

POST 15 NEWS



August 2024

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COMMANDER'S CORNER *Dale Hill*

Considering the recent assassination attempt on a Presidential candidate, it is imperative that our nation tone down the nasty rhetoric, no matter what your political views are. We have not been this politically divided since the late 1960s and early 1970s when anti-Vietnam and racial riots destroyed many inner cities, with many still not rebuilt. It is my sincere hope that our citizens get back to voting for the person best qualified for the political position rather than casting votes against those we don't like. Negative campaigning has been hugely detrimental to our country and has this country headed down the path of losing world leadership. Everyone needs to help, in any way we can, to restore the civility and trust in our government that has been seriously eroded over the last several decades. Changes need to occur at the ballot box with elections that are accepted by the citizens. Political changes cannot be allowed to be dictated from the streets.

This very busy summer has lots of Legion activities to get us in front of the public. If you can spare a few hours, it helps the Legion, and most activities are fun. Some are serious, such as flag retirements. The camaraderie working pancake breakfasts and other events is rewarding. We need more help manning our booth during the Sioux Empire Fair, August 3 -10. Our visits to Assisted Living facilities have revealed unusual military experiences from some, while others simply went where assigned and did assigned military duties. Everyone did their part. Thank You, spouses, for your part as well.

July is the start of a new fiscal year, so it is time to pay dues (\$45). The sooner your dues are paid, the less work it is for several Post and Auxiliary members. As we get older, the Legion needs younger veterans to join so we can pass the leadership torch to them. Past and current Legion members have pushed Congress for current VA benefits, and we need younger veterans to pick up the torch and push to maintain/expand VA benefits for the next generation of veterans, many of whom will have a greater need than our generation.

I hope you are having a safe and healthy summer.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Deb Metzger, President

Unit 15 Auxiliary members are in full swing for summer activities. The bake sale at the rummage sale was a huge success, with 85 members bringing goodies, 21 members working at the bake sale, and earning \$2,169. Congratulations to Kay Stephenson and her helpers. The Auxiliary has been updating our constitution, by-laws, and standing rules. This is quite an undertaking, and I want to thank Beth Honerman and her committee for stepping up and getting this accomplished.

Our Legion Auxiliary has 257 members, with 13 being juniors and 22 being 90+ honorary life members. Thanks to everyone who continues to recruit new members — so don't forget to reach out to potential members to join our great group. Stand down is scheduled for September 20 from 8:30-11:30 at the Alliance. Contact Sue Panning at 604-553-7524 if you have items to donate. Since I will not be able to attend the National Convention in New Orleans, I have appointed Vicki Branco and Judy Hill to represent our Auxiliary. I'm positive they will represent us well.

The next "big" event is the 3rd annual "Chip in for Vets" golf tournament on August 13 at Elmwood Golf Course. We are close to being full, and our committee and others have done a great job of collecting door prizes and sponsorships for this event. All net proceeds will go to the Veterans Community Project. If you want to put together a team and participate, call me at 605-366-7379, and I'll get you signed up. It takes a village to plan this kind of event, and our members are always there to help.

Lastly, if you have time, please reach out to Sue Peters at the Legion office, to volunteer for veteran visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. I hear that this has been a great success and our veterans love for us to come and visit. Until next month, stay cool and enjoy the summer.

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Patrick Branca

I felt genuinely inspired by this. I am not the author but I wish I was:

Proud to be an American: JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early '60s when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all U.S. military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?"

When in England, at a large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were an example of "empire building" by George Bush. He answered, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those who did not return."

A U.S. Navy admiral was attending a naval conference that included admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French navies. He found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English when a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English. He then asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?" Without hesitating, the American admiral replied, "Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German."

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on. "You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!" The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show a passport to."

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Paul Fiskum

Thank you to all members of Squadron 15 for your membership. You are honoring all veterans and the person who made you eligible. Memberships can be renewed for next year by going to mylegion.org or by contacting the Post 15 office at 605-336-3470.

We had an enjoyable time at the Canaries game last month. We have opportunities to help at the Sioux Empire Fair on August 4-12. We will be raising and lowering the American Flag at the main fair office. The flag is raised at 10 a.m. and lowered at 6 p.m. We also assist the Legion working the booth in the Expo building. If you can help, contact us using the email address sdsg15sal@gmail.com. We need volunteers to fulfill our commitment to these events.

We will not have a monthly Sons meeting in August due to the Fair but will resume September 12 at 7 p.m. at the Legion post, 1700 W Russell Ave. Come share your ideas to nourish the squadron as we move into the future. Remember to check the Post 15 website for upcoming events.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

Our website at <http://siouxfallslegionriders.yolasite.com/> has information regarding membership, some great pictures of past events, and the Legion calendar.

