



Bliss Bugle

Your Connection For All The Latest Happenings

October
2024

Words from our Leadership

Inside this issue:

**Commander's
Corner**

Auxiliary President

HELP WANTED

Need Post Members to volunteer and help with monthly Pancake feeds, Honor Guard, Americanism programs, community services projects, and other Post's items. If you can help, please contact the office at 605-338-0869 or office@vfw68.org.

Membership

Membership is important to the Post. If you know of a veteran, ask her/him if they served in a combat zone. A lot of National Guard/Reserve members are eligible for the VFW

Amy Bolduc

Hello everyone,

Just a few things to keep in mind for the upcoming months. The first is the Auxiliary Membership/New Member Initiation Party on October 13th, 2024 starting at 1:30 p.m. in the Auxiliary Meeting Room. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October meeting to bring a potluck dish. The Auxiliary will be participating in two trunk or treats this year. The first one is on October 19th from 1 to 3 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church and the second one is on October 26th from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Runnings on 10th Street. We will need candy and non-candy items to hand out at both events. Please bring to the meeting or drop off at the Post. The Marine Corp League Ball is November 9th from 4:30 to 10 p.m. at the Alliance. Tickets are \$20 per person. Thank you for all you do to support the Post and Veterans.

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On September 20, Post 628 and other Tri-state veterans organizations provide assistance to area veterans.

Post 628 provided a breakfast for approximately 200 veterans and volunteers in addition to 90 sack lunches.

Commander Don and Auxiliary President Amy distributed socks, First-aid kits, toothbrushes, soap, mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, plus carrying bags.

As each year passes, so goes the needs of veterans. Various donations and services are provided each year. Clothing from summer to winter attire, each item is deeply appreciated.



POW/MIA Remembrance

From a book titled "You Are Not Forgotten" by Carol Jose, she explains the development and design of the POW/MIA flag.

Today is POW/MIA, which stands for Prisoner of War, Missing in Action. This is a day set aside to remember those who were taken prisoner behind enemy lines, and those whose fate was never determined, but never returned. From the excerpt: "The flag's design features a silhouette of a Prisoner of War against an unbroken white circle of hope. The guard tower and barbed wire symbolize his prison. The words 'You Are Not Forgotten' emblazoned across the lower part of the flag, are the motto of the National League of Families of POW/MIA."

South Dakota has 7 Prisoner of War/Missing in Action soldiers from the Vietnam War.

[Donald Deane Aldern...Sioux Falls](#)

[Tommy Leon Callies...Howard](#)

[Allen Duane Chritensen...Flandreau](#)

[Stanley Jon Freng...Mission Hill](#)

[Charles Lane Jr...Yankton](#)

[Walter A Renelt..Wilmot](#)

[Ddavid Preecor Soyland...Rapid City](#)

The NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS & MISSING IN SE ASIA also known legally as the National League of POW/ MIA Families, was incorporated in the District of Columbia on May 28, 1970. Voting membership is comprised of wives, children, parents, siblings and other close blood and legal relatives of Americans who were or are listed as Prisoners of War (POW), Missing in Action (MIA), Killed in Action/Body not Recovered (KIA/BNR).

Tidbit of History

On September 14, 1964, the Kellogg's Company began selling the [Pop-Tart](#). The innovative portable-breakfast treat turned any-time snack would go on to sell billions annually and help redefine the breakfast food market.



It all started when one of Kellogg's biggest competitors, Post Consumer Brands, trumpeted to the press that it had created an innovative new breakfast item: a shelf-stable, fruit-filled, handheld toaster pastry called "Country Squares." It sounded like the ultimate grab-and-go convenience food.

U.S. President [William McKinley dies](#) on September 14, 1901, eight days after [being shot](#) by a deranged anarchist during the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, [New York](#).

McKinley won his first Congressional seat at the age of 34 and spent 14 years in the House, becoming known as the leading expert on tariffs. After losing his seat in 1890, McKinley served two terms as governor of [Ohio](#). By 1896, he had emerged as the leading candidate for president, aided by the support of the wealthy Ohio industrialist Mark Hanna. That fall, McKinley defeated his rival, [William Jennings Bryan](#).

