



# Bliss Bugle

Your Connection For All The Latest Happenings

September  
2024

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## Commander's Corner

### 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](mailto: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.

## Auxiliary President

Hello. I just want to remind you that we will be filling first aid kits on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auxiliary room. The VA Hospital has an online needs list on Amazon. All you have to do is pull up the registry list on Amazon and enter Sioux Falls Voluntary Services.

We are still doing the gift card drive for the VA Hospital, so remember to bring gift cards to the Meetings. The gift cards can be for Target, Walmart, Hy-Vee, Fairway, Dollar Tree, etc.

The VA hospital is also needing deodorant, toothpaste, boxer briefs (not white cotton), cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, sports bras for female veterans, T-shirts sizes medium and extra-large, and puzzles under 300 pieces. Thank you for all you do for the Post and the Auxiliary.

Amy Bolduc

Auxiliary President

## Veterans Stand Down

For veterans in need in Sioux Falls area, there's a chance to find help once a year.

Veterans Stand Down is back again, September 20 as a one-stop-shop for veterans in need. Hosted by the Alliance and various Veteran Organizations and the Sioux Falls Vet Center. Individuals can get clothes, medical and dental checkups, housing referrals, and more.

Over the past year, approximately 200 veterans came to the Sioux Falls area. It is our duty to

assist our fellow veterans in their time of need. Please come and volunteer and let's help our fellow veterans.



## The Veterans Golf Association

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 and be more active in their communities.

## The Inspiration

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. 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.

Sept 27, 2024-Baker Crossing GC-Sioux Falls SD

Go to: [vgegolf.org/state-events/](http://vgegolf.org/state-events/)

## Flu Season is on the Horizon

### Flu Shots

Getting a flu shot protects you, your family, and your community from flu. And if you need, you



now can safely get vaccinated for COVID at the same time you get a flu shot – one visit, two vaccines. (Call ahead to make sure COVID vaccine available).

### Where to Find a Flu Shot Near You

Eligible Veterans can get a no-cost flu shot from a nearby VA clinic or within your community from one of nearly 65,000 in-network pharmacies or urgent care locations. Learn more from this [fact sheet](#).

## Volunteers Helping Veterans

Hats off to John M Bliss Auxiliary Post 628 Members Roxann Zenobi and Kay Stephenson and George Dokken Post 2118 Member Wanda Mix (representing SD DAVA) for their award for 100 hours

of Volunteering at the VA hospital.



The Alliance is now collaborating with the [Tunnel to Towers Foundation](#). If you know of anyone who might qualify; please contact the Alliance. Smart Home Program, Goldstar Family Home Program, Homeless Veteran Program visit [T2T.org](http://T2T.org)



# Patriots Day September 11, 2024

On September 11, Patriot Day gives all of us time to reflect on the devastating terror attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line. Take a moment today to consider what we stand for as a nation and how we can work together to make the world a better place for all.

The majority of lives that were people that worked in the Twin Towers, especially the floors above the collision point as people were trapped and stranded at the top of the burning skyscraper. 411 men and women working in emergency services lost their lives trying to fight fires and rescue people from the build-

ings. It was a heartbreaking attack, which is why Patriot Day was proclaimed by President George W. Bush and is recognized every year on September 11.

On Patriot Day, U.S. flags are lowered halfway, and there is a country-wide moment of silence at 8:46 am (Eastern Daylight Time), which is when the first plane crashed into one of the Twin Towers. Although the attacks were in the U.S., Patriot Day is recognized worldwide as the news devastated and impacted people all over.

## Remembering our Brothers and Sisters

### In Memory

Jerry Corey, 80, Navy  
Dennis Becker, 82, Army  
Ken Kessinger, 99, Army  
Lonnie Miller, 76, Air Force



**No One Does More For  
Veterans**

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

### Apologies

An apology is due to Susan Bliss Haas. In our last news letter, Susan's last name was spelled wrong. Sorry Susan.

## Upcoming Days of Interest

### September

September 2: Labor Day/Post Closed  
September 4: Post Meeting, 7PM  
September 11: Patriots Day  
September 13-15: Sanford Intl Golf  
September 15: Pancake Breakfast, 830AM  
September 15: Cooties Chislic-3Pm  
September 20: Veterans Stand Down  
8:30-1130

### October

October 2: Post meeting  
October 6: District 1 Meeting, Elk Point, 2PM  
October 13: Navy 249th Birthday  
October 14: Columbus Day  
October 20: Pancake Breakfast 8:30AM  
October 20: Cooties Chislic-3PM





## Cancer Grants

**The** VFW Auxiliary offers cancer grants to members who are battling cancer. Eligibility requirements:

- Applicant must be a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) full year.
- Current dues must be paid before applying for a cancer



grant.

- After twelve (12) months have passed from date of diagnosis or last treatment, application will not be accepted.
- A member is allowed two (2)

grants during lifetime. Twelve (12) months must elapse between new diagnosis and/or treatment from date of first grant for a second application to be considered. Continuous treatment which lasts beyond the twelve (12) month period will qualify for a second grant.

