



Bliss Bugle



COMMANDER COMMENTS



This is Mark Winter, the new 2025-2026 John M. Bliss Post 628 Commander. I retired as an Electronic Technician Chief Petty Officer (E-7) in the U.S. Navy Reserve after serving over 28 years (6 active, over 22 reserves with a recall to Active Duty for 10 months with 7 ½ months in Kuwait from 2003-2004). I retired from the U.S. Postal Service as an Electronic Technician, maintaining and repairing the mail processing machines for 23 years and a Maintenance Supervisor for 1

year with 30 years of Federal Service (including active-duty time). I also hold the position of First Vice-Commander of Urban-Hanson American Legion Post 118 in Hartford and Commander of the Sioux Falls Area Veterans Council. I'm an active life member of the VFW, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans Organizations and a member of several other organizations and committees. My wife Sandy and I have 4 daughters, 1 son, and 4 grandchildren between us.

My goal is to establish better communications between the post members, the post members and the Post, between the various Posts at the District and Department Levels. This will involve talking, listening, reading, and comprehending the various types of information provided. I've lost track of the number of people that key in on select words and don't bother paying attention to the "Whole" story and drawing conclusions that aren't even close to the story.

Each month on the first Wednesday at 1900, the members and guests will meet for the "Planning Session." The Planning Session will be where guests will present their proposals and if need be, depart. Their proposals will be discussed at some point in the Planning Session. The normal house cleaning items will be brought up and discussed. The current and future events items will be discussed. Request that event and item discussions be brief and to the point, finer details will be turned over the event or item committee (become a committee member for those who wish to have a say in the event or item). Upon completion of the Planning Session (the goal is 60 minutes, 90 minutes if guests are present), there will be a "Camaraderie Session" to discuss Planning Session events and items, sports, world events, etc. so stick around if you can.

Think of what you would like the Post to be involved with such as special events, picnics, fishing excursions, hunting excursions, or shooting excursions. Keep in mind that the costs for these events must be covered. Keep reading, you may find an article where you can save some money if you qualify.



Hello, my name is Deb Felton, and I am the new Auxiliary President for Post 628. I am excited to be in this position, and look forward to working with everyone. I have been a member of the 628 Auxiliary for six years, joining under my son Staff Sgt. Alex M. Felton.

I would like to remind everyone of the pancake breakfast that the post does on the third Sunday of each month. The Auxiliary puts on our bake sale at the same time. WE COULD ALWAYS USE BAKED GOODS!! The more baked goods, the more money we make for our veterans.



Post 628 Members and Auxiliary Members at the State Convention Banquet in Pierre, SD.



Past Commander Don and Past President Amy accepting awards for VFW Programs.



Patti Mitchell accepting an award for Day County Coyote Hunt.

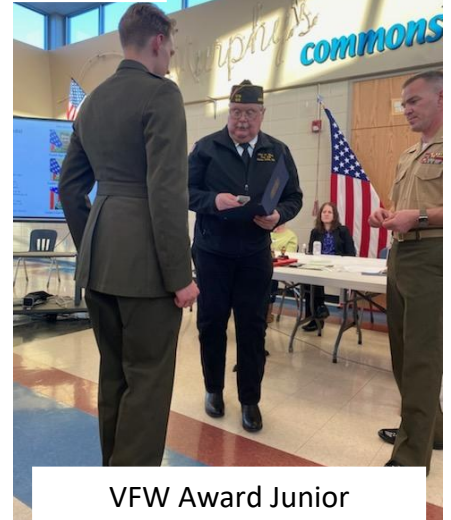
Commander Mark Winter handing out checks to scholarship winners from Marine Corp JROTC at Lincoln.



**VFW Award Senior
Aiden Larson**



**VFW Award Sophomore
Nicole Pennington**



**VFW Award Junior
Sam Meline**



**VFW Scholarship Award
Michael Holmes**



**VFW Scholarship Award
Cidney Hansen**

Quartermaster Jim McQuisten handed out awards to AFJROTC



Major Eric Johnson Cadet Lt. Jake Olsen



Major Eric Johnson Cadet 1st Lt. Ethan Weber

Past Commander Don Kranz handed out awards to two Civil Air Patrol Cadets in Tea, SD.



Cpt. Clement Cadet 2nd Lt. Lillian Williams
3 year Trustee Don Kranz



Cpt. Clement MSgt Fred Dennis Ben Shafer



Humboldt Sharpshooters



Cadet 2nd Lt. Lillian Williams
Being awarded Cadet of The Year from National
Council Member Barbara Mckean and
National Surgeon Dr. James



South Dakota Jr. Football Team VFW Post



O'Gorman Jr. High Blue
Bricks Lego Team

NEWSLETTER

Post Newsletter will publish each quarter, July-September, October-December, January-March and April-June. This newsletter is being mailed to all Post and Auxiliary members. Future newsletters will be E-Mailed to members that have current-mail addresses. For members without E-Mail addresses will need to access the Post web site www.vfw628.org for the latest newsletter or picked up one at the office.

