



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

John M. Bliss Post 628

BLISS BUGLE

Still serving our Veterans and the Community



AUG-SEPT 2023

Post 628 adopts the 323rd Chemical Company

On 6 July 2023, Sioux Falls based Army Reserve unit - 323rd Chemical Company, commanded by CPT Jade Crux was ordered into active military status and has deployed to Kuwait for support of Operation Spartan Shield

This is will be the third deployment of the 323rd. The unit previously deployed in 1990 Desert Storm and in 2003 For the War on Terrorism.

Post 628 has adopted the 323rd with the goal of providing support for the Soldiers and their families before, during and after the deployment. If you are interested in being a part of the Adopt the Unit committee, call the office or email qm@vfw628.org



323rd CBRN Company's activation ceremony at the Alliance

Kim Hubers

Congratulations to DAV Chapter 1 Commander Kim Hubers and VFW Post 628 Life Member, on being selected as DAV's 2023 Disabled American Veteran of the Year.

Kim Hubers struggles with the cost of military service every day, but it's a price mostly hidden from others. No one sees the struggles the Iraq War imposed on the South Dakota Army National Guard veteran.

However, faced with such constraints, Hubers unfailingly puts others first. She tracks down South Dakota veterans to assist with claims, volunteers her most precious resource—her time—for DAV for countless events, serves as commander for Chapter 1 in Sioux Falls and more.

To see the whole article go to: Matt Saintsing's article <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2023/disabled-veteran-recognized-for-unwavering-volunteerism-while-fighting-silent-battles/>



Kim Huber. DAV's 2023 Veteran of the year (photo credit DAV Magazine)

Post Commander Hosea Bennett

Comrades,

I would like to congratulate our Post for achieving All-American and All-State status for 2022-23. We hit 101.89% for membership. I would also like to congratulate Kim Vennard and the Auxiliary for earning the Big 10 Conference Award at National convention for Outstanding Historian and Media report.

The 2022-23 year was a huge success, in which we had 5,442 volunteer hours and over \$38k (money donated and facility use) in community donations and Veteran relief. Thank you to all the 2022-23 officers and appointees for all the time and effort you give to the Post. Congrats to all the 2023-24 officers and appointees. We are in need of a Post Surgeon, if you are interested let me know.

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 Sep 6 at 7 pm and then Oct 4 at the Armory, 1700 W Russell

Auxiliary President Kim Vennard

Wow!! Another year over and starting fresh!! Where does the time go!! Big shout out to the Auxiliary and all their hard work!! We received many awards and recognitions at the State Convention. At National Convention, we received the Award for Best Media for the Big 10 Conference. So proud of the teamwork our members exemplify! It's not just one person.... it takes us all to get our projects and programs completed.

Thank you to the Line Officers for their great work and support. We have the pretty much the same officers with the exception of Deb Felton moving to Treasurer and Beth Honerman stepping to take over the secretary position. We are here to guide and mentor you, and if we don't have the answer.... We will find the answer.

Anyone that has any new and fresh ideas for projects for the year, please let us know. I have a couple of new ideas.... We just need to get them in motion.

Department President Pam's theme this year is "Teamwork makes the Dream work for our Veterans!" With teamwork, 628 Auxiliary will remain one of the best auxiliaries there is!! The only one we are in competition with is ourselves. We need to continue to strive to be better than we were the year before.

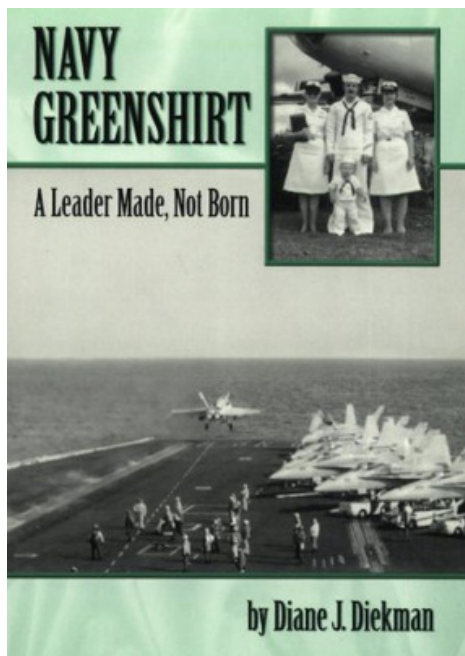
School is starting soon!! PLEASE watch for children on their way to and from school. We need to make sure we reach these students to get them involved with our Essay, Art and Singing contests. We will be gearing up to bring Patriotism and Americanism in to the schools once again this year. Let me know if you are interested in assisting.

