

POST 15 NEWS



December 2024

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COMMANDER'S CORNER *Dale Hill*

My wife and I had the honor to go with Post 15 Singing Legionnaires to Washington, DC, from November 12-16. They sang at the World War II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and the amazing National Cathedral. At Mount Vernon, the group participated in the flag raising, singing the National Anthem, placing a wreath at George Washington's gravesite, and a sing-along with a retired US Army Band member playing patriotic melodies on several musical instruments. We had an evening tour of the US Capitol with Representative Dusty Johnson. What a great experience! As best we know, this is the last Singing Legionnaires group.

Some members have been making Buddy Check calls. We could use some assistance with this, so if you have a few hours, please call the office. Post 15 and Auxiliary were well represented at the dedication ceremony for the BG Dean Mann Readiness Center on November 13. We continue to visit our fellow veterans at area assisted living/nursing homes. We often get them to open up and tell stories that even family members have never heard before. We ask spouses to share their military family experiences. Check the Events Calendar for dates and locations – these visits and the Buddy Check calls are important to our fellow veterans and rewarding for those of us who participate.

I ask all Legion family members who are able to join us for the social dinners (third Tuesday 5-8 p.m.) and the pancake breakfasts (first Sunday 8:30-noon). If you are not able to support other Post 15 activities, come and eat with us. The Legion Riders are hosting a chili contest on December 14 (chili contest starts at noon, Army-Navy game at 2 p.m.). Post 15 Honor Guard will participate in the Wreaths Across America event at the State Veterans Cemetery on Dec 14 at 11 a.m.

Winter weather is approaching (it is November and this is South Dakota), so prepare ahead of time. I wish SAFE TRAVELS to all of our members who travel south for the winter and those traveling to family gatherings for the coming holidays.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY

Deb Metzger, President

With the Holidays just around the corner, I think about all the wonderful things our Auxiliary Unit 15 has done for our Veterans. I appreciate all the assistance from our members in the different projects we have completed this year. I will say it again, when we need help, our members step up! We are currently getting ready for the Christmas Gift Shop at the VA Hospital on December 2-3 so we can help our veterans in the hospital make it a great Christmas for themselves and their families. On December 9 we will help with the VA Hospital Christmas Party and have volunteers to help with the patients and bring baked goods. It is always a fun event and we are all hoping the COVID restrictions don't hinder our mission. The District 7 Fall Convention was held on October 26 in Dell Rapids and we had a great number from our Auxiliary Unit 15 attend. It's always good to see the other Units' people and catch up on what is going on in our District. Our members are brainstorming ways of earning money for our Unit to continue to help our veterans. If any member has fund raising ideas, please reach out to me as we want to continue focusing on raising funds for "a great cause"! Don't forget to put December 14 on your calendar to attend the Army/Navy Game and chili cookoff contest at the AAA building west of the Post. A bake sale starts at noon. This is a National American Legion Project with them being a sponsor for this game. Come out and have great chili, baked goods, and conversation! I'm sure many have marked your calendars for the New Year's Eve Dance at the El Riad Shrine. Sounds like a fun event with good music and food. Tables are still available. Call the Post if you need a ticket or better yet a whole table so you can bring your friends and family. There will be NO Auxiliary Social/Bingo or monthly Auxiliary meeting in December.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends, May we show grace to our families, friends, co-workers, etc. Until next time, enjoy the holiday season!

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Patrick Branco

"I am proud of you!" What an important statement to make to each other. These days we are hearing "thank you for your service" more often than at any other time in our lives. It has almost become routine but never unwelcome. Some of us served in times of peace, some served in times of war, but all of us served our country. Some of us served in combat zones and others served in support either overseas or stateside. Regardless, the sacrifices made during a time of service bear recognition and thanks from our fellow citizens and from each other. During our visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities lately, we have learned one common theme from our fellow veterans and that is that we share a common background, language, and connection that comes with belonging to something larger than ourselves. I believe many of us experienced a sense of loss when we left the service and headed into civilian life where we no longer were part of squadron, platoon, ship's company, or unit. There was an old saying that went something like "a complaining soldier is a happy soldier." Often, we would sit around complaining about the conditions we were living in, the food, the leadership, etc. but those times bound us together, too. We weren't really complaining, we were sharing with others who truly understood each other. I miss those days. I am proud of each of you and your service to our country!



Dale Haas- Chairman of the Sioux Falls Post 15 American Legion Breakfast at the Alliance, November 13, 2024. Photo by Al Arndt.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Paul Fiskum,

Detachment Commander

As 2024 comes to an end, so do our memberships on December 31. November and December are renewal months. We are hoping for 100% renewal. If you haven't done so yet, consider going to mylegion.org and logging in or creating an account so you can renew online. Another option is to stop at the Legion office at 1700 W Russell Suite 510 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and the staff will gladly assist. Thank you.

Upcoming events are the pancake breakfast Dec. 1, Sons monthly meeting Dec. 12, Army-Navy football game and chili cookoff hosted by the Legion Riders with Sons members helping Dec.14, Legion family social Dec. 17, and a New Years Eve dance Dec. 31. Check the events calendar at siouxfallslegion.org for details or watch for an email.

Have a great month and Merry Christmas!

