



Bliss Bugle

November 2024

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, Americanism programs, community services projects, and our Post Honor Guard. The Honor Guard has always been the flagship that provides an incredible and honorable service to veterans. 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.

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. As many of our locals have served in a hostile environment, we should be encouraging these new veterans to continue to serve and that joining the Veterans of Foreign Wars is another way to continue their service to their fellow veterans and the surrounding community.

Auxiliary President

Hello all, hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Just a reminder about the Joint Holiday Party on December 8th, 2024 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. in the Armory. We will be making Lefse on December 14th, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Auxiliary room at the Armory, and then selling at the bake sale the next day. If you have a chance go to the Alliance and look at all the decorated trees. Thank you for all you do for the Post and Veterans. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Amy Bolduc
Auxiliary President

ATTENDANCE

Post Meeting for January 1 has been cancelled

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

Upcoming Days of Interest December

- Dec 4: Post Meeting 7PM
- Dec 13: Lita Ford at the Alliance
- Dec 14: Wreaths Across America
- Dec 21: Diamond Rio at the Alliance
- Dec 15: Pancakes
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve **Post closed**
- Dec 25: Christmas Day **Post**

Closed

Dec 31: New Years Eve

January

- Jan 1: New Years Day
- Jan 1: **Post meeting Cancelled**
- Jan 19: Pancake Breakfast 830 am
- Jan 19: Cooties Chislic 4-6pm
- Jan 20: Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 20: Inauguration Day





Annual Veterans Day ceremonies were held November 11 at the alliance.

A day filled with recognition for veterans all across the Sioux Falls area. One veteran received some special recognition, CSM Scott Bakken. CSM Bakken served not only in the Marine Corps but also as the instructor to the Marine JROTC at Lincoln High School.



Scott was doubly awarded Veteran of the Year by VFW Post 628 and by the Marine Corps League Detachment 659. Scott has demonstrated his commitment to the Corps, the VFW and Marine Corps and to

this country. He has provided leadership, knowledge and dedication in all his efforts. Congratulations to CSM Scott Bakken.



Other dignitaries present were Mayor Paul Tenhaken, Governor Kristy Noem and featured speaker Colonel Stacy Koistra.

Approximately 150 residents of the Sioux Falls area were in attendance.



Thank you to our Post members, our families and friendsto all who have served... we say

"Thank You!!"

Remembering our Brothers and Sisters

POST:

Auxiliary:

Post Closed December 24 & 25 and will resume normal business December

Wreaths Across America

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Wreaths Across America will be putting out wreaths December 14, at 11am. Wreaths will be laid at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery located at 25965 477th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD, United States, South Dakota



"Over the course of the last year, and then especially on the escort to Arlington last December, I listened to people who had gone through great adversity, and

they'd taken that adversity and turned it around as a call to action to spend the rest of their lives making sure that every day was meaningful and that they lived with purpose."

We are on line at vfw628.org

No One Dose More For Veterans

Happy Birthday Doug Starr

Doug has become a bit of a legend in these parts. He has been a positive influence to so many members of Post 628, the Sioux falls community. From his days during WWII and Korean War while serving in the Navy to his time as Professor of Journalism at Texas A&M. Teaching reporting, Public relations, and writing for 38 years. Doug held the title of Professor Emeritus Ag Communications.



Douglas Starr has amassed many years of professional experience as a reporter and a copy-editor as well as a Journalism professor. He is able to meet the requirements of punctuation, grammar, and syntax, but also such style requirements as Associated Press

for news stories and American Psychology Association for scholarly articles.

Douglas has written and published four books the most recent being in January 2014, Title "Working the Story" with co-author Deborah Dunsford.

Prior to his retirement from Texas A&M University in 2010, he taught full-time at the University of Texas for 12 years and at Texas A&M for 24 years.

Today, Doug resides here in Sioux Falls and contributes in so many ways to Post 628. Doug continues to advise at post 628, including this writer.

Doug celebrated his 99th birthday and a small party was held for him on the night of 6 November at Post 628. Smiles and laughter, cards and praise to such a deserving man.

Happy Birthday Doug from all your friends and extended family of Post 628. We hope you had a great birthday and look forward to celebrating with you

Happy Birthday Leroy Berndt

November 25, 1940

Want Fresh Oysters for Christmas?

Call the Office or E-Mail for Details.

605-338-0869 or office@vfw628.org

TBI Among Women Veterans

Women Veterans are the fastest growing group of VA users. The VHA TBI screen focuses on deployment-related TBIs—but women are more likely than men to have TBI related to non deployment experiences such as intimate partner violence. Investigators at VA Boston evaluated TBI screening among women Veterans. In this sample of 90 women Veterans, a chart review revealed that, despite VHA's universal screening mandate, 14.4% of the sample had not been screened for TBI. The investigators administered the VHA TBI screen followed by a gold-standard interview that assessed both deployment- and non-deployment-related TBIs. According to the interview, 58.9% of women Veterans had experienced a lifetime TBI, only 45.3% of which were detected by the screen. The 27 non-deployment TBIs not captured by the screen were most commonly related to physical assault (n = 14, 10 from intimate partners) or sports (n = 13). The screen was largely effective for identifying deployment-related TBIs. Results suggest that the VHA TBI screen likely underestimates the prevalence of TBI among women Veterans because it omits non-deployment experiences. Expanding TBI screening beyond deployment-related TBIs would increase opportunities for referring women Veterans to needed care.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/articles/article-pdf/id1638042.pdf>

Santa's
COMING
TO TOWN

Sunday, December 8th
11:00a - 1:00p

CANDY CANES, CRAFTS
PHOTOS WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

THE TABLE MINISTRY

the **ALLIANCE**
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.
1600 W. Russell St.