Francis Scott Key Pens "the Star Spangled Banner"

On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key pens a poem which is later set to music and in 1931 becomes America's national anthem, "[The Star-Spangled Banner](#)." The poem, originally titled "The Defense of Fort McHenry," was written after Key witnessed the [Maryland](#) fort being bom-

barbed by the British during the [War of 1812](#). Key was inspired by the sight of a lone U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry at daybreak, as reflected in the now-famous words of the "[Star-Spangled Banner](#)": "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

Francis Scott Key died of pleurisy on January 11,

We are on line at vfw628.org

Voice of Democracy Patriots Pen

Patriot's Pen

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Before submitting your essay, download the 2024-2025 entry form here at: [VFW.org/Community/Youth Scholarships](https://www.vfw.org/Community/Youth_Scholarships) and contact VFW Post 628 at 605-336-8092 as applications must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

The 2024-25 theme is:
"My Voice in America's Democracy?"



Good luck to all the participating students. We look forward to reading your essays.

Voice of Democracy

Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Before submitting your essay, download the 2024-2025 entry form here at: [VFW.org/Community/Youth Scholarships](https://www.vfw.org/Community/Youth_Scholarships) and contact VFW Post 628 at 605-336-8092 as applications must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

The 2024-25 theme is:
"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"



Scout of the Year

Some of our earliest ties to the community involve youth groups and perhaps none are stronger or more lasting than the relationship between the VFW and America's scouting organizations. In fact, our partnership with the Boy Scouts of America dates back to 1915 when VFW Post 2100 helped to establish Troop 1 in Everett, Washington.

Our Scout of the Year program provides members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to be recognized for their standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country.

Before submitting your Scout of the Year application, please review the rules and eligibility requirements.

Please contact VFW Post 628 at 605-336-8092 for any assistance.

Sioux Falls VA

Free Medical Supplies

Find out if you're eligible to order certain free medical supplies from us. You may be able to order hearing aid batteries and accessories, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) supplies, and prosthetic socks. Learn how to order online, by phone, or by mail.

All of these must be true: You're enrolled in VA health care, **and**

- You're registered as a patient at a VA medical center, **and** Your VA provider prescribed the supplies or the related medical device (such as hearing aids or a CPAP machine)

Call our VA Denver Logistics Center at [303-273-6200](tel:303-273-6200) (TTY: [711](tel:303-273-7111)). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

For hearing aid batteries and accessories, fill out a Request for Batteries and Accessories (VA Form 2346a). We included this form in the box with your last order. If you're ordering wax guards, include the type of guard.

For CPAP supplies, fill out a Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) Devices & Supplies form (VA Form 2346b). We included this form in the box with your last order.

Note: Prosthetic socks are for Veterans with amputations. If you need diabetic compression socks, contact your VA.

National Home

Post Auxiliary Members Visit

628 Members Mary Kirkvold and Kim Vennard... getting ready for the parade at National Home



Spotted these bricks this weekend at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids



Military Sexual Trauma

VA uses the term “military sexual trauma” (MST) to refer to sexual assault or threatening sexual harassment experienced during military service. MST includes any sexual activity during military service in which you are involved against your will or when unable to say no. Examples include:

- Being pressured or coerced into sexual activities, such as with threats of negative treatment if you refuse to cooperate or with promises of better treatment
- Sexual contact or activities without your consent, including when you were asleep or intoxicated
- Being overpowered or physically forced to have sex
- Being touched or grabbed in a sexual way that made you uncomfortable, including during “hazing” experiences
- Comments about your body or sexual activities that you found threatening

Unwanted sexual advances that you found threatening

People of all genders, ages, sexual orientations, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and branches of service have experienced MST. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively affect a person’s mental and physical health, even many years later. Things you may experience could include:

- Disturbing memories or nightmares
- Difficulty feeling safe
- Feelings of depression or numbness
- Using alcohol or other drugs to numb or escape from negative feelings
- Feeling isolated from other people
- Difficulties with anger, irritability, or other strong emotions
- Self-doubt, self-blame, or decreased self esteem
- Issues with sleep
- Physical health problems

If you are having any current difficulties related to MST, VA is here to support you in whatever way will help you best — from learning more about how MST affects people, to treatment that helps you cope with how MST is impacting your life currently, or if you prefer, treatment that involves discussing your experiences in more depth.