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:

Dec 11 - Monthly Meeting, Elections for 2025 Officers, Christmas Party, and White Elephant.
Dec 14 - Annual Army / Navy Game chili cookoff. Setup starts at 10:30; doors open at noon.

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, Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the Legion is invited to be a guest and join.

Quote of the Month: "I haven't taken my Christmas lights down. They look so nice on the pumpkin." – Winston Spear

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—DECEMBER 2024

- 1 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
3 (Tues) Legion Post 15 meeting 7 pm—\$800 drawing
7 (Sat) Pearl Harbor Day
9 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
10 (Tues) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
11 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
12 (Thu) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
12 (Thu) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
14 (Sat) Wreaths Across America 11 am — Veterans Cemetery
14 (Sat) Army/Navy game / Chili cookoff—noon —AAA
17 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
Beef Tips and pie — **reservations by Dec 12**
24 (Tue) NO SOCIAL/DINNER/BINGO - SEE YOU IN JANUARY
25 (Wed) Christmas Day
30 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 7 pm
31 (Tue) Save the Last Dance '24—El Riad Shrine

Every Monday—Singing Legionnaires practice 7 pm
Every Wednesday—Ladies bridge 12-4 pm
Office is open Monday-Friday 11-3 pm—closed Dec 24-25

Save the Date

Jan 4-5— "BIG" Gun Show—Lyons Fairgrounds
Feb 14-15—Mid-Winter Conference— Oacoma SD



SAVE THE LAST DANCE '24
AMERICAN LEGION
American Legion Post 15

DEC 31, 2024

DANCE 8-12:30
MOGENS HEROES - 8-10
LAST CALL 10:30-12:30

At El Riad Shrine
510 S. Phillips in Sioux Falls

Doors OPEN at 6pm for dinner tickets / 7:30pm for dance

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED for tables and ALL meals with cash, check or most credit card at the American Legion Post 15 Office located at 1700 West Russell in Sioux Falls.
CALL 605-336-3470 FOR MORE INFO

DANCE FLOOR DINNER TABLE FOR 8 = \$800
1st TIER DINNER TABLE FOR 8 = \$600
1st TIER DINNER TABLE FOR 6 = \$450
GENERAL ADMISSION w/ MEAL \$55
RESERVATION REQUIRED
GENERAL ADMISSION DANCE ONLY
\$75 ADVANCED / \$35 AT THE DOOR



It's time to be making plans for celebrating our nation's 250th birthday

The "BIG" Gun Show

January 4-5, 2025

Lyons Fairgrounds Event Center

Volunteers are needed!

The Dakota Territorial Gun Collectors Association's BIG Gun show will be on Saturday—Sunday, January 4-5, instead of in March. This is our chance to highlight the Legion Family to several thousand people over the two-day event.

For this to be a success, we need Legion, Auxiliary and Sons volunteers to staff the booth. Over the past couple of years, we've recruited more new ALA and SAL members than Legion. It would be nice to have representatives who can better explain those organizations than I can.

Show hours are 9:00-5:00 Saturday and 9:00-3:00 Sunday. Shifts will normally be 9-1 and 1-5 on Saturday and 9-12 and 12-3 on Sunday. However, if you can only come for a few hours, we'd love to have you. There is also the added challenge of the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday. Some of those who normally help out will be tied up there.

When you work our gun show booth, you meet lots of interesting people and have fun. Sign up sheets will be in the Legion Office following the Legion meeting on December 3. —Michael McGoffin

LEGISLATIVE NOTES *Diane Diekman*

A top general who oversaw the 82nd Airborne Division during the 2021 U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan was conspicuously left out of a large batch of **military promotions approved by the Senate** before it left town until December. The apparent delay for Lt. Gen. Christopher Donahue — President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Army in Europe and Africa and set for promotion to four-star general — suggests a senator is holding the nomination. Donahue was one of nearly 1,000 promotions the Senate Armed Services Committee approved. Senators in the full chamber typically clear the decks of uniform nominees before an extended recess. Touted by the Army as the last U.S. service member out of Kabul, Donahue led the 82nd Airborne while it was responsible for securing the airfield at Hamid Karzai International Airport as Americans and refugees were evacuating the country ahead of the Aug 31, 2021, deadline to leave. During the evacuation, a suicide bombing at the airport's Abbey Gate killed 13 U.S. service members and more than 170 Afghans. The Trump transition team is assembling a list of senior current and former U.S. military officers involved in the Afghanistan withdrawal and is considering the possibility of court-martialing them. Officer promotions, which have long been uncontroversial, are increasingly becoming fair game. -- *Politico*



Unit 15 Auxiliary members hosted a funeral reception for a veteran on November 19, 2024. Kay Stephenson made the aprons.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

A Season of Gratitude and Joy: Honoring Our Heroes

As the crisp air of November settles in and the festive lights begin to twinkle, we find ourselves in a season of reflection and celebration. This time of year, we are reminded of the importance of gratitude, community, and the enduring spirit of service that defines our Honor Guard.

Happy Thanksgiving! This holiday is a time to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. We are profoundly grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of our Honor Guard members, who stand as pillars of strength and honor in our community. Your unwavering commitment ensures that the traditions and values we hold dear are preserved and celebrated. As we gather with family and friends, let us remember the camaraderie and support that bind us together as a team.

Merry Christmas! As we move from Thanksgiving into the joyous