Bliss Bugle

DEAR GOD,
I BOW MY HEAD AND ASK,
IF IT BY THY WILL,
PLEASE SAVE THIS LAND
FROM THOSE WHO SEEK
TO DESTROY IT.
-AMEN-

Military ID Cardholders Renew Online

Defense officials have announced good news for approximately 1 million people who have a

- The USID card being renewed must be active, not expired. Children are eligible for online USID renewal if they have an active USID card.
-
- The sponsor and the cardholder must have email addresses listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You can [check your data in DEERS](#) to make sure it's up to date.
- The cardholder must have a photo saved in DEERS that was taken within the last 12 years.
-
- The cardholder must have a current U.S. address in DEERS. Cards can't be mailed to P.O. boxes.

Finally, once the new ID card is received and activated, the old card will be deactivated and will need to be returned to the government. You can also take the deactivated card to the nearest Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) site, or mail them to: DMDC-DSC, Attn: USID Card Returns, 2102 E. 21st Street N, Wichita, KS 67214.



DEC 13-15, 2024

18th 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 13 at 5:30 PM



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!

Sponsored by John M Bliss Post 628 VFW Auxiliary

Chaplin's Words

Experience is always the hardest teacher, because you take the test before you learn the lesson.

Pancakes

The next pancake breakfast will be held November 17, 2024 starting at 8 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

Great lamb chislic November 17, 2024, serves from 3pm thru 6pm.

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



Meeting Notes

- Holiday Party December 8, No cost to members and Auxiliary
- Honor guard delivered last rites to four veterans in November. 10 total for the 3rd Quarter.
- Veterans Day ceremonies were attended By Post commander and several post members
- Post bylaws have been updated and will be sent forward for approval from Department and National Headquarters.
- Finance report was given. For more information, See rich or Jim at the Post Office.
- Three new members were welcomed into Post 628
- There will be no Vets Ade for 2025
-

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
- Make a effort to reach out to our veterans: Ray Recker, Harold Hanson, Paul Weckman and Dave Cauley.
- **Question:** Should the Post meeting for January be held January 1 or should it be moved to Jan 8? Let the commander know your vote.

Vietnam War Memorial Dedicated November 13, 1982

Near the end of a weeklong national salute to Americans who served in the Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. after a march to its site by thousands of veterans of the conflict. The long-awaited memorial was a simple V-shaped black-granite wall inscribed with the names of the 57,939 Americans who died in the conflict, arranged in order of death, not rank, as was common in other memorials.



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial soon became one of the most visited memorials in the nation's capital. "The Wall" drew together both those who fought and those who

marched against the war and served to promote national healing a decade after the divisive conflict's end.

Update on South Dakota State Park Fees

Effective December 15, 2024

We want to share some important updates about fees that will take effect on December 15, 2024. These changes are part of our ongoing commitment to keep South Dakota State Parks welcoming, well-maintained, and ready for visitors all year long.

For more information, go to: sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us

Military Environmental Exposure Evaluations Program

Veterans Exposure Team-Health Outcomes Military Exposures (VET-HOME) is a new VA program that uses telehealth to perform military environmental health registry evaluations. VET-HOME VA clinicians will create a detailed exposure history, record symptoms or abnormalities potentially related to the military environmental exposures, conduct a physical examination (or review the results of a previous examination), and inform veterans of their eligibility for one of VA's six environmental health registries. [Read more](#) about VET-HOME or locate an [accredited representative](#) for help filing a claim.

In Case You Missed It

The House and Senate Committees on Armed Services are negotiating their versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025. An important VFW legislative priority, S.2888 / H.R.3933, *TAP Promotion Act*, is currently in the House version (Section 563) only. Ensuring veterans receive their VA benefits and

health care as soon as they leave the military facilitates a smooth transition, and can also reduce the risk of homelessness, food insecurity, and suicide. [Tell Congress](#) to keep the *TAP Promotion Act* in the final version of the defense bill to make permanent VA's practice of including accredited claims representatives in TAP classes.

MILES & LISA BEACOM CONCERT SERIES

**B-102.7 PRESENTS
ROCK & ROLL & MISTLETOE
FEATURING**

LITA FORD

**FRIDAY, DEC. 13
THE ALLIANCE
SIOUX FALLS, SD**

**FEATURING
"KISS ME DEADLY"
AND
OTHER CLASSIC
ROCK HITS**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
SOUTHDAKOTAALLIANCE.ORG OR ETIX.COM

B1027 CHAMPION FOUNDATION **ALLIANCE**

Photo credit: Teddy Allison

Plus, The Iron Cowboy Ron Keel



MILES & LISA BEACOM CONCERT SERIES

DIAMOND RIO

**21 DEC
2024
THE ALLIANCE
SIOUX FALLS, SD**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SOUTHDAKOTAALLIANCE.ORG

ALLIANCE

**CHARLES WESLEY
GODWIN**

Thursday
FEB 13
Sioux Falls, SD
The Alliance

MILES & LISA BEACOM CONCERT SERIES

ALLIANCE