



Lincoln High School Marine Corps JROTC Cadets pose with their 1st Place Overall and other winning trophies. (Photo Credit: Leah Broesder)

Lincoln HS MCJROTC Wins Drill Meet

Congratulations to the Sioux Falls Lincoln High School MC JROTC on continuing the programs winning tradition by placing 1st Place OVERALL at the 2022/23 Lincoln High School JROTC Drill Competition this weekend. Instructed by Post Member Marine Sgt Maj (Ret) Scott Bakken

The Cadets won overall by finishing:

- 1st in Armed Reg
- 1st in Unarmed Reg
- 1st in Color Guard
- 1st in LE-1 Color Guard
- 1st in LE-1 Unarmed
- 1st in Armed Exhibition
- 2nd in Female PT
- 3rd in Male PT
- 3rd in Unarmed Exhibition
- 3rd in LE-1 Armed
- 4th in Inspection



Commander Bennett pictured with some of the Cadets of the Lincoln HS Marine Corps JROTC (Photo Credit: Leah Broesder)

Kris Paronto

Brought in by Post 628, Kris 'Tanto' Paronto, a former Army Ranger from 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment, spoke to a sold out crowd at The Alliance to kick off VetAid on March 3rd, 2023.

As part of the CIA Annex Security Team that responded to the terrorist attack on the US Special Mission in Benghazi, Libya on September 11th, 2012, Paronto saved over 20 lives while fighting off terrorists from the CIA Annex for over 13 hours.

Among his many books are "The Rangers Way and Patriot's Creed," and "13 Hours," an inside account of what happened in Benghazi."

To Paronto, Benghazi is about sacrifice, giving of yourself, and leading as best as you can.



Kris "Tanto" Paronto speaks to the crowd at the Alliance

Post Commander Hosea Bennett

Comrades,

With spring finally here...That also means Elections are here. We will be holding elections at April 5th meeting. We will be electing Commander, Senior Vice, Junior Vice, Quartermaster, Chaplin, 3-year Trustee, and 2 - 3-year Executive Committee member. If you are interested in any of these positions, please attend the April 5th meeting.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped with the Kris Paronto event on March 3rd. We could not have pulled it off without you.

The 2023/24 Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen essay applications are now available. Go to vfw628.org then click "Programs and the Scholarships."

Attention ANNUAL members, I would like for you to consider upgrading your membership to a LIFE MEMBERSHIP. Not only is it a great commitment to the VFW, it is also huge cost saving. For those of you who are LIFE membership, I ask you to consider becoming a LEGACY LIFEMEMBER. Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

If you are interested or want any info on becoming a LIFE or LEGACY LIFEMEMBER, please contact the office at 605-338-0869

Next meeting is Apr 5 at 7 pm and then May 3 at the Armory, 1700 W Russell

Auxiliary President Kim Vennard

Where has this year gone??? Hard to believe it is time for Election of Officers once again. Make sure come to the meeting on April 5 to cast your vote or step up for an office. You are eligible for any of the positions that we have. We did not receive any nominations for treasurer at last month's meeting. We still need someone to step up as treasurer. We must have someone elected in to the position.

The Auxiliary Bake Sale will be held in conjunction with the pancake breakfast on April 16. Let's continue to keep make this bigger and better!!

Thank you to all those that continue to step up and volunteer when needed. It is nice to have more volunteers that we need at events.

If you have not been receiving Auxiliary emails, please make sure you double check your email junk folder. Please email me at auxiliary@vfw628.org with your updated email if you are not receiving them, I will verify we have the correct email address on file.

Please make sure you record all your volunteer hours. Submit monthly to Amy Bolduc at bluetopaz75@aol.com. A new form to record will be coming out in the future.

Next meeting is Apr 5 at 7 pm and then May 3 at the Armory, 1700 W Russell.

Month of the Military Child

**PURPLE UP!
FOR
MILITARY
KIDS DAY
in
South Dakota**
Friday, April 21st

APRIL IS A TIME TO
RECOGNIZE AND HONOR
OUR MILITARY YOUTH
FOR THEIR RESILIENCE,
STRENGTH, AND SERVICE.

CELEBRATE AND THANK
THEM FOR ALL THAT
THEY DO! SHOW YOUR
SUPPORT AND WEAR
PURPLE ON
PURPLE UP DAY!

SDNG Child & Youth Program



Jr Vice Don Krantz, Auxiliary members Roxann Zenobi, Beth Honerman, President Kim Vennard, Amy Bolduc work the booth at Stand Up for Women Veterans event.

Stand up For Women Veterans

Stand Up for Women Veterans (SUWV) was a success. Registration was up this year; however, the weather did tend to keep some of the registrants away. The vendors at this event are amazing and it is great working with them. SUWV is sponsored by Community Action for Veterans (CAV) and this was the second year for that event.

Congratulations to Post and Auxiliary 2022/23 award winners



Golden Spatula Award
Post Member Jim McQuisten
Presented by Commander Bennett



Volunteers of the Year
Post Member Wil Bolduc
Auxiliary Member Amy Bolduc
Presented by Aux President Vennard



Auxiliary Member of the Year
Auxiliary Member Barb Hays
Presented by Aux President Vennard

COMPACT ACT

Starting last January 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any health care facility, at VA or in the community, for free emergency health care – including transportation costs – and receive inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work.