Upcoming events:

Aug 17 - Yankton Riverboat Days

Aug 17 - Wings of Valor Poker Run

Aug 31 - 727th DAV Poker Run

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the post home. Anyone who rides a motorcycle and is a member of the Legion, or the Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the Legion is invited to be a guest and join.

Quote of the Month: "When life gives you lemons, squirt someone in the eye." — Cathy Guisewite

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—AUGUST 2024

- 4 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
- 6 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm—**\$700** drawing
- 7 (Wed) Dean Mann Readiness Center ribbon cutting 10 am
- 8 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
- 8 (Thu) NO Sons of the Legion meeting
- 10 (Sat) USS South Dakota Day of Honor—Battleship Memorial
- 12 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
- 13 (Tues) Auxiliary Unit 15 golf tournament—Elmwood
- 13 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
- 14 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
- 20 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Meatloaf— **reservations by Aug 16**
- 26 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 7 pm
- 27 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
Open to the public; **reservations required for dinner**

Every Monday—Singing Legionnaires practice 7 pm
 Every Wednesday—Ladies bridge 12-4 pm
 Office is open Monday-Friday 11-3 pm

Save the Date

Sept 20—Veterans Stand Down — Alliance
 Oct 19— Navy Ball—The Barn

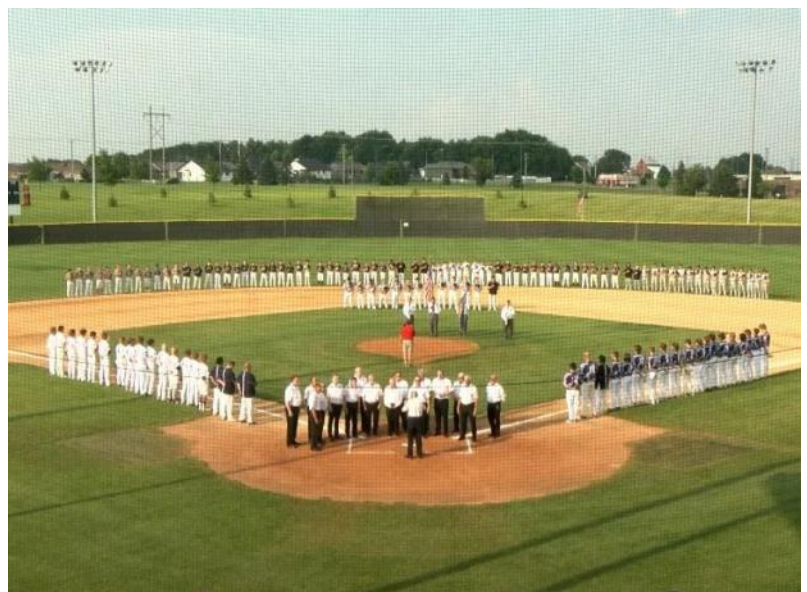


2023-2024 State Commander Courtney Steffen with WWII Navy veteran Douglas Starr. Photo by Al Arndt. July 7, 2024.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

We have four new members on the honor guard: Sandra Erickson, Lloyd Schrader, Paul Miller, and Cal Hillgas. Thank you for making the commitment to help Post 15 ensure that all veterans are buried with honors. The final inspection and ribbon cutting for Dean Mann's readiness center is scheduled for Wednesday August 7, at 10 a.m. We would like as many of you as possible to be there in Legion logo wear (everyone should have the white polo shirts now - a few are still in the office waiting to be picked up) and your Legion cover. Dean is very proud of this building and of the honor guard he has spent so many years with.



MILITARY NIGHT was celebrated at Harmodon Park on July 9 with Post 15's color guard and the Singing Legionnaires.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

A bipartisan group of lawmakers wrote a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, calling for the Defense Department to address poor **living conditions in military housing**, blaming the military's "decades-old, terrible deals with private companies to provide military housing." A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report last year found the Pentagon is failing to maintain good living conditions and that thousands of service members are living below standards. According to a Defense Department response to Congress, in 2023, there were 4,588 reports of mold in privatized housing from the Air and Space Forces. —*The Hill*

Donald Trump has named Senator JD Vance of Ohio as his **vice-presidential running mate**. Vance, 39, served a four-year enlistment in the Marine Corps as a combat correspondent. He deployed to Iraq as a corporal with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing in 2005, escorting civilian press and writing articles for a military news service. He is the first enlisted veteran on a presidential ballot since Al Gore in 2000. —*Military Times*

