



# **SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL**

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars,  
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 1054 & 959  
Military Order of the Purple Heart



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS – 1519 W. 51<sup>st</sup> STREET – SIOUX FALLS, SD**

**16 NOVEMBER 2022- 9AM – 12PM (CST)**

**1. Call to Order**

- President Connie Johnson

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**

- Vice President Kevin Hempel

**3. Roll Call**

- Secretary/Treasurer Marty Pennock

**4. Welcome Distinguished Guests / Visitors /Administrative Comments / Announcements**

- President Connie Johnson

**5. Minutes of Last Meeting**

- Secretary/Treasurer Marty Pennock

**6. Treasurer Report**

- Secretary/Treasurer Marty Pennock

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**7. Invited Guest Speakers**

- Acting Director SFVAHCS: Dr. Timothy Pendergrass
- Medical Center Director /CEO BHVAHCS: Lisa Curnes
- Dakotas Regional Office Director: Shawn Bohn
- SD Dept of Veterans Affairs Update: Secretary Greg Whitlock
- Veterans Honored Internment: Roger Van Noort
- Director of Veterans Affairs South Dakota State University: Russ Chavez

**8. Endowment Update**

- Endowment Fund Balance Update: Terry Paulsen

**9. Recognition of Certain Individuals**

## **10. Updates from each VSO**

## **11. Unfinished Business**

Legislative 2023 Discussion

## **12. New Business**

- Future Meetings

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, TAL Post 8, Pierre 2pm – 5pm (CST)

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, TAL Post 8, Pierre 5:30pm – 7:30pm (CST) – Legislative Reception

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, - Sisseton

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, - Rapid City

- Legislative Roundtables

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, DAV, Sioux Falls, 12pm – 1:30pm (CST) – Hosts DAV & PVA

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, TAL Post 17, Watertown, 12pm – 1:30pm (CST) – Host VVA

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, TAL Post 8, Pierre, 2pm – 3:30pm (CST) – Host TAL

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, VFW Post 5860, Spearfish 10am – 11:30am (MT) – Host VFW

## **13. Next Scheduled Meeting**

Date: January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

City: Pierre, SD

Time: 2pm to 5pm (CST)

## **14. Good of the Order**

## **15. Closing Comments and Adjournment**

### **Past South Dakota Veterans Council Meetings**

20 October 2021 (SD Military Heritage Alliance Bldg., Sioux Falls). 12 January 2022 (Red Rosa, Pierre, SD). 20 April 2022 (SD Military Heritage Alliance Bldg., Sioux Falls). 20 July 2022 (The American Legion Post 17, Watertown). 28 September 2022 (The American Legion Post 22, Rapid City).

# SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022-2023

MEMBER	POSITION	WORK #	CELL #	EMAIL
North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)				
1. Terry Paulsen	Government Relations Director	605 336 0494	605 370 7116	terryp@ncpva.org
2. Lisa Cummings	Executive Director	605 336 0494	605 940 6490	lisac@ncpva.org
3. Mike Olson	National Director	605 336 0494	605 351 4886	mikeo@ncpva.org
American Legion (TAL)				
1. Doug Feltman	Department Commander	605 234 4143	605 770 4598	doug202@midstatesd.net
2. Kevin Hempel (Vice Pres.)	Department Adjutant	605 886 3604	605 954 4204	adjutant@sdlegion.org
3. Fred Nelson	Past Department Commnader	605 642 6848	605 641 7959	fred.nelson@live.com
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)				
1. Gene Murphy	Past National Commander	605 332 6866	605 351 2200	cfo@davsd.org
2. Dan Francis	Department Commander	605 332 6866	605 310 1565	dancfrancis220@gmail.com
3. Marty Pennock (Sec.-Treas.)	Department Adjutant	605 332 6866	605 929 6060	adj@davsd.org
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapters 1054 & 959				
1. Jerry Denman	1054 Chater President		605 880 3630	jdenman48@gmail.com
2. Phil Braeger	1054 Chapter Board of Director		605 881 6782	pbraeger@iiv.net
3. Terry "Hawk" Mayer (JA)	959 Chapter President	605 336 3230 ext 6481	605 830 2011	hawkmayer@hotmail.com
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)				
1. Bill Flippo	Department Adjutant	605 415 1013	910 988 5634	bill.m.flippo.civ@mail.mil
2. Jonathon Tilk	Chapter 5355 Commander		402-669-4002	tilkmba@gmail.com
3. Connie Johnson (President)	Depatment Commander	605 688 5319	605 651 3649	connie.johnson@sdsstate.edu
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)				
1. Tom Hafner	Department Commander	605-928-7345	605-661-2750	tbmhafner@santel.net
2. Anna Arnold	Department Adjutant	605 332 7441	314 435 5772	anna@vfwdeptsd.com
3. Dave Baumliller	Department Vice Commander	605-593-3389	605-593-3389	davebaumliller@gmail.com

# SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

## ATTENDEES

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE (WORK)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL
Gene Murphy	DAV	605-332-6866	605-351-2200	admin@dcvsa.org
Matt Rennoch	DAV	605-332-6866	605-929-6060	adj@dcvsa.org
Ken Tenneson	MOPT	605-310-6458		purpleheartone2@gmail.com
DAVE VAN DINE	DAV	865-291-7637		VANCOVBO@AOL.COM
Doug Feltman	TAL	605-234-4143	605-770-7598	dog202@midstatesd.net
Kevin Hensel	TAL	605-610-5650	-	ADJUTANT@SDLEGION.ORG
Jim Wosje	DAV	605-332-6866	605-413-8742	
Helan Parr	DAV	615-929-8115 →		dparr1940@aol.com
HAWK MAYER	VVA	605-830-2011 →		hawk.mayer@hotmail.com
ROGER VAN NOORT	VHI	605-941-5251		rogerlee4@alliance.com.net
Bonnie Schmidt	PVA		605-929-7485	bonnie.schmidt@hotmail.com
Terry Paulsen	PVA	605-336-0494		<del>terry</del> terryp@nepa.org
Tim Pruppers	VIVA	605-333-6843		Karen.mcgwire@va.gov
ANNA ARNOLD	VFW	605-332-7441	311-435-5772	anna@vfwdeptsd.com
BILL PETERS	LEGION POST 15	605-360-6547 →		BPETERS051@gmail.com
POLLARD	DVA			
Erin Brown	DVA	605-336-0494		
Suea Cummings	PVA	605-551-3649		
Genny Johnson	MOPT	605-641-7959		
Fred Nelson	Amer Legion			fred.nelson@live.com



# SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

## ATTENDEES

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE (WORK)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL
Micheline Nelson Phil Braeger P2+	Am. Legion Aux DAV.A VVA 1054	605-645-1346 605-881-6782	605-645-1346 Same	Micheline.Nelson@live.com Pbraeger@iw.net
Buck Underwood Shawn Bohn Damian Danahoe	MOPH VA-VBA VHA	507-442-0632 605 333-6839 605 333-6825		buckunderwood10@gmail.com damian.danahoe@va.gov
C Koos	DAV	738-0801		
Bob DeToni Russ Chavis <del>Brad Fricz</del> Brad Fricz	Sen. Round SOSU Vet Aff. VFC PVA	605-336-0486 605-695-6515 (605) 333-6801		bob-dejong@rounds.senate.gov russel.chavis@ascdtttke.edu
Dan Francis	Chapter 1 DAV	605 310 1565		



## **SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL**

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Military Order of the Purple Heart*

### **MINUTES OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 22 818 E. SAINT PATRICK STREET, RAPID CITY**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Council was called to order by President Connie Johnson at 9:03 a.m.

#### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:**

Vice President Kevin Hempel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

#### **3. ROLL CALL:**

Secretary/Treasurer Marty Pennock called the roll call showing the following members present:

**American Legion (TAL):** Doug Feltman, Kevin Hempel, Fred Nelson

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV):** Dan Francis, Gene Murphy, Marty Pennock

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW):**, Anna Arnold, Dave Baumiller, Mike Mullen

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 1054 and 959 (VVA):** Jerry Denman (1054), Phil Braeger (1054), Terry "Hawk" Mayer (959)

**Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH):** Connie Johnson, Ken Teunissen, Buck Underwood

**North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA):** Terry Paulsen and Mike Olson

#### **Official Officers Excused:**

Tom Hafner (VFW), Phil Braeger (VVA 1054), Bill Flippo (MOPH), Jon Tilk (MOPH), Lisa Cummings (PVA). Anna "Waltner" to "Arnold" (VFW) name change will be posted on an upcoming SDVC member 2022-2023 roster.