Next meeting is Sep 6 at 7 pm and then Oct 4 at the Armory, 1700 W Russell.

Did you know?

Post 628 has members that are published authors.

Diane J. Diekman

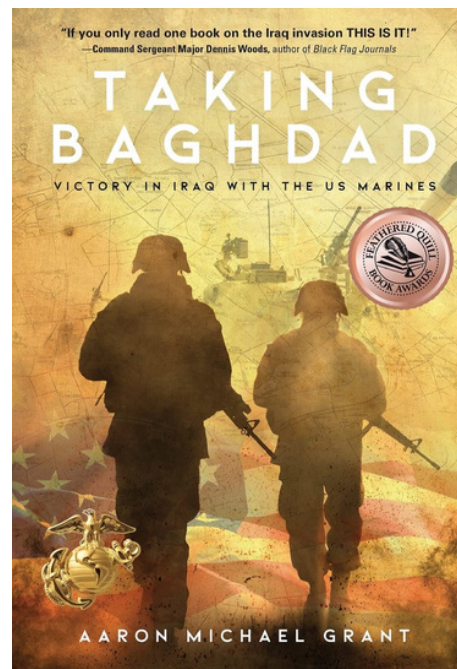


Navy Greenshirt is available to buy on AMAZON.COM and at the Alliance.

Taking Baghdad is available to buy on AMAZON.com and Barnes and Noble

Navy Greenshirt: A Leader Made, Not Born_ is the story of a female pioneer who struggled and succeeded in the male-dominated world of naval aviation. The commanding officer of her first squadron fired her when she failed his hidden test to assert herself as a leader.

Aaron M Grant



TAKING BAGHDAD: is one of the few histories of Operation Iraqi Freedom written by a Marine who actually served in the war. It covers the twenty-two-day push to Baghdad in 2003, which was one of the most efficient conflicts in the annals of warfare. This book is for soldiers and civilians, for historians and the young who need to understand war.

Veterans can now file supplemental claims online

As part of continued modernization efforts from VA, Veterans can now file supplemental claims online at VA.gov. Filing a supplemental claim is an option for Veterans who disagree with a previously denied claim decision regarding VA disability compensation or pension benefits.

This new functionality enhances the Veteran digital experience while delivering timely and accurate notification to Veterans regarding their claim decisions. VA.gov's new online filing tool speeds claims decisions to Veterans by:

- Saving time with supplemental claims submitted directly on VA.gov, with step-by-step, interview-style questions.
- Allowing secure and quick uploads for additional evidence and records.
- Saving progress so Veterans can leave and pick up where they left off.

In addition, Veterans can use their smartphone or other mobile devices to apply online, or if they would prefer, submit supplemental claims by mail if that option better meets their need.

For more information, visit:

<https://news.va.gov/121884/veterans-can-now-file-supplemental-claims-online/>

Veterans set to see cost-of-living increase to their benefits

On June 14, 2023, President Joe Biden signed into law the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023, which directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for Veterans benefits in 2024 equal to the COLA applied to Social Security benefits, as determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The legislation, passed with bi-partisan support in the House and Senate, is an annual procedure for Congress but an important one, as it must be accomplished to ensure Veterans receive a COLA, and that it keeps pace with inflationary costs.

For more information, visit:

<https://news.va.gov/121361/veterans-cost-of-living-increase-benefits/>

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 vaoighotline@va.gov or call 1-800-488-8244.

Are you in need of a Service Dog?

The VA supports guide and service dogs for Veterans. Veterans approved for service dogs are referred to Assistance Dogs International-accredited agencies.

A guide dog is trained to assist blind and visually impaired people by avoiding obstacles. A service dog is trained to help those with physical or hearing disabilities by alerting deaf and hearing impaired individuals to a variety of household sounds or by assisting in the performance of a wide variety of tasks depending on need and training (e.g. balance, retrieving, or pulling a wheelchair).

To receive any type of medical service through VA, you must register at the Health Administration enrollment section of a VA medical facility or online. Once registered, a referral to a specialist may be requested through the assigned VA primary care provider. The specialist will complete an evaluation and make a clinical determination on the need for assistive devices, including a service dog.