Senator JD Vance has introduced **The Dismantle DEI Act** in an attempt to unwind President Biden's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within federal agencies. It would rescind initiatives aimed at ending discrimination and improving recruitment and retention of underserved communities. Vance has stated that he wants to "fire every single mid-level bureaucrat, every civil servant in the administrative state. Replace them with our people." This would involve reclassifying tens of thousands of federal employees in policy-related jobs and making them at-will employees (political appointees). —*Defense One*

Veterans Visits

Veterans and spouses, we need you to exchange your military stories with those in retirement homes and hospice care. Residents and visitors usually number 15-20, and the visits last an hour or two. Call the Post 15 office at 605-336-3470 for more information. All are invited to come and join the conversations. Current visits scheduled:

Thu 7/25 Good Samaritan Luther Manor, 1500 W 38th St., 2:30 pm

No visits are scheduled for August. They will resume in September.

**3rd Annual
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 15 - Golf Tournament**
August 13, 2024
Elmwood Golf Course
"Chip in for Vets!"

**\$500
PER TEAM
4
PERSONS**

Registration: 8 - 9
(Coffee & Rolls)
Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.
FORMAT:
4 Person Scramble
FLIGHTED:
Pay 3 FLIGHTS: 1st, 2nd 3rd each flight
PIN PRIZES: Front and Back Nine

Mulligans 2 for \$10
Available Day of
Tournament!

ALL PROCEEDS GO
TO ASSIST IN
FURNISHINGS FOR
THE VETERANS
COMMUNITY
PROJECT (TINY
HOMES) FOR
VETERANS!

The American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 15 -
Invites you to participate at these
sponsorship levels!

"GOLD" SPONSOR - \$5000
Clubhouse Banner, Two Teams
"RED" SPONSOR - \$1000
1 Team & Hole Sign
"WHITE" SPONSOR - \$500
Food, Sponsor Recognition Sign
"BLUE" SPONSOR - \$100
Hole Sign

The ALA is a 501c19 Non Profit
Organization!

For more info contact: Golf Committee
Kasey Jacobson - 605-270-9289
email: jacobson1122@gmail.com
Karen Dunham - 605-366-3291
email: karen.dunham@dunhamresidential.com
Deb Metzger - 605-366-7379
email: debmetzger@dunhamresidential.com

**MUST PRE-PAY TO
SECURE A SPOT
FOR YOUR TEAM!**

Tournament Limited to 144 Players!



Post 15 American Legion members provide their time and energy to put on the monthly pancake breakfasts. The dollars generated are used to support Veteran Programs throughout the year. July 7, 2024. Photo by Al Arndt.



USS South Dakota Day of Honor

Crew Member Reunion and Commemoration of
 Armored Cruiser (ACR 9)
 Battleship (BB 57)
 Attack Submarine (SSN 790)

Saturday, August 10, 2024

10 am - Concert by Sioux Falls Municipal Band Brass Quintet
 11 am - Ceremony with guest speaker, Matt Michels
 Former LCDR United States Naval Reserve
 Former Lt. Governor of South Dakota and Speaker of the House



Battleship South Dakota Memorial
 West 12th St. & Kiwanis Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD
 605-366-3291 / 605-367-7141
info@southdakotabattleship.org
 Public is invited *free admission*



VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Lary Panning and I attended the VAVS quarterly briefing at the Sioux Falls VA Hospital on July 18. Donations, volunteer needs, staffing and events were discussed. Upcoming events: Creative Arts Festival on July 31, Show and Shine Car Show on August 14, Veteran Stand Down, September 20.

The VAVS needs list is online, Amazon registry. Donations can be cash, check, credit card, e-donate, or in person...current donations are ahead of last year.

Volunteers are needed for van drivers, Compassionate Care Program, and No Veteran Dies Alone program. The new Hospice Cottage will be completed in September, staffing to begin soon.

No Pizza Party this year. Beginning to order items for Christmas Gift bags. Post 15 continues to support the Music Therapy department and did present VAVS with \$500 in gift cards.



Five of the Top 10 National shooters were from South Dakota. Mausten, Elyk, and Ema belong to the Humboldt Sharpshooters

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

At the **Daisy Nationals** in Rogers, Arkansas, our team won the National Title as the **BEST** BB Gun team in the USA. This match is open to all. Each club selects its best seven shooters and top five comprise the team. Our team had members ranging from ten to fifteen years of age. New this year from Daisy were some new prizes. Our club received a \$3,000 award for being best team and three individual scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. Expect competition to heat up next year maybe with these new prizes? Congratulations to our National Champs!! Both the Sporter and Precision Air Rifle had a shooter in competition at Hillsdale, Michigan, shooting in the Legion scholarship competition. The Precision shooter earned 11th place, and the Sporter won 7th place.

