



# Bliss Bugle



## Your insight to VFW Post 628 Monthly Events

Feb-March 2023



### Commander Hosea Bennett

Comrades,

I would like to congratulate Cody Mangold (Post 791 Yankton) on his new position with VFW National. Cody is well deserving of his new position of National VFW as a Service Officer. David Huntimer (Post 4726) who is a Field Service Officer for the State of South Dakota will be taking over as State Service Officer.

At last December's Pancake Breakfast, the Post and Aux raised \$3500 for the Sioux Falls School District lunch program. We were able to present five \$700 checks to five elementary to help offset students that have negative school lunch accounts.

Get your tickets now for the 102nd Post Birthday Celebration on Feb 19th. We will be having Dinner and Dancing. The entertainment will be country band Janene and the Machine. Tickets are on sale now for \$15 person and \$20 at the door. You can get your at the Post or online at [VFW628.org](http://VFW628.org). (more info on page 3) This is a Members/Family only function and not a public event.

On March 3rd we will be hosting award winning author Kris Paronto. Sharing lessons learned from the attacks in Benghazi and other deployments. Tickets are on sale online at [VFW628.org](http://VFW628.org) and at the Post. (more info on page 2)

Please take time to Volunteer with the Post. Even if you volunteer for 1 pancake breakfast, it helps. If you wish to volunteer contact Rich at the Post.



### Auxilliary President

#### Kim Vennard

Happy New Year!! What a way to welcome in the year with the excessive snow!!

Just a reminder that Legislative Meeting will be in Pierre Feb 5-6. If you are able to go, you will need to get your registration form in to the State VFW office located in the Alliance.

February is the month we get to celebrate the Birthday of the Post. Please make sure you order your tickets for the event. There is a flyer located in the Bugle.

Kudos to the Girl Scouts!! They have made Valentines for us to distribute to Veterans at the VA, Sunny Crest, Inn at Westport and Washington Crossings.

Stand Up for Women Veterans will be held again on March 11. The Auxiliary will be supporting with cosmetic bags as we did last year. I believe I have almost enough completed. We will need products to fill these bags. Bring your ideas that we can donate/purchase to fill the bags to the next meeting and then we can be ready to fill them at the March meeting. We will also need volunteers to help cover the day care rooms at the event.

See everyone at the Feb 1 and March 1 Auxiliary meeting.



### Auxiliary Bake Sale/Berakah House Donation

Thank you to all who made our bake sale one of the best ever!! There were even extra treats we were able to deliver to the Veterans at the Berakah House.

Kim Vennard, President and Deb Felton, Treasurer delivering treats to on site staff.

The Auxiliary is still accepting submissions for Illustrating American Art Contest for grades k-8, and Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, grades 9-12. Get excited for the Red, White and Blue singing contest for grades K-12.

# TANTO KRIS PARONTO

**AWARD WINNING AUTHOR  
AND SPEAKER**

**FRIDAY  
MARCH 3  
2023**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
EVENT STARTS AT 7PM**

**HELD AT: THE ALLIANCE,  
1600 W. RUSSELL ST., SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104**



## KRIS "TANTO" PARONTO

Inspiring Hero of the 2012 Benghazi Attack & Subject of the Book and Major Motion Picture, 13 Hours Kris Paronto—"Tanto" as he is affectionately known in security contracting circles—is a former Army Ranger from 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment and private security contractor who has deployed throughout South America, Central America, the Middle East and North Africa. He also worked with the U.S. Government's Global Response Staff conducting low profile security in high threat environments throughout the world.

Paronto was part of the CIA annex security team that responded to the terrorist attack on the U.S. Special Mission in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, helping to save over 20 lives while fighting off terrorists for over 13 hours. Paronto's story is told in the book 13 Hours, written by Mitchell Zuckoff and his five surviving annex security team members, and in the 2016 major motion picture of the same name.

## Crucible of Crisis: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Sharing lessons learned from the attacks in Benghazi and other deployments in some of the most hostile environments around the world, retired US Army Ranger Kris Paronto provides insight on how to persevere, lead, stay focused, and make strategic decisions in the midst of chaos and severe trials. From the combat field to business environment, Kris shares why effective collaboration, preparation, accountability and training of the mind and body puts us in a better position to turn adversity into opportunity and establish a "Never Quit!" mentality.