If your name is on the newsletter with **BOLD LETTERS**, National VFW has indicated that your VFW membership has expired. To continue your membership, please mail your \$40.00 to the Post or stop in the office to pay them.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

On the previous pages are photos of the various Post 628 youth and community service projects from late 2024 to the present. These activities are funded by Monthly Pancake Feeds and donations.

Dakota Layers

Dakota Layers have been furnishing the VFW Post 628 and The American Legion Post 15 eggs, these donations have been vital for raising money for our youth programs. In this picture we have co-owner Tracy of Dakota Layers being presenting the Golden Egg Award from our past and current commanders of the VFW and American Legion. Thank You Dakota Layers



Commander VFW 628 Mark Winter
Past Legion 15 Commander Dale Hill
Past VFW 628 Commander Donally Kranz
Co-owner of Dakota Layers Tracy
Assistant Quartermaster Richard Schwanke
Commander Legion 15 Pat Branco



Membership Picnic

The membership picnic has been rescheduled for August 2nd 11a.m.-2p.m.

All members are welcome and are encouraged to bring any potential new member as a plus 1 to our annual membership picnic. We will be having Burgers and Brats as well as delicious sides at our Post 628 building.

1700 W. Russell St.


Extra's, Extra's

Attention: Members are you over 65 and retired? How about helping out with the Post's Honor Guard. The Post needs help with Military Funerals at the State Cemetery. Post 628 will furnish the uniforms for members. Or how about helping at our monthly pancakes, maybe 1 or 2 times during the year or other activates contact the post for more details 605-338-0869

VFW Post 628 Dashboard

We are asking all members of Post 628 to go on the State website at VFWS.org to post all their community service acts on our dashboard. To login on the state website click the login button on the top right of the page and click members only . For your password use your Last name with your first letter capitalized. Feel free to come into the office for any questions.

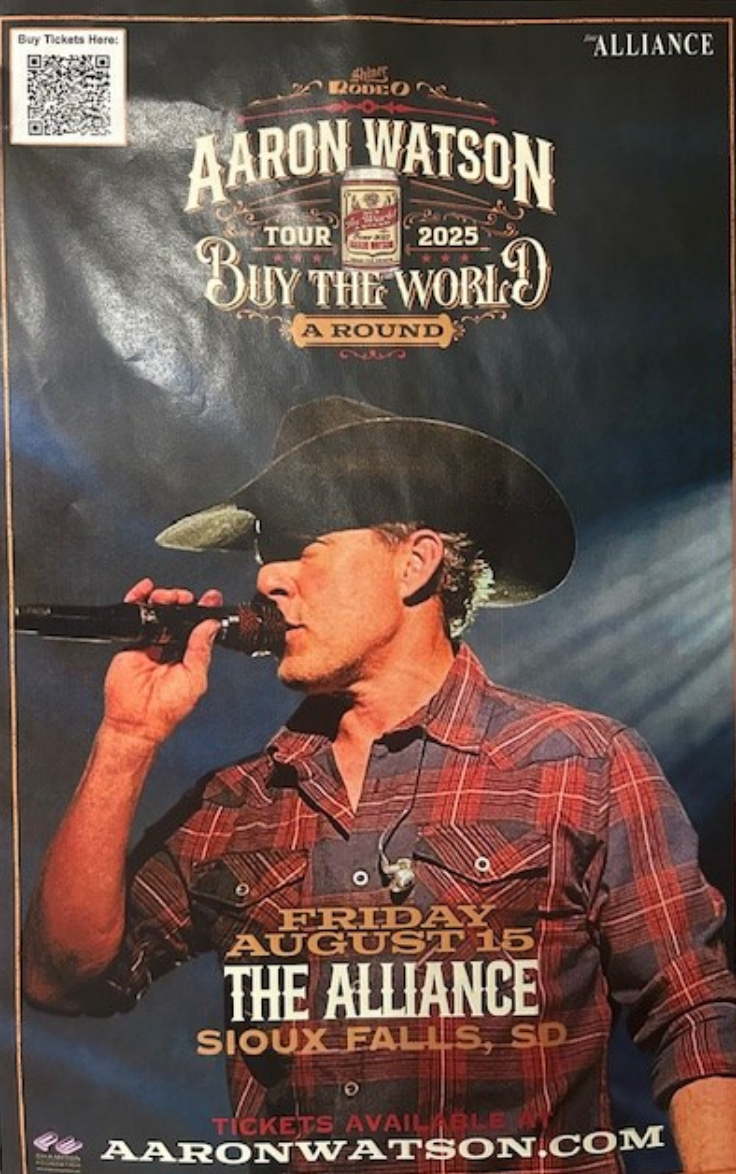
EVENTS HAPPENING

Buy Tickets Here: 

AARON WATSON
TOUR 2025
BUY THE WORLD AROUND

THE ALLIANCE
FRIDAY
AUGUST 15
SIOUX FALLS, SD

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
AARONWATSON.COM



USS SOUTH DAKOTA
DAY of HONOR
80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

AUGUST 9, 2025
10:00 AM

BATTLESHIP SOUTH DAKOTA MEMORIAL
12TH STREET & KIWANIS AVE.
SIOUX FALLS, SD

GUEST SPEAKERS
SENATOR JOHN THUNE
REAR ADMIRAL WOSJE

NAVY BAND
BRASS AMBASSADORS
NAVY CEREMONIAL GUARD
SAILORS OF THE USS CONSTITUTION
DISPLAYS FROM US NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND
WWII VEHICLES

NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

US NAVY WEEK - SIOUX FALLS, SD | AUGUST 4-10




The BARREL HOUSE
MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

Monday, August 11, 2025
10% of Days Sales Donated



23RD ANNUAL
SHOW & SHINE
CAR SHOW

August 13, 2025
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sioux Falls VA
2501 W. 22nd St.
Sioux Falls, SD



For more details, reach us at vhasuxvoluntary@va.gov or 605-333-6806.