There was a total of 44 present for the meeting and 41 that signed in (attached sign in roster).

#### **4. WELCOME DISTINGUISHED GUESTS / VISITORS / ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Johnson welcomed members of the Council and Guests.

## **5. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock to read the minutes from the July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting.

On a motion by (VVA) Terry Mayer and seconded by (DAV) Gene Murphy to waive the reading of the minutes as they were mailed to members of the council, posted on the website and provided at the meeting. Discussion. Motion carried.

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

President Johnson called on Secretary-Treasurer Pennock for a Treasurer's Report. Income as of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, was \$12,828.56 and expenses of \$103.60 leaving a balance of \$12,724.96.

On a motion by (PVA) Terry Paulsen and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion. Motion carried.

## **7. INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Executive Director VISN 23: Robert McDivitt covered in detail the following:**

- VISN 23 geographic area review
- FY2023 Budget approval in progress
- Golden Age Games in 2022 – 500 Veterans in Sioux Falls
- Director search in progress for the SFVAHCS nationally – President Johnson will be on the board. This position will be appointed by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Pendergrass will extend his tour to cover the position until it is filled.
- PACT Act will define VA health care for the next 20-30 years
- Status after the AIR Commission was stopped – reassessment of capabilities in SD
- Overview of large budget items for construction in SD
- Electronic health record in SD – 2024. Expect delays

**Medical Center Director / CEO BHVAHCS: Lisa Curnes covered in detail the following:**

- Home health care – 24 Veterans enrolled – Started in June
- Ambulance Transportation Service – Started in September
- C&P Exams have been prioritized for environmental exposure exams
- CITC Update – 11.1 Day Average with no unscheduled after 30 days
- Home based primary care expanded to Scottsbluff and Pierre
- Construction update to facilities in the BHVAHCS
- Rapid City CVOC opening 2023 – Open house will precede
- Challenges in the BHVAHCS – Rural Transposition, C&P Exams and Staffing

**Acting Director SFVAHCS: Dr. Timothy Pendergrass covered in detail the following:**

- C&P examiner now in Dakota Dunes
- Received an award in Washington D.C. for Most Improved in Outpatient Experience Award (FY2021)
- Construction update to facilities in the SFVAHCS
- Staffing concern – shortage of key staff and nurses
- CITC update
- Respite care discussion

**Dakotas Regional Office Director: Shawn Bohn covered in detail the following:**

- PACT Act overview with questions from the audience
- Hiring with increase of VA dollars will surge FTE to 190 by the end of the quarter
- Update on Blue Water claims nationally and in SD

**Director VA Black Hills National Cemetery Director: Terry Corkins covered in detail the following:**

- Handed out flyer (attached), Booklet “Planning Your Legacy” – he has available for VSOs
- Overview of 155 national cemeteries
- VA BH National Cemetery has approximately 900 burials /year
- Staff of 18 for the Cemetery
- Eligibility for the Cemetery – Honorable discharge by a Veteran (Federal definition)

**South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Update: Secretary Whitlock covered the following:**

- Staffing Veteran Home – 21 CNA and 5 Nurses.
- Hot Springs low pool of applicants and lack of housing
- Rent some of the structures to current employees
- Wing closure – loss of 13 beds/rooms
- Claims processing – 183 // 10 processing
- Bridge Dedications on Veterans Day – 30 Completed / 60 Applications on File
- Wreaths Across America – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual - December 7<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Ms. Veteran South Dakota Update – Ms. Kaylan Harrington covered the following:**

- 21 Year Army Veteran – Ms. Veteran America – 30 October 2022
- Final Salute Inc. is the company – safety of women
- Cornerstone in Rapid City only VA certified facility in South Dakota
- Since 2012 – Over \$705,000.00 raised and 8,000 women served

On a motion by (DAV) Gene Murphy and seconded by (TAL) Fred Nelson to donate \$250.00 to support Ms. Harrington in her trip in October. Motion carried.