For questions about treatment and health care options related to MST, talk with an [MST Coordinator](#) at a VA health care facility near you.

East River VAVS Report

Royal C Johnson VA Hospital

Needs List

- Gift Cards. ex. Target/Walmart/Dollar Tree/Restaurant/ Hy Vee/etc
- DESPERATE need for deodorant, toothpaste and boxer briefs (not white cotton)
- BOTTOMS – athletic shorts, sweatpants, pajama bottoms (size Med – 2XL)
- Cleaning supplies/ Toilet paper/Paper towels
- Sports Bras for Female Veterans
- Activity Bags for children of patients
- T-Shirts (currently short on med and XL)
- ◆ Puzzles under 300 pieces (dementia and behavioral health area)

Volunteer Opportunities

DAV Van drivers needed

- Opportunities to play cards/ bingo ... weekends get long
- Wed Picnics – need help to sit with Veterans 11:30 -12:30. (weather permitting). Then Bingo at 1:30 on 1st floor then Bingo at 2:30 on 2nd floor
- Christmas Gift Bags – will need assistance filling them.

Questions or need more information, please contact me. kjv57103@gmail.com

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 or call the office at 605-336-8092
- Eagle Scout Project with Cooper Rey is off to a great start by identifying approximately 5000 veterans grave between the four major cemeteries in Sioux Falls.
No One Does More For Veterans
- Newly formed Air Force ROTC at Roosevelt High School has 85 Cadets. Lets Show them our support.
- In September we welcomed three new members to the post. Lets welcome them aboard.
-

Upcoming Days of Interest

October

- Oct 2: Post meeting
- Oct 3: Battle for Bakhara Market,
Mogadishu Somalia
- Oct 6: District 1 Mtg, Elk Point, 2PM
- Oct 13: Navy 249th Birthday
- Oct 14: Columbus Day
- Oct 20: Pancake Breakfast 830AM
- Oct 20: Cooties Chislic-3PM

November

- Nov 1: Start of American Indian
Heritage Month
- Nov 3: Daylights Savings time Ends
- Nov 5: Election Day
- Nov 9: Marine Corps Ball-4:30PM
- Nov 10 Marine Corps Birthday
- Nov 11: Veterans Day
- Nov 28: Thanksgiving Day

Donations to Barakah House



Wednesday, Sept 11, John M Bliss Auxiliary members Deb Felton, Roxanne Zenobi and Kim Vennard delivered 10 sets of new Twin extra long sheets to the Berakah House.

**Remembering our
Brothers and Sisters**

Auxiliary Members

Viola Robbins-96
Virginia Boe-100

Post 628

Dennis Becker-82
Jerry Coey-80
Edward Harp-96
Donald Kauers-91
Ken Kessinger-99
Neal Landeen-65
Vincent Maag-95
Patrick McCarthy-76
Lonnie Miller-76
Wilbert Wieland-99

Chaplin's Words

Let us then with Confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find the grace in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

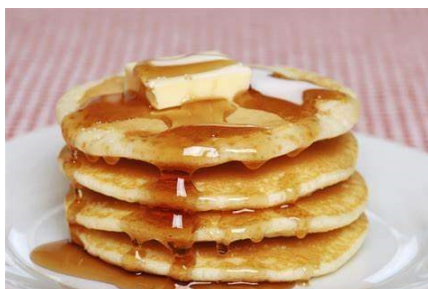
Pancakes

The next pancake Breakfast will be held October 20, 2024 starting at 830 AM.

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

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

Revenues help us take care of other veterans issues around the Sioux Falls Community.



Chislic



Great lamb chislic October 20, 2024, serves from 3pm thru 6pm.

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