\$100,000
could be
donated to the
VFW



July 07, 2025
Until
October 31st,
2025

Harley-Davidson is hosting a Let's Ride Challenge

All comrades who ride Harley-Davidson motorcycles are encouraged to participate.

Riders must visit participating Harley-Davidson dealerships in your state to register their motorcycle and log their miles during the challenge period. Most importantly, they MUST select "VFW" as their sponsor during registration.

J & L Harley-Davidson, Sioux Falls 57107



President Deb and Quartermaster Jim enjoying a day at the old ball game.

Pancakes Breakfast

Pancake breakfasts are held the third Sunday of the Month, starting at 8 AM until 12 PM.

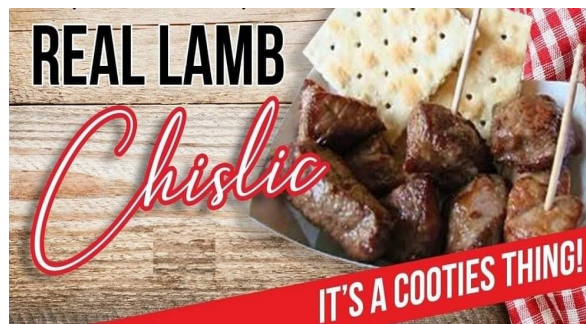
Adults \$8, Children under 10 for \$2.

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



Chislic Feed

Great lamb chislic served the third Sunday of the Month, starting at 3pm thru 6pm.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

2nd-Member/Auxiliary Meeting @ 7

4th-Independence Day

9th-MOC/MOCA Meeting @ 7

12th-Poker Run (See above ad)

20th-Pancaket/Bake Sale/MOC Chislic

27th-Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

27th-Aaron Tippin Concert (See above ad)

AUGUST

6th-Member/Auxiliary Meeting @ 7

7th-Purple Heart Day

9th-Day of Honor (See above ad)

11th-Barrel House Day of Giving

13th-Show & Shine Car Show (See ad)

13th-MOC/MOCA Meeting @ 7

17th-Pancake Breakfast/Aux Bake Sale/MOC Chislic

28th-Veterans Day at the SD State Fair

SEPTEMBER

3rd-Member/Auxiliary Meeting @ 7

10th-MOC/MOCA Meeting @ 7

11th-9/11 Remembrance Day

21st-Pancake/ Bake Sale/MOC Chislic

19th-Veteran's Standdown

John M. Bliss VFW Post 628

Suite 503
1700 W Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
605-338-0869



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SIOUX FALLS, SD

Office: 605-338-0869

Office email: office@vfw628.org

Commander: cmd@vfw628.org

Quartermaster: qm@vfw628.org

Post Web Site: www.vfw628.org

Facebook: VFW JM Bliss Post 628

Office Hours 9am to 3pm

SOUTH DAKKOTA VFW LEADERSHIP

<u>STATE DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>VFW POST 628</u>	<u>VFW POST 628 AUX.</u>
Commander Dr. Martin Christensen	Commander-Mark Winter	President Deb Felton
Sr. Vice Commander Rick VandenHoek	Sr.Vice Commander-Hosea Bennett	Sr. Vice President Amy Bolduc
Jr. Vice Commander Dale Greenfield	Jr.Vice Commander-Tadd Goehring	Jr. Vice Anne McGoffin
Adjutant/Quartermaster Anna Arnold	Quartermaster-Jim McQuisten	Treasurer Kim Vennard
Chaplain Russel Dramstad	Chaplain-Patrick Morgan	Chaplain Diana Wells
Judge Advocate Katherine Pyka	1 Year Trustee-Wilfred Bolduc	Conductor Jennifer Kranz
Surgeon Dan Klimisch	2 Year Trustee-Joseph Worley	Guard Nancy Renner
Past State Commander Glynis Collier	3 Year Trustee-Donnally Kranz	Secretary Beth Honerman
Chief of Staff Tom Hafner	Adjutant-Eduardo Leanos	Trustee 1-Roxann Zenobi
Inspector Alan Ochsner	Service Officer-Joseph Worley	Trustee 2-Barb Hayes
District 1 Commander Don Kranz	Judge Advocate-Harry Engberg	Trustee 3-Sue Peters
District 4 Commander Troy Foster	Surgeon-Hosea Bennett	
District 6 Commander Chris Forster		
District 7 Commander Brent Jones		