



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Bliss Bugle



Words from the Commander Mark Winter

We begin February with a lot on our plate. Starting with our monthly Post and Auxiliary meeting to be held February 4 at 7PM. We will be looking into what we are going to do with our budget for the next year. Part of what we need numbers for is Youth Programs, Scouting, Lincoln and Roosevelt JROTC as well as the Sea Cadets and Civil Air Patrol.

Coming up is pancake feed on February 15 and we always could use some help during set-up and clean-up. It all runs smother with just 30 minutes of your time. I will be greatly appreciated.

That very same evening our 105th year of John M Bliss Post 628. Social Hour will begin at 5PM and we will begin to serve dinner at 6PM. Door prizes and a 50/50 will be held. We will be giving three Awards this year. Golden Spatula, Post Volunteer of the Year and Auxiliary Volunteer of the year. Butch is setting up a game for the evening. He wants to test everyone's memory about "the good ol' days". Its time to have some fun and enjoy each others company.

In March, the post will be nominating for the 2026-2027 year. If you would like to take a officer position, let the adjutant know and we will get you a nomination. Lets put together a great team as we always have and make 2026-2027 a great year.

March brings us St Patrick's Day. April will be a busy month with Post final nominations and elections. Post elections will cover Commander, Sr Vice, Jr Vice, Quartermaster and One (1) three year trustee. These elections will be held at the April 1 Post meting. HMM, that happens to be April Fools Day.

April 5 is Easter Sunday. The weather will be changing and warmth will come our way. Get out the gardening tools, get the lawn mowers ready and fire up the grills and smokers. Looking ahead 6 months, Id like to see a post picnic. This will give us a summer activity to have some fun and games. Such activities can be members only but, inviting other organizations can lead to more opportunities.

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VFW Auxiliary President Deb Felton

Greetings and welcome to 2026!

Hard to believe January is already behind us. Looking ahead, we would love to see more of you attending the meetings that are held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Armory, 1700 W Russell, Sioux Falls. This month our meeting is February 4th. We have nearly met our membership numbers, we are at 98%, but would love to see that number increase to 110%. Look around you to see if you know any others that are eligible to join us.

We will be having our monthly "work night" on February 9th. We will be working on bags again to make more sleeping mats for the homeless veterans here in Sioux Falls. If you have not done this before, it's a great opportunity to participate. We cut/tie plastic grocery bags and then they are put on a loom, to weave the bags together, making the sleeping mats. So bring any plastic grocery bags (Fareway/HyVee/Lewis/Target etc.) that you have. We will meet at the armory at 6pm, and are usually done around 8:30. This month there will be Pancakes on February 15th, 8:30 to noon. Auxiliary Bakesale at the same time, in the Alliance. Our bake sale is one of our only fundraisers, so if you are able to contribute, great, if not, please come and enjoy a breakfast out and see what delicious baked goods our members have donated.

That same evening will be the JM BLISS Post 628 Birthday party. 5pm Social and 6pm dinner, awards and door prizes after. You should have already received your invitation. If not, you can call the VFW office at 605-338-0869, to reserve your spot. Menu will be Tri-tip steak and Chicken Supreme (bacon wrapped chicken breast), au gratin potatoes, cheesy green beans, dinner salad and dessert. Sign up soon!!

If you are receiving this by mail and have an email address we could use, please let us know.

Please email us at VFW628aux@gmail.com

This will save the VFW a lot of money in postage that can be used towards veteran programs.



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John M. Bliss Post 628
Pancake
BREAKFAST
ALL YOU CAN EAT
CAKES, SAUSAGE & EGGS
COFFEE & ORANGE DRINK
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO OUR VETERAN
AND COMMUNITY CAUSES



8:30 am—12 Noon

\$8 Adults | \$2 Children 10 & under

This event supports our Veteran/Community Service Projects and the Lincoln High School Marine Corps J.R.O.T.C

JM Bliss VFW Post 628 & Auxiliary thank you for your support.

VFW
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Chili Cookoff and Oysters



The results are in. The 2026 Chili Cookoff was a success. Participation was a bit less, with only 5 entries this year, all the chefs did a fabulous job. What a great way to stay warm on a cold January day in Sioux Falls.

Fan Favorite and Hottest Chilli was determined by vote from the official taste testers. Fan Favorite was won by Pat Suelztz. A sweet spin on flavor and a creative use of spices. The hottest award went to Tadd Goehring. It was the HEAT. Great job by Pat and Tadd.



We also had the category of Best Rolls/Buns. It was unanimous that the best went to Barb Hays. She makes some fantastic caramel rolls that melt in your mouth.

Congratulations to this year's winners. We look forward to next year and hope we will get more participation. Put it on your calendar for the last Saturday of January 2027. See you then.

Upcoming Events

February

Feb 4-Post/Auxiliary Meeting

Feb 15-Pancake Breakfast

8:30am-Noon

Feb 17-Post Birthday

Social @ 5PM

Dinner @ 6PM

Feb 16-Presidents Day

Feb 18-Ash Wednesday

Feb 23-Past Presidents Meeting

Feb 25-Executive Comm Meeting

March

March 4-Post/Aux Meeting

Mar 8-Daylight Savings Time Begins

Mar 15-Pancake Breakfast

8:30am-Noon

Mar 15-Cooties Chislic 3-6PM

Mar 17-St Patrick's Day

Mar 25-Executive Comm Meeting

Mar 30-Past Presidents Meeting

April

April 1-Post/Aux Meeting

April 19-Pancake Breakfast

8:30-Noon

April 19-Cooties Chislic 3-6PM



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New Business

2026/2027 Budget to be Discussed

- Budget is being set for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. Budget items will be discussed at the February meeting
- Some of those items to consider are the JROTC (for Lincoln and Roosevelt)
- Budget for youth programs (Embee and youth sports)
- Suggested increase in payout for Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy
- All budget matters will be discussed at the February Meeting

- A line item will be set for special events, i.e. speakers of interest to veterans.