## **Congressional Delegate Updates from the Staff of Senator Thune and Senator Rounds:**

Jess Ewing with Senator Thune's Office

- Introduced Phil Rolas as new member to his team
- Ellsworth AFB – B21
- NDAA
- PACT Act

Bob Dejong with Senator Rounds' Office

- Gerald's Law Act
- Vets Access Records Act
- Expresscriptions
- Senator Rounds meetings with VA Secretary about timely care

Mike Bekaert with Senator Rounds' Office

- Retiring in 45 days
- Handed out two flyers (attached) – Local Dental Care and DAV claims opportunity

## **8. ENDOWMENT UPDATE:**

Endowment Fund Balance Update -Terry Paulsen: (attached)

## **9. RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS: None**

## **10. UPDATES FROM EACH VSO:**

**MOPH:** Ken Teunissen

- Congratulated President Johnson on receiving vehicle from Billion Auto
- National Convention review – August 14-18, 2022, in Rapid City
- Continue on with Purple Heart County and City

**VFW:** Anna Arnold

- National Convnetion in July 2022
- Dept. moved to SD Heritage Alliance Building in August
- Membership drive is priority
- Support the PACT Act
- Fall Conference in Oacoma October 7-9, 2022

**DAV:** Dan Francis

- Dept of SD DAV and Auxiliary Fall Conference Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, DAV HQ in Sioux Falls
- District 14 Fall Meeting Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, Billings, MT
- Tentatively posed to order two new vehicles in 2023-2023 West River HTP
- Handed packet of information to the group
- Two National Interim Committee Members from SD were appointed
- Joe Parsetich – New National Commander – from Montana

**VVA:**

959 – Terry Mayer

- POW/MIA Remembrance Day – September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Sioux Falls

1054 – Jerry Denman

- Veteran Video spreading around nine county area
- Thanked the DAV for allowing the use of the State Fair Building

**TAL:** Feltman

- Honor Flight 13 – Encouraged all to attend on Saturday Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Homecoming event – Sioux Falls
- October 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>, 2022– Commander/Adjutant Convention
- May 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – National Commander will be in South Dakota

**PVA:**

- Oct 21 Dueling Piano sponsorship – selling tables
- 2 Pheasant Hunts 2022 – 45 Veterans / 70 birds each hunt
- Platt 2 Day Hunt
- PVA Banquet – 7 October – Sioux Falls

## **11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Legislative 2023 Discussion:**

Notes from Anna Arnold – Meeting SDDVA Veterans Healthcare Task Force (attached)

No Change to the following:

The SDVC approved to introduce a resolution to lobby the State of South Dakota to amend South Dakota Codified Law Chapter SDCL 10-4-10 and 10-4-41, to include the service-connected disabilities 70%-90% for the property tax exemption.

The SDVC approved to lobby the South Dakota Legislature during the 2023 session to pass legislation to amend SDCL 33A-1-22 to include the stipulation that counties with Veteran Populations of 1000 to 3999 according to the most recent Annual VA GDX Report have at a minimum one full-time dedicated County Veterans Service Officer; and for counties with greater than 4000 Veterans an additional one full-time dedicated County Veterans Service officer be employed for each additional 4000 Veterans.

The SDVC approved to introduce a resolution to the South Dakota Legislature to research placement of Veterans in community nursing homes with funding from federal, and State governments and Veterans in rural states.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Proposed Future SDVC Meetings:**

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Sioux Falls, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (CST) - DAV  
January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Pierre, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm (CST) – TAL

### **Future Legislative Roundtables:**

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Sioux Falls 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (CST) – DAV & PVA  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Watertown 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (CST) – VVA  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Pierre 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm (CST) – TAL  
November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Spearfish 10:00 am – 11:30 am (MT) – VFW

## **14. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

On a motion by (DAV) Dan Francis and seconded by (TAL) Kevin Hempel to hold the next meeting on November 16, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (CST), in Sioux Falls at the DAV, 1519 W. 51<sup>st</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD. Motion carried.