For more information, visit:

https://www.va.gov/MS/Veterans/benefits/Guide_and_Service_Dogs.asp



2023-24 John M Bliss Post 628 Officers



Commander
Hosea Bennett
ARMY



Senior Vice
Don Kranz
ARMY



Junior Vice
Richard Stelter
ARMY



Quartermaster
Jim McQuisten
ARMY



Chaplin
Tom Henle
NAVY



Adjutant
Nate Beiningen
ARMY



**VFW National
Commander-in-Chief**
Duane Sarmiento
Post 5579
Navy



**VFW Dept of South Dakota
Commander**
Dave Baumiller
Post 5807
Army

2023-24 John M Bliss Post 628 Auxiliary Officers



President
Kim Vennard



Senior Vice
Kasey Jacobsen



Junior Vice
Amy Bolduc



Secretary
Beth Honerman



Treasurer
Deb Felton



Chaplin
Diana Wells



Conductor
Vicki Williams



**National Auxiliary
President**
Carla Martinez
Post Auxiliary 409



**Dept of South Dakota
Auxiliary President**
PAMELA VISSIA
Post Auxiliary 6554

JOHN M BLISS VFW POST 628 & AUXILIARY

POST/AUX PICNIC

August 19th 2023 | 11 am - 2pm

Location: The Post



Get your Ticket Now and join us for a picnic on Saturday, Aug 19th 11 am to 2 pm at the Post. Here's a chance to get together and enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs. Post, Auxiliary and family. We would also like for you to bring a perspective new member the would be eligible to join the VFW or Auxiliary. If you have any question please email cmd@vfw628.org or call 605-338-0869. Get your tickets online at VFW628.ORG



GUN RAFFLE 30 Guns 30 Days

TICKET = \$100
**DRAWING STARTS WHEN ALL
300 TICKETS ARE SOLD**

Winners announced on
VFW Facebook page

**Must claim within
30 days of being notified*

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Black Rain Ordnance | Spec+ | 223/5.56 |
| Tikka | T3X | 308 |
| Tikka | T3X | 270 |
| Radical | RF-15 | 5.56 |
| Henry | Golden Boy | 22LR |
| Savage | axis 2 | 22-250 |
| Savage | 93 BSEV | 17HMR |
| Ruger | Predator | 308 |
| Ruger | American | 6.5 Creedmoor |
| Ruger | 10/22 | 22LR |
| Canik | Rival | 9mm |
| Canik | TP9SF combat | 9mm |
| Sig | P365 Optic Ready | 9mm |
| FN | 502 | 22LR |
| Sig | P322 | 22LR |
| CZ | P-10c Optic Ready | 9mm |
| S&W | MP Shield EZ | 380 |
| Glock | 43x | 9mm |
| Glock | 20 | 10mm |
| Taurus | TX22 | 22LR |
| Kel Tec | P50 | 5.7x28mm |
| Winchester | SX4 | 12ga |
| Stevens | 555 | 20ga |
| Browning | BPS Field | 12ga |
| Winchester | SXP | 12ga |
| Winchester | SXP Waterfowl | 12ga |
| Winchester | SXP Defender | 12ga |
| Kel Tec | KS7 | 12ga |
| Remington | 870 Wingmaster | 12ga |
| Henry | Lever Action X | 410ga |

We reserve the right to substitute a gun of equal or greater value.

Cootie Corner



Scratches are held on the second Wednesday 7pm. At the Alliance. Next Cooties Chislic 8/20 and 9/17 -- 3 pm 6 pm. LOTCS, Nathan Beiningen Seam Squirrel

Pancake Breakfast



Aug 20th and Sept 17th . 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. Call 605-338-0869 to volunteer

Buy your ticket at the office.

**Post 628 Performance Trucker Snapback now available
for only \$14.75 plus tax**

**Online Ordering Closes on 8/23 so order yours NOW at
<https://hauffsports.chipply.com/VFWHAT/>**

60 COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM



Post 628 Challenge Coins

Bison Coin: \$20

**Special Limited Addition
Jackalope Coin : \$25
Only 100 (number)**



Life Member Coins: \$20

**All Coins available to purchase
at the Office**

GUN RANGE AND ARMORY

RANGE NIGHTS you need to check out.

**Mil/Vet/1st Responders – Monday 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm - All military, veterans
and 1st responders shoot for FREE**

**Men's Night – Tuesday 11:00 am - 7:00 pm (significant others are welcome) -
We'll feature a FREE bourbon/whiskey/etc. tasting after you shoot. Different
FREE taste each week.**

**Family Night – Wednesday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm Kids under 18 years shoot for
FREE**

**Ladies Night – Thursday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm We'll feature a FREE wine tasting
after you shoot. Different free taste each week.**

Range Contact Information:

605.271.7808; range@southdakotaalliance.org

the **ALLIANCE**
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.