- Application will be rejected if member has been deceased for longer than 30 days.

The grant amount is currently \$550.00, and funds are paid directly to the member or, in the case of a deceased member, to their estate. Funds are dispersed 2-4 weeks following the acceptance and approval of the completed and signed application. Please read the instructions carefully before applying. The most common reason an application is denied is due to missing information from either the member or physician. To access the application, log into your MALTA account.

## 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](mailto:kjv57103@gmail.com)

Share  
this  
proudly  
on your  
wall

We Shall  
Never  
Forget.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

#### FALL COUNCIL HOMECOMING

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center  
1500 Shoreline Dr, Oacoma, SD 57365  
605-234-6376  
September 27-29, 2024  
Advance Registration \$105  
\$35 for Banquet ticket only

Make Payable to:

Department of South Dakota VFW  
1600 W Russell St, Ste 135  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

## Eagle Scout Honors Veterans

On a hot summer August day, Cooper Rey set out to do a very ambitious Eagle Scout Project. Cooper is a Life Scout from Troop 346 out of St. Michaels Church.

Cooper is working on his Eagle Scout Project honoring Veterans. The project is to create a database with photos of Veterans headstones at the four major cemeteries in Sioux Falls. These cemeteries are Hills of Rest, Me. Pleasant, Woodlawn and St. Michaels.

To make this project a reality, Cooper reached out to other Scout Troops, Veteran Service Organizations and the local community for assistance. Reaching out brought in approximately 75 volunteers for this portion on the project. Cooper and his family estimate there are around nine thousand veteran headstones to document within the major Sioux Falls cemeteries.

"It's also big in our history of South Dakotans because there's a lot of Civil War vets and World War I, World War II vets," Rey said. "So, it tells a lot about our history."

The project is in two phases. Phase one was completed August 24, 2024. This phase consisted of the volunteers uploading of an App that would include a picture of the veteran's headstone and a GPS location. Phase one was kicked off at 8 am, beginning at Hills of Rest Cemetery and concluded at approximately 6pm. Many of the volunteers dedicated the whole day to assisting in this project.



The second phase will be soon with the input of the data into the database. The dates for phase two are to be determined. Volunteers will once again be needed with putting the information into the data base. Information that will be inserted into the database will include Name of the veterans, date of birth and death, GPS coordinates, and the service of the veteran. This phase will be the longest and will require more volunteers. That information will be given later to be announced.

Thanks to Cooper Rey, his parents and all the volunteers that have spent their time on such a honorable project. Information will be updated as we get the information.

## POW/MIA Recognition Day

Many Americans across the United States pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war (POW), as well as those who are missing in action (MIA), and their families. All military installations fly the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag, which symbolizes the nation's remembrance of those who were imprisoned while serving in conflicts and those who remain missing.



Veteran rallies take place in many states, such as Wisconsin, in the United States on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. United States flags and POW/MIA flags are flown on this day and joint prayers are made for POWs and those missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day posters are also displayed at college or university campuses and public buildings to promote the day. Re-

membrance ceremonies and other events to observe the day are also held in places such as the Pentagon, war memorials and museums.

There are 1,741 American personnel listed by the Defense Department's POW/MIA Office as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, as of April 2009. The number of United States personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 841. About 90 percent of the 1,741 people still missing were lost in Vietnam or areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control, according to the National League of Families website.



The United States Congress passed a resolution authorizing National POW/MIA Recognition Day is to be observed the third Friday of September.

The United States president each year proclaims National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Many states in the USA also proclaim POW/MIA Recognition Day together with the national effort.

POW/MIA Day will be observed in Sioux Falls on September 20 at Veterans Memorial park at 6PM.



## Youth Scholarship Programs

Do you know a student in grades 9-12 who could use up to \$35,000 for college? Encourage them to enter the VFW and Auxiliary Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition!

Each year, 25,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of the educational scholarships and incentives awarded through this program.

This year's theme is "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" Entries must be submitted to a VFW Post no later than midnight on October 31, 2024.

Click here for more information: <https://vfw.org/.../youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Are you looking for scholarships and contests for your children, grandchildren or students to enter? The VFW and VFW Auxiliary offer several for elementary, middle and high school students!

Learn about the VFW Auxiliary's Illustrating America (grades K-8) art contest here: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities/>

Learn about the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art (grades 9-12) and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art (grades 9-12) contests here: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/.../young-American-creative.../>

Learn about the VFW's Voice of Democracy (grades 9-12) and Patriot's Pen (grades 6-8) scholarships here: <https://vfw.org/.../youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Pictured: Sophia Lin, the 2023-2024 National first-place winner, a high school junior from the Department of Arizona.



## Donations Helping Others

Auxiliary members Kim Vennard and Deb Felton delivered 40 plates, cups and bowls sets to the VOC in Sioux Falls. Pictures here with Ted from the VOC.