## **15. GOOD OF THE ORDER: None**

## **16. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other business before the council, Vice President Kevin Hempel led the council in the benediction followed by a salute to the colors from President Connie Johnson.

On a motion by (TAL) Doug Feltman and seconded by (VFW) Anna Arnold to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL**

**Beginning Balance From Last Report: September 23, 2022** **\$ 12,724.96**

### **Deposits**

**Total Deposits Since September 23, 2022** **\$ -**

### **Checks Written:**

Check #1002 - Kaylan Harrington Ms. Veteran American \$ 250.00

Check #1003 - Off The Press Printing - Legislative Roundtable Info \$ 233.77

**Total Expenses Since September 23, 2022** **\$ 483.77**

**Leaving a Balance as of November 15, 2022** **\$ 12,241.19**

Submitted By,

*Marty Pennock*

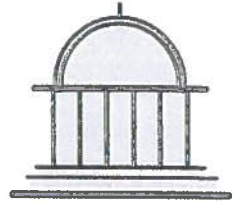
Secretary/Treasurer



# BE VIGILANT OF PACT ACT SCAMS

On August 10, President Biden signed the [Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act \(PACT Act\) into law](#). This law helps millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending VA health care eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding benefits eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors



## Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related [phishing \(email\)](#), vishing (phone), and [social media scams](#) targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service.

### Do's

- ✓ You may submit your application securely [online](#) via [VA.GOV](#) or in person at any Regional Office. You may file your claim directly with VA and then, VA will assist in gathering evidence necessary to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help. These companies may not be recognized by VA and may be attempting to charge illegal fees.
- ✓ Be cautious of aggressive companies who may try to pressure you to sign their contract through frequent communications or by insisting "you must act now or lose your chance for benefits."
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA or to have a special relationship with VA. Contact VA at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of any message received.
- ✓ Validate: If you are interested in working with a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), agent, or attorney, use the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation tool](#) to confirm and validate their credentials.

### Don'ts

- ⊘ Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for their assistance with your VA claim. If you need help filing a claim, there are representatives of VSOs, agents, and attorneys who have been [accredited by VA](#) to assist you.
- ⊘ Do not sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. Always review the completed form before signing and keep a copy for yourself.
- ⊘ Do not be fooled by companies who advertise they have special relationships with medical professionals and can guarantee your benefits award. If they are defrauding the Federal government, you could be held responsible for paying those benefits back.
- ⊘ Do not provide your social security number, medical records, or other personally identifiable information to anyone offering claims assistance before confirming their credentials using the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation tool](#).
- ⊘ Do not sign forms that are not [VA generated](#) or third-party authorization for someone to provide "behind-the-scenes" claims assistance.

**[www.VA.gov/PACT](#) is the official source of PACT Act information.**

We want Veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits.

To report suspected scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General [\(OIG\) Hotline \(va.gov\)](#). File a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#). Visit the [Cybercrime Support Network](#) for additional [resources](#) to help Veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime.

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](#)  
Download the VA Health and Benefits App  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](#)





## BUILT WITH PRIDE

Made for a Veteran by Veterans



### OUR BEGINNING

Founder Paul Redfield, conceived this program in 1999. His vision was to provide honorable and dignified burial vessels for fellow veterans and their spouses.

Paul wanted to guarantee that all veterans, regardless of their financial circumstances, had a dignified burial vessel.

### DISCLAIMERS

- Availability of vessels, types of finishes, and delivery options may be affected by existing level of support and production.
- VHI provides only a casket or urn. Funeral arrangements are NOT included.
- VHI is funded by donations. The suggested donation amount reflects the cost to build the burial vessels.