It would be advantageous to attend the February meeting to get your voice heard on budgetary issues.

- State Convention planning is in progress. Convention will be held in Mitchell. More details in the next news letter and February meeting
- New lock has been installed on the conference room door. \$145 was allocated, purchase came in for \$99. Saving of \$50

Good Of The Order

In Honor

Post

Richard Fonder—79—Navy
Dale Williamson—96—Navy
Leonard Webber—104—Army
Gary Voight—79—Navy

Auxiliary

GAYLE LAMBERT, RUTH MALLOY, GLADYS WALKER, DORIS KONO, SHARON WOLD, MAXINE WILLIAMSON, ANNA MARIE KNOPF, ROCHELLE STRUM

Up For Discussion

There are several events coming in the next few months. Some are still in the planning phase. Getting the information out in a timely manner help us plan for what Post 628 can assist with or have a mini event in coordination with these major events.

On June 11-14th, a replica of the Vietnam Wall will be in Brookings more information to follow.

The Sioux Falls Air Show will be held July 11-14, 2026. The Air Show will feature the Air Force Thunderbirds.

In the past, Post 628 has held a display/recruiting event at the air show. We need volunteers to man the tent at the air show and the Vietnam Wall display.

Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Welcome to New Post 628 Members

None to announce

Inputs for the March newsletter are due to the office by February 20.

Email to Office@vfw628.org. Articles,



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VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present Continuing Education Scholarships to assist members or their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school.

Eligibility:

- VFW Auxiliary member for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The spouse, son and/or daughter of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older by the application submission deadline of February 15.

Awards are available from the Department and Nationally four (4) \$1,250 scholarships will be awarded

John M Bliss Post 628 invites you to our 105th Birthday Celebration



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SUNDAY FEB 15, 2026

5:00PM SOCIAL

6:00 PM MEAL

**POST/AUXILIARY MEMBERS & GUEST
\$20 PRE PAY; \$25 AT DOOR PER PERSON**

**PRE-REGISTER BY FEB 5, 2026
ONLINE AT VFW628.ORG
OR VFW OFFICE 605-338-0869**

**THE ALLIANCE
1700 W RUSSELL ST
SIOUX FALLS SD**





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Honoring Our Veterans REAL LAMB



March 15, 2026 3PM-6PM

\$8 for Chislic

\$9 Chislic/Fries

Support our VFW Post 628 by
coming by and enjoying Chislic
with us.

To Veterans with Love

Love for our Soldiers

On Valentines day, we honor all

Those that answered the call

Solders old, and soldiers young

Fought for our freedoms, strong and bold

Some lived and some have died

They deserve our pride, all the soldiers

Who always think of the Red, White and Blue

They fought for us, and our rights

Each and every day and all through the night



Valentines Day
February 14, 2026

Listen Up Cooties,

Due to the importance of this Special Order, it will be in
Straight Talk.

**Supreme Seam Squirrel / Supreme Blanket Bum offic-
es:** At 0944 hrs. (CST) on Monday, 19 January
2026, I received a phone call from Dept of Michigan stat-
ing that Supreme Seam Squirrel Eric Bell had
passed away. Per Section 528 of the Supreme Bylaws, I
have assumed the office and duties of Supreme
Seam Squirrel and Ronnie Steele officially assumed the
office and duties of Supreme Blanket Bum.

Supreme Hide Gimlet Election: As for the office of Su-
preme Hide Gimlet (Supreme Junior Vice
Commander), all cooties interested in this position for the
remainder of the 2025-2026 Commander year,
need to make their intentions known NLT 1200 hrs.
(CST) on 18 February 2026. This must be done via email
to Supreme Adjutant Ken Eggers and myself at the ad-
dresses below.

[https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/livonia-mi/
eric-bell-12713982](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/livonia-mi/eric-bell-12713982)

Ken Eggers
Woodman
Supreme Adjutant
Seam Squirrel/Commander
Cootie #192 PT-14 of Virginia
PT-21 of Wisconsin
mocsupremeadjutant@gmail.com
MOC108thSSSTracyMLWoodman@gmail.com

Tracy M. L.
Supreme
Cootie #98

John M. Bliss VFW Post 628



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

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ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SIOUX FALLS, SD
PERMIT NO 345

1700 W Russell Street
Sioux Falls SD 57104

605-338-0869
vfw628.org



**Come Celebrate Unity and Self-Sacrifice
As Veterans Observe The**

Four Chaplains Memorial Service

**To be held at the
AMERICAN LEGION POST 15
1700 West Russell Street – north parking / door
Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

**Sunday February 1, 2026
at 2:00 PM**

PUBLIC IS INVITED!

**Sponsored by
American Legion Post 15
and Singing Legionnaires**



**Women
VETS CONNECT**
A Wellness Retreat for
Women Veterans & Military Spouses

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, April 11, 2026
9am-2pm
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Sioux Falls**