This could increase access to acute suicide care to an additional 9 million unenrolled Veterans and reduce the number of Veteran suicides by offering immediate care when they are most vulnerable.

COMPACT-eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Those who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

For more information, visit

www.va.gov/communitycareprograms/veterans/Emergency_Care.asp

More Affordable Housing for Native American Veterans

VA announced it has lowered the interest rate from 6% to 2.5% for the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program, making housing more affordable for Native American veterans or veterans who are married to Native American non-veterans. Through the NADL program, direct loans are provided to help buy, build, or improve a home on trust land. By law, VA is authorized to provide direct loans only through the NADL program. However, VA is able to help all eligible veterans obtain housing through VA-backed home loans. The 2.5% interest rate was in effect as of March 13 and will be available for no more than 24 months. Native American veterans who are interested in the NADL program can contact an NADL coordinator by emailing NADL@va.gov or calling 888.349.7541.

<https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-types/native-american-direct-loan/>



Report and Prevent VA Benefit Scams

Scammers are targeting Veterans and their VA benefits through misleading commercials, emails, texts, cold calls, or online ads. Some may even pose as someone from VA or an organization providing discounts on fees for services. But VA never charges you for processing a claim. Keep your benefits safe from fraudsters by knowing what to look out for and reporting fraudulent activity to vaohotline@va.gov or call 1-800-488-8244.

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you’re a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

For more information or to file your claim:

www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/

Or call 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711).

New eligibility for VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

TVA administers a tax-free monetary benefit called “VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC)” to qualifying survivors of service members and Veterans. New legislation has expanded eligibility for VA DIC. If you’re the survivor of a service member who died in the line of duty or of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, you may qualify.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act is a new law that expands access to VA services and benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances, making it easier for many survivors to receive VA DIC. There are now more periods of service and over 20 additional presumptive conditions that qualify. Presumptive conditions are conditions that VA “presumes” are service-related. Learn more online at VA.gov/PACT.

POST OFFICERS 2022-23

Commander-----Hosea Bennett
Senior Vice Commander-----Rich Stelter
Junior Vice Commander-----Don Kranz
Quartermaster-----Tom Anez
Judge Advocate-----Harry Engberg
Surgeon-----Glee Gile
Chaplin-----Tom Henle
Adjutant-----Nate Beiningen
Service Officer-----Open



John M. Bliss Post 628



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

1600 W RUSSELL ST
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SIOUX FALLS, SD
PERMIT NO 345

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2022-23

President-----Kim Vennard
Sr. Vice President-----Kasey Jacobson
Jr. Vice President-----Amy Bolduc
Secretary-----Deb Felton
Treasurer-----Cathy Jo Sanchez
Chaplin-----Diana Wells

Office: 605-338-0869
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Office@vfw628.org
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Quartermaster:
qm@vfw628.org

Post Web Site:
VFW628.ORG
Facebook:
SiouxFallsVFW
State VFW Office:
605-332-7441
State Website:
www.vfwsd.org

Cootie Corner



Scratches are held on the second Wednesday 7pm. At the Alliance. Next Cooties Chislic 4/16 and 5/21 – 3 pm 6 pm. LOTCS, Nathan Beiningen
Seam Squirrel 2022-23

Pancake Breakfast



April 16 and May 21 . Start time is 8:30 am –12:00 pm.
Bring your friends and Family.
Volunteers are always needed. If you or someone you know would like to give a couple of hours of volunteer time it, would be greatly appreciated. We have setup a web sign up to make it easier to Volunteer.
Go to VFW628.ORG then Programs then Pancake Volunteer Sign Up
Or by calling 605-338-0869

Upcoming Events

April 5 – Post and Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
April 7 – Good Friday
April 9 - Easter
April 12 – Cooties and MOCA meeting 7 pm
April 16 – Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am – 12 noon, The Alliance
April 16 – Cooties Chislic, 3 pm – 6 pm, The Alliance
April 21 – Purple Up for Military Children Day
April 23 – District 1 meeting – 2 pm, Beresford Library
April 26 – Post Executive Meeting – 7 pm
May 1 – Loyalty Day
May 3 - Post and Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
May 7 – Loyalty Day Program – 4 pm, The Museum
May 7 – 13 Public Service Recognition Week
May 10 – Cooties and MOCA meeting 7 pm
May 12 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day
May 17 – Installation of Officers and Memorial Program
May 20 – Armed Forces Day – The Alliance
May 21 – Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am – 12 noon, The Alliance
May 21 – Cooties Chislic, 3 pm – 6 pm, The Alliance
May 29 – Memorial Day
May 29 – Memorial Day Program, Vets Council
May 29 – Memorial Day Program, Veterans Cemetery
May 31 – Post Executive Meeting – 7 pm

Inputs for the June/July newsletter are due to the office or cmd@vfw628.org by May15. Photos, articles, and announcements are welcome.