## Veterans Honored Interment "A FINAL TRIBUTE"



*The Veterans Honored Interment (VHI) program is comprised of volunteer veterans that handcraft each vessel with respect in honor to their fellow veteran.*

### Address:

Veterans Honored Interment  
1705 S. Andrew Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

West River: 605-535-2214 Joe  
605-890-6256 Darrell  
605-754-5127 SDSVH

East River: 605 553-1370 Steve  
605 941-5251 Roger





You can order a vessel, learn more  
or donate by going to VHI's website.  
[www.VeteransFinalTribute.org](http://www.VeteransFinalTribute.org)

## VHI BENEFIT ORDER FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Last 4 #'s of Social Security: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel for: \_\_\_\_\_ Above \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Requester's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to receive a casket\* (Suggested donation \$350)

☐ I wish to receive an urn (Suggested donation \$125)

☐ I would like \_\_\_\_\_ wooden emblem(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ military branch

\_\_\_\_\_ small \$25 each \_\_\_\_\_ large \$50 each

(Suggested donations)

### Please Include:

☐ Copy of DD-214 or other discharge certificate

☐ Check payable to: Veterans Honored Interment

Any tax-deductible amount over the suggested donation  
would be *greatly appreciated* by those less fortunate!

### Mail To:

Veterans Honored Interment  
1705 S. Andrew Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

### To be eligible for a VHI casket or urn you must:

- Be an active or former member of the active military, National Guard, or Selected Reserve
- Have been released under conditions other than dishonorable
- Be the spouse of a veteran that meets the former requirements
- Provide a copy of the veteran's DD-214 or other discharge certificate
- Be a South Dakota resident
- Agree that any money donated for a vessel may go into VHI's general fund if not used within 30 years from requested date.

*No qualified veteran will be denied a vessel due to inability to donate.*



**VETERANS**  
HONORED INTERMENT

A Final Tribute

### DONATIONS

Veterans Honored Interment, a South Dakota not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corp. is supported entirely through your generous donations. Your tax-deductible donation ensures continued availability of this program.

### CASKETS

Caskets are

quality built with a beautiful finish, fitted with a handmade liner and pallbearer handles.

It has a two-piece lid allowing for an open or closed viewing.

### URNS

Urns are hand

crafted using quality materials and come in several shapes.

### EMBLEMS

Emblems may be used on a casket or urn.

small 6 inch  
large 12 inch

# SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND

DATE ENDOWMENT CREATED:

March 23, 2018

ENDOWMENT GOAL DEADLINE:

July 1, 2023

YEARLY APPROPRIATIONS BRIEF:

November 15, 2022

ENDOWMENT GOAL	\$3,000,000.00
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TOTAL ENDOWMENT BALANCE	\$2,734,389.40
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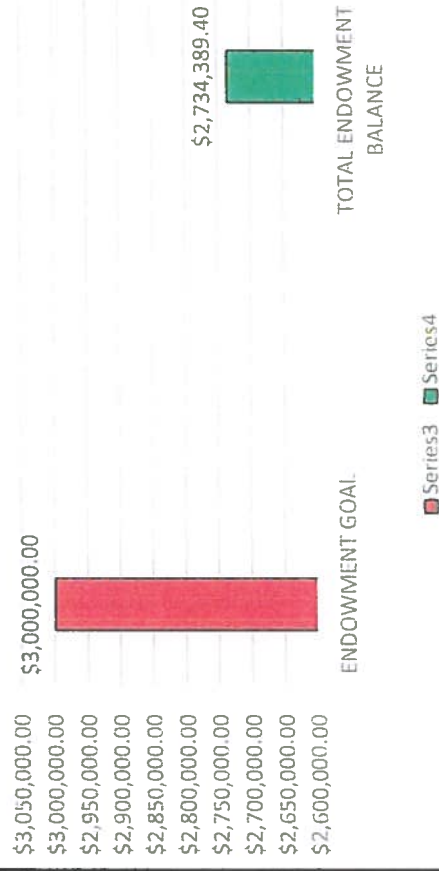
ON HAND ENDOWMENT ASSETS :	\$2,524,389.40
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ENDOWMENT FUTURE COMMITMENTS:	\$210,000.00
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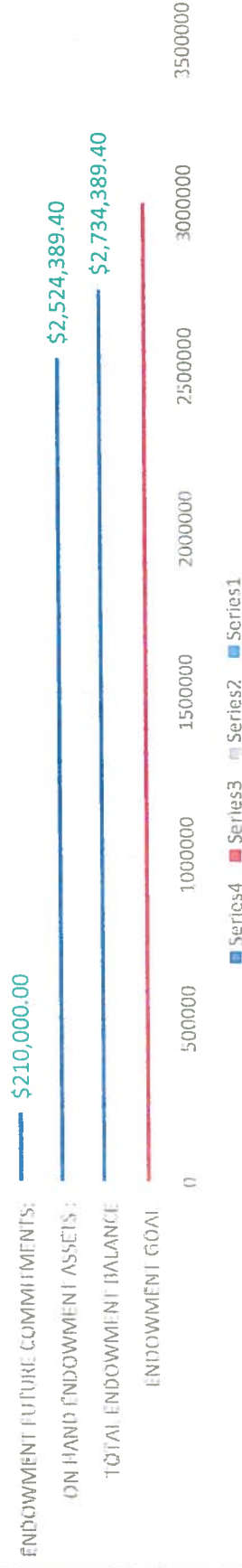
YEARLY SAVINGS GOAL:	\$600,000.00
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ASSETS ABOVE AND BEYOND GOAL	(\$265,610.60)
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## ENDOWMENT STATUS