There is no greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his brother. John 15:13



## Flags Veterans Students

Thanks to John M Bliss Post 628 members Tom Henley, Kayle Decker, Auxiliary members Barb Hayes, Deb Felton, Anne McGoffin and American Legion Post 15 member Mike McGoffin for presenting an exceptional Americanism/Flag Etiquette program to the 5th and 6th graders at St Mary's Catholic School!!

These students are anxious to learn. It is exciting for them to learn about flag folding, what the folds mean and to do it themselves, that's exciting.



## August Meeting Notes

- ◆ A question was asked about placing Financial notes in this newsletter. We Can not place financials in a open format. To learn specifics about Post financials, please stop by the office or attend Post monthly meetings.
- ◆ Bylaw changes are completed and will be discussed at the September meeting.
- ◆ Items to be discussed at the Post meeting on September 3, 2024.
  - A. Veterans Standdown and volunteers needed.
  - B. Vetaid 2025, Speaker, format, Budget for Vetaid, Sponsors, Volunteers
  - C. Finances, Budget and investments for Post 628 for the ensuing year.
  - D. Discussion to raise funds i.e. Raffles or 50/50 etc.

# Good of the Order

- Gearing up for fall weather. As our weather changes and temperatures drop, please take time to ensure our furnace filters are changed and furnace is tuned up for the cold months.
- We are always in need of volunteers to assist in many of our events. Please step up and support these events. Our biggest needs are for the Honor Guard and Pancake Breakfast. Call 605-336-8092 to volunteer.
- Attend meetings. Your presence is welcome and needed. Our post strength is through our members being active. This includes Post meetings. You are important and you are needed.
- **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**
- Veterans Standdown will be held September 20 at the Alliance. Come volunteer and help our fellow veterans.



605-338-0869

1700 W. Russell Street  
Sioux Falls SD  
57106

## Pancakes and Chislic

### Pancakes

The next pancake Breakfast will be held September 15, 2024 starting at 8 AM.

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

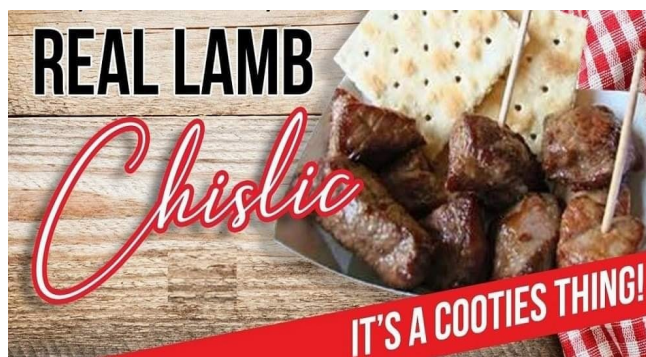
Cakes, Sausage, Eggs, Coffee, Juice and all the fixings.



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

### Chislic

Great lamb Chislic September 15, 2024, serves from 3pm thru 6pm





# SD Military Upcoming Events

## *The American Revolution Experience*

- ★ Visit this Interactive, Multi-media, National Award-Winning Travelling Exhibit.
- ★ Learn about the “regular” people who lived in the colonies.
- ★ Did they play it safe & remain loyal to the crown or risk it all for liberty?

What would YOU do?

*Celebrate America 250!*

1776-2026



*Free Admission*

**South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance**

Museum Building - 1300 N Industrial Ave

Sept 4 -7 (10am - 8pm), Sept 8 (11am - 7pm), Sept 9 (10am - 7pm)

The Patriots all shared one conviction...  
that our 13 Colonies should be free.



Get ready to celebrate America's 250 - see the "regular" people who risked their lives, their fortunes, & their sacred honor to persevere through eight long years of war; in order to defeat the mightiest army on earth & achieve American independence.

Visitors to this interactive, multi-media exhibit are invited to consider the choice faced by members of the revolutionary generation as tensions mounted in the 1770s: Would these ordinary citizens risk their lives and livelihoods in pursuit of liberty? Or would they remain loyal subjects of the British crown, coming into conflict with neighbors and family? ...What would YOU do?

Sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution, The SD American 250! Commission & the American Battlefield Trust with special thanks to the SD Military Heritage Alliance.

**CINCH PLAYOFFS**  
**THE GOVERNOR'S CUP**  
**AFTER PARTY**

**FREE SHOW**  
**JOSH WARD**  
THURSDAY 9/26

**FREE SHOW**  
**CODY CANADA & THE DEPARTED**  
Friday 9/27

**TICKET REQUIRED**  
**RANDALL KING**  
Saturday 9/28

**NIGHTLY CONCERT TO FOLLOW**  
**RODEO GO-ROUND AWARDS AT 10pm**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 27, 28**  
**THE ALLIANCE**  
1600 W. Russell St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**KADE BRUNO**  
**EMILY BEISSEL**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE**  
JUNE 27th

**MAKE SURE IT'S SECURE.**

A securely stored gun can prevent a suicide.  
Gun Storage Check Week is your reminder.

**SEPT. 1-7**

**GUN STORAGE**

**NSSF**  
The Firearm Industry Trade Association