**PRE-SIGNED BOOKS  
AVAILABLE FOR  
PURCHASE:**

- 13 Hours
- The Patriots Creed
- The Ranger Way

*\* Limited quantities available*

*Scan the code  
to purchase  
your ticket  
today!*



**VFW628.ORG**

## TICKETS:

**GENERAL SEATING: \$25 | RANGER PACK: \$50**

**(RANGER PACK INCLUDES FLOOR SEAT, CHOICE  
OF ONE BOOK PLUS MEET & GREET WITH KRIS)**

**LIMITED MEET & GREET SEATS AVAILABLE!**

*Event is hosted by VFW Post 628 & Auxiliary, Proceeds benefit local Veterans Support Programs.*

# 102nd Birthday Celebration

JOHN M BLISS

VFW POST 628 & AUXILIARY

February 19th 2023 | 5pm - 10pm

## DINNER & DANCING



Scan to get your tickets

Featuring: Janene and the Machine

**\$15 per person (\$20 at the door)**

Location: the Alliance

Get your tickets at [VFW628.ORG](http://VFW628.ORG)

*Members only. Not Open to the Public*



## St Patricks Day

**St. Patrick's Day**, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.



It was emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a large-

ly secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762.

## Presidents Day



Presidents Day comes as the winter drags on, often offering a celebratory three-day weekend after the rush of the [holiday season](#) and the observation of Martin Luther King Jr. day in January.

After Presidents Day, there are no federal holidays until May, marking a long drought of three-day weekends in the calendar. Aside from the name, which is an obvious homage to Presidents of years past.

## Taps

### Auxiliary

Bernice Jacobson 11-30-22 Berdyne Bosler past pres. 12-18-22

### Post

Wesley Charles Nelson 12-3-22

## What a great morning for the Post and Auxiliary!!

Thanks to everyone who supported the pancake breakfast and bake sale in December !!! Your generosity and participation allowed Commander Bennett to present \$3,500 to five Sioux Falls Elementary schools to help with their school lunch programs for the students.



The 5 schools selected, Oscar Howe, All City, Anne Sullivan, Garfield and Laura B Anderson had invited the Post to their schools to educate their 3-5 graders of Flag Etiquette, folding and education earlier in the year. The Auxiliary helped prepare swag bags for the kids that included rulers, pencils, book markers and the Auxiliary contest information.

Principals are: (L to R)

Garfield Elementary - Kristin Skogstad  
Oscar Howe Elementary - Laura DeVries  
Laura B Anderson Elementary - Wade Helleson  
All City Elementary- Jennifer Van Duyn  
Annie Sullivan Elementary - Nikki Duin

Post members that assisted in the presentations were Kayle Decker, Tom Henle, Doug Callahan and Hosea Bennett. Auxiliary members that assisted were Deb Felton, Roxann Zenobi, Barb Hayes, Amy Bolduc and Kim Vennard.

### Post Officers 2022-2023

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—Butch Haugen



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

John M. Bliss Post 628

1600 W Russell  
Street Sioux Falls  
SD 57104

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

### Auxiliary Officers 2022-2023

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



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

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.vfwsd.org

## Announcements

### Cootie Corner



Scratches are held on the second  
Wednesday 7pm. At the Alliance  
For the last few months, we re-  
sumed with the Cooties Chislic  
fundraiser, it has been going well.  
There will NOT be Cooties

Chislic 2/19 due to the Post Birthday party. Next Cooties Chislic  
will be 3/19 3 pm—6 pm.

LOTCS,

Nathan Beiningen

Seam Squirrel 2022-23

### Pancake Breakfast



February 19 and March 19 .  
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.

Volunteer by calling 605-338-0869

### Upcoming Events

Feb 1—Post and Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm  
Feb 1—First day of Black History Month  
Feb 1—National Freedom Day  
Feb 8—Sioux Falls VA Stakeholders Conference Call, 10am  
Feb 12—President Lincoln's Birthday  
Feb 14—Happy Valentines Day  
Feb 16—Sioux Falls Vets Council, 7 pm The Armory  
Feb 19—Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am -12 noon, The Alliance  
Feb 19—Post 102nd Birthday Celebration  
Feb 20—Presidents Day, Post closed  
Feb 22—President Washington's Birthday  
Feb 22 —Post Executive Meeting, 7 pm,  
Mar 1—Post and Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm  
Mar 1—First day of Woman's History Month  
Mar 3—Star Spangled Banner made US National Anthem  
Mar 3—Kris Paronto Speech  
Mar 3—VetAid, The Alliance  
Mar 17—St. Patrick's Day  
Mar 19—Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am -12 noon, The Alliance  
Mar 19—Cooties Chislic, 3 pm-6 pm, The Alliance  
Mar 29—Post and Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm  
Mar 29—National Vietnam War Veterans Day(2017)

Inputs for the April/May newsletter are due to the office or  
[b.haugen1959@gmail.com](mailto:b.haugen1959@gmail.com) by March 15. Photos, articles, and  
announcements are welcome.