New Post 15 Members

We welcome our new members to Post 15 and invite you to attend our membership activities:

Barry Teal and Thomas Whalen

*Uniform caps available in the office
 \$70 (hat & pheasant)*

*Wear your cap to membership meetings
 and events to let others know of your service and membership.*

19
OCT
2024

NAVY BALL COMMITTEE PRESENTS

249TH NAVY BIRTHDAY

Ball

Celebrating Our Navy!

THE BARN
SIOUX FALLS, SD

INCLUDES FOOD, DRINKS & SOUVENIRS / MUSIC

FOR MORE INFO
SFLSNB2022@GMAIL.COM

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS




PAID UP FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP—PUFL

AGE	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
	\$1535	\$1399	\$1229	\$1025	\$815	\$599	\$429	\$329

Starting in July, National will print and mail a reminder each month until 2025 MEMBERSHIP dues are paid. That is a huge expense for National, not your post. We can help eliminate that expense by paying early. Please consider paying your 2025 dues online, in the office, or by mail, as soon as possible. This year we are seeing more members choosing the Paid Up for Life option. A member can renew online and choose the PUFL option with 12 equal payments or one lump sum. Or you can come into the office to do either of these.

For more information, contact Post 15 at 605-336-3470 or <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>.

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[HTTP://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/JOIN/PUFL)



Post 15 website

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed June 30 at West Nidaros Lutheran Church of rural Crooks and also sang the national anthem for Legion Baseball at Harmodon Park on July 9. The chorus is scheduled to perform July 28 at First United Methodist Church, July 29 at Dow Rummel Village, and August 5 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community. The chorus continues to rehearse at Post 15 on Mondays at 7 p.m. The Singing Legionnaires posted flags on July 4 Independence Day. Contact Todd Schmidt at 605-370-4405 if you know of any Sioux Falls business that would like to participate in this flag program. Anyone interested in singing with our men's chorus or who has any questions regarding chorus activities is encouraged to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at 605-310-6210 or by email at 66cyclor2019@gmail.com.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Ronald Nelson, 86, Air Force, 5/30/2024; Richard C. Rausis, 95, Air Force, 6/11/2024;

If you know of a Legion member who has died, call 605-336-3470.



Battleship South Dakota Memorial



USS South Dakota
Day of Honor
Saturday, August 10
10 am
A community event
Free admission
www.facebook.com/bb57memorial

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Unit 15 Sioux Falls, SD
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Join to honor those who have served.
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SINGING LEGIONNAIRES
AMERICAN LEGION POST 15
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Bringing Honor to God and Country

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Unit 15 Auxiliary members. July 16, 2024. Photo by Al Arndt.



Two foursomes from Post 15 at Tee it Up For The Troops July 8, 2024 at Sioux Falls Country Club . Al Arndt photo.



Post 15 Honor Guard at Tee it Up For The Troops July 8, 2024 at the Sioux Falls Country Club. Photo by Al Arndt.



Post 15 members volunteering at "Hot Summer Nites" Corvette celebration at W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds July 17, 2024. Al Arndt

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

legionoffice.al@gmail.com / 605-336-3470 / 1700 W. Russell St., Suite 510 (north door), Sioux Falls SD 57104

OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15

Commander	Dale Hill
1st Vice Commander	Patrick Branco
2nd Vice Commander	Damian Vacin
Finance Officer	Jim Cero
Historian	vacant
Sgt-At-Arms	Jim Puthoff
Chaplain	Don Kranz
Adjutant	John Bachmeier

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

President	Deb Metzger
1st Vice President	Kasey Jacobson
2nd Vice President	Vicki Branco
Treasurer	Kathy Dathe
Historian	Judy Hill
Sgt-At-Arms	Barb Hayes
Chaplain	Marva Petit
Secretary	Nancy Andres
Parliamentarian	Ann McGoffin
Past President	Kellie Heazlett
Executive Board	Sue Peters
Executive Board	Nancy Renner

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill Peters—Chair
Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Dave Rowe, Randy Miller,
Wayne Sprecher, Jon Theel, Terry Wolf

COMMITTEES

Chorus: Bruce Naasz
Legion Riders: Lamar Nance
Vets Council: John Bachmeier
Post Everlasting: **vacant**

Americanism: **vacant**
Membership: Patrick Branco
SAL: Paul Fiskum
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Flag Retirement: Dick Moss

Office Maintenance : **vacant**
Baseball: Randy Miller
VAVS: Chris Fischer
Pancakes: Dale Haas
Shooting Sports: Larry Panning

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION
SIOUX FALLS POST NO. 15
1700 West Russell
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**