## VETERANS CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND



NOTES: Future Commitments = Sanford \$ 10,000 /// Miles & Lisa Beacom \$ 200,000



# SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS

## Legislative Roundtable

The South Dakota Veterans Council will be hosting four legislative roundtables this Fall. Roundtable logistics are as follows:

- Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Disabled American Veterans Headquarters, 1519 West 51<sup>st</sup> Street, in Sioux Falls at 12:00 pm (CST). Lunch will be served.
- Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at American Legion Post 17, 1412 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, in Watertown at 12:00 pm (CST).
- Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Post 8, 520 S. Pierre Street, in Pierre at 2:00 pm (CST).
- Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5860, 3102 E. Fairgrounds Loop, in Spearfish at 10:00 am (MT).

These roundtables afford the Council to review their legislative agenda with legislators; as well as hear from legislators what issues they might be bringing forth during the upcoming legislative session.

The South Dakota Veterans Council is a collaboration of representatives from the American Legion Department of South Dakota, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.



## Legislative ROUNDTABLE

**AN ACT TO RESEARCH PLACEMENT OF VETERANS  
IN COMMUNITY NURSING HOMES WITH FUNDING FROM  
FEDERAL, AND STATE GOVERNMENTS AND VETERANS  
IN RURAL STATES**

WHEREAS, South Dakota has 63,950 Veterans with age groups 70-74 of 6,202; 75-79 of 4,411; 80-84 of 4,451; and 85+ of 5,007; and

WHEREAS, 42,194 Veterans of the South Dakota's 63,950 Veterans live on the eastern side of our state; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2021 Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures with South Dakota Veterans have 16 Expenditures of \$867,917,000.00 with Compensation and Pension of \$335,535,000.00;

WHEREAS, the current and only state Veterans nursing home, Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota State Veterans Home, is located in the extreme southwestern part of the state; and

WHEREAS, long-stay services are available for enrolled Veterans who need nursing home care for life or an extended period of time for a service-connected disability and those rated 60% service connected; unemployable; or Veterans or who have a 70% or greater service-connected disability. All others are based on available resources. South Dakota Veterans who receive compensation are numbered at 18,026 with breakdown at 60 % of 1,651; at 70% of 1,632; at 80% of 1,445; at 90% of 1,012; and at 100% of 1,860; and

WHEREAS, The Community Nursing Home Program has contracts established with VA medical centers. The purpose of this program is to meet the nursing home needs of Veterans who require long-term nursing home care in their own community, close to their families, and meet the enrollment and eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, as our nation's Veterans population ages, VA and rural states will face an ever increasing demand for long-term care services of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, an example in rural South Dakota the state wouldn't own any building and employee one (1) facility with contracts and nursing home beds in the following areas: Yankton area with 10-15 contract beds; Sioux Falls area with 40-50 contract beds; Watertown area with 10-15 contract beds; Aberdeen area with 10 contract beds; Mitchell area with 10-15 contract beds; and

WHEREAS, the VA offers attractive subsidies, funding up to 65% of the construction cost for new facilities and the rural state would provide 35% with the research committee making recommendations on how to finance contract community nursing home beds for Veterans in rural states: NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Dakota State Veterans Council supports legislative research to expand the comprehensive program of long-term care services for Veterans regardless of their disability ratings, and urges VA, in conjunction with key stakeholders, including other federal agencies and the rural States, to develop a strategic long-term care plan to invigorate and re-engineer VA-operated, purchase, and subsidized long-term care services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota State Veterans Council work with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, South Dakota Legislature, South Dakota Congressional Delegates and their staff, other rural states leadership, federal agencies, and other interested parties to complete research and introduce legislation on federal and state levels.



