36%) and yet we are losing Vietnam Veterans at a fastener rate than any other war era. Only 3% of Veterans serving after 2001 are seeking help. In wars past, veterans returning home and having difficulties adjusting to being back home were said to have "Shell Shock". Today that shell shock is now referred to as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). The term PTSD is now predominantly used to describe veterans serving between the years 2000 and 2019.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) reports are also on the rise. The Defense and Veteran Brain Injury Center states that nearly 414,000 veterans have some type of brain injury.

It is known that PTSD and TBI are major factors for those that develop dementia.

Some of the focus areas for the VA and the WRIISC are Veterans Loneliness, Whole Health, Brain Health, Spiritual and Mental Health.

*Information for this article was gathered from various reports provided by the Veterans Administration, Million Veterans Project and the War Related Illness and Injury Study Center.*

## Veterans Golf Association 2025

### The Mission

The VGA is dedicated to enriching the lives of Veterans and their family members through the camaraderie and sportsmanship of golf. Annually, the VGA hosts more than 450 local tournaments across the country, culminating in a VGA National Championship each fall.

### More Than a Sports Program for Veterans

The VGA develops programs that allow our members to compete, socialize, and remain physically active through the game of golf. Through local league play, regional tournaments, and national qualifiers, the VGA helps reinforce values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf. Additionally, the VGA offers family-oriented activities that help Veterans and their family members increase the amount of quality time spent together, and be more active in their communities.

### The Inspiration For Our Program

The Veteran Golfers Association started as an idea amongst Wounded Veterans at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. Several friends routinely got together to play golf courses around the area to encourage each other to not only improve their games but to also heal through camaraderie and competition. After recovering from their injuries, these friends relocated around the country and missed the opportunity to compete against one another regularly.

Realizing that other Veterans might be in this same situation, these friends got together in 2014 to create the Veteran Golfers Association, the first golfing organization dedicated to promoting the game to all Veterans and their family members.

The VGA is working tirelessly to create golfing programs that will keep Veterans, their family members and children active in the game of golf for many years to come.

For more information, go to: [vgagolf.org](http://vgagolf.org)

## Pact Act

### File a Claim

Veterans who are diagnosed with one of the new presumptive conditions and meet eligibility requirements should submit a new claim for consideration using VA Form 21-526EZ. Application for Disability Compensation and related Compensation Benefits. All Veteran and survivors who believe they may be entitled to benefits are

encouraged to apply today.

### If denied a Claim

VA will contact veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplement claim today. Once a supplemental claim is received, the VA will review the claim under the new law.

# CHARLES WESLEY GODWIN

Thursday

# FEB 13

Sioux Falls, SD  
The Alliance



**MILES & LISA BEACOM CONCERT SERIES**

THE ALLIANCE 



LEGENDARY HITS LIKE:

"SHE DON'T  
KNOW SHE'S  
BEAUTIFUL"

"QUEEN OF MY  
DOUBLEWIDE  
TRAILER"

# Sammy KERSHAW

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
ANALISA MARIE



  
CHAMPION  
FOUNDATION  
www.championfoundation.com

THE ALLIANCE

**RESCHEDULED**

**THURSDAY, MAR. 27 • THE ALLIANCE**