2023-24 Post/Aux Calendar

The updated dates will be entered on the calendar on the Post website VFW628.org

August

19 Post Picnic 11-2pm
20 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
20 Cootie Chislic
30 Exec Meeting

September Suicide Awareness Month

24 District Meeting - Brandon
4 Labor Day
6 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
11 Patriot Day
13 Cooties & MOCA
15 POW/MIA Recognition Day - Program
17 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
17 Cootie Chislic
22 Stand Down
24 Gold Star Family Memorial Program
27 Exec Meeting

October Breast Cancer Awareness Month

4 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
*6-8 Fall Council
11 Cooties & MOCA
TBA Lefse Making
14 Bridge Dedication -- Thomas Martin
15 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
15 Cootie Chislic
20-22 Big 10
25 Exec Meeting
28 Make a Difference Day
TBD Trunk or Treat /Guardians
31 Halloween
31 Deadline - PP, VOD, Teacher of the Year

November

1 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
8 Cooties & MOCA
11 Veterans Day
TBA Lefse Making
19 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
19 Cootie Chislic
29 Exec Meeting

December

6 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
7 Pearl Harbor Day
8-10 Day County Coyote Hunt
13 Cooties & MOCA
16 Wreaths Across American
17 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
17 Cooties Chislic
25 Christmas
27 Exec Meeting

January 2024

1 New Years Day
1 Tom & Jerry Mixer
3 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
10 Cooties & MOCA
21 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
21 Cooties Chislic
31 Exec Meeting

February 2024

7 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
TBA District 1 Winter meeting
TBA Legislative in Pierre
14 Cooties & MOCA
18 Post Birthday Party
18 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
28 Exec Meeting

March 2024

6 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
8-9 Vet Aid
TBA Stand Up for Women Veterans
17 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
17 Cootie Chislic
TBA Casino Night
25 Past President Meeting
27 Exec Meeting
29 Vietnam War Veterans day

April 2024 Election of Officers

3 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
10 Cooties & MOCA
TBA National Purple Up for Military Kids
21 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
21 Cootie Chislic
16-22 National Volunteer Week
TBA SD DeptVA Purple Up for Kids Day
TBA District 1 Meeting
24 Exec Meeting
29 Past President Meeting

May 2024 Military Appreciation Month

Month of the Military Caregiver

1 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
8 Cooties & MOCA
12 Mothers Day
TBA National Purple Up for Military Kids
15 Memorial
20 Armed Forces Day
19 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
19 Cooties Chislic
27 Memorial Day
29 Exec Meeting

June

5 Post & Auxiliary Meeting
12 Cooties & MOCA
14 Flag Day
6-9 State Convention Spearfish
16 Fathers Day
16 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale
16 Cootie Chislic
26 Exec Meeting

July

27 National Convention Louisville, KY

POST OFFICERS 2023-24

Commander-----Hosea Bennett
Senior Vice Commander-----Don Kranz
Junior Vice Commander-----Richard Stelter
Quartermaster-----Jim McQuisten
Judge Advocate-----Harry Engberg
Surgeon-----Vacant
Chaplin-----Tom Henle
Adjutant-----Nate Beiningen
Service Officer-----Don Kranz



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 2023-24

President-----Kim Vennard
Sr. Vice President-----Kasey Jacobson
Jr. Vice President-----Amy Bolduc
Secretary-----Beth Honerman
Treasurer-----Deb Felton
Chaplin-----Diana Wells
Conductor-----Vicki Williams

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

Post Web Site:
VFW628.ORG
Facebook:
SiouxFallsVFW
State VFW Office:
605-332-7441
State Website:
www.vfw628.org

Inputs for the Oct/Nov newsletter are due to the office or cmd@vfw628.org by Sep. 15. Photos, articles, and announcements are welcome.

2023-2024 COMPETITION

PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY is now online.

Access the PP and VOD on our website vfw628.org -
click on Programs then Scholarships

PATRIOT'S PEN

- ♦ Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- ♦ Submit a 300 – 400-word Essay
- ♦ National Prize is currently \$5,000
Post Prize 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50



Patriot's Pen theme is:
"How Are You Inspired by America?"

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

- ♦ Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- ♦ Submit a 3–5-minute audio and written essay
- ♦ National Prize is currently \$35,000
Post Prize 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100



Voice of Democracy theme is:
"What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"