**RESOLUTION**  
Department of South Dakota, The American Legion  
State Convention, Watertown, South Dakota  
June 16-19, 2022

RESOLUTION NO.: SDAL 22-13  
SUBMITTED BY: BADGER POST 260  
SUBJECT: PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WITH 70-100% VA  
DISABILITY  
REFERRED TO: Convention Resolutions Committee

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WHEREAS, South Dakota has recognized veterans who are permanent and totally disabled have difficulty in maintaining employment due to their disabilities from service; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota Codified Law 10-4-40 and 10-4-41 allow permanent and totally disabled veterans property tax exemption; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans can have significant individual disabilities that impact their ability to hold full time employment and not be rated at permanent and totally disabled; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs standard for Total Disability based upon Individual Unemployability starts with a minimum combined rating of 70%; and

WHEREAS, veterans who have a combined disability rating over 70% from the Department of Veteran Affairs should be included in real property tax exemption; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The Department of South Dakota American Legion in State Convention assembled in Watertown, SD, June 16-19, 2022, That the South Dakota American Legion Legislative Committee actively lobby that the State of South Dakota amend the South Dakota Codified Law Chapter SDCL 10-4-40 and 10-4-41, to include the service-connected disabilities 70%-90% for the property tax exemption.**

Resolution  
The American Legion  
Department of South Dakota  
Department Convention, Watertown, SD  
16-19JUNE2022

RESOLUTION NO: 2022-18(?)

SUBMITTED BY: SIOUX FALLS AMERICAN LEGION POST #15

SUBJECT: LOBBYING SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYMENT OF COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

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WHEREAS, South Dakota Codified Law 33A-1-22 states in relevant part:

*The board of county commissioners of each county in this state shall employ or join with another county or counties in employing a county veterans' service officer who, before such employment takes effect, is approved by the state secretary of Veterans Affairs.; and*

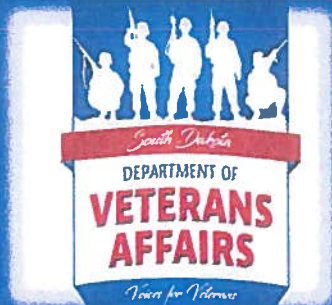
WHEREAS, There are counties in South Dakota where Veterans are underrepresented by County Veterans Service Officers, and

WHEREAS, The ratio of Veterans to County Veterans Service Officers creates a situation in some counties where a lack of adequate representation and timely service creates a delay or possible complete loss of benefits; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The Department of South Dakota American Legion at the Department Convention assembled in Watertown, SD, June 16-19, 2022, that The South Dakota American Legion lobby the South Dakota Legislature during the 2023 session to pass legislation to amend SDCL 33A-1-22 to include the stipulation that counties with Veteran Populations of 1000 to 3999 according to the most recent Annual VA GDX Report have at a minimum one full-time dedicated County Veterans Service Officer; and for counties with greater than 4000 Veterans an additional one full-time dedicated County Veterans Service officer be employed for each additional 4000 Veterans.

# COMMITTED TO SERVING SOUTH DAKOTA'S VETERANS

## SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



## SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

## Please Join Us

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and the South Dakota Veterans Council invites you to our Legislative reception. The reception will be held at the American Legion Post 8 Cabin in Pierre (520 S. Pierre Street) on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, from 5:30—7:30 pm.

This event affords us the opportunity to brief you on the numerous programs and projects that we are working on to enhance the lives of South Dakota's veterans and their families. Our time together allows us to update you on legislative issues and brief you on challenges we face at the federal level.

As always, we appreciate all you do for South Dakota and look forward to seeing you on the 11th.

Greg Whitlock, Secretary  
South Dakota Department of  
Veterans Affairs

Connie Johnson, President  
South Dakota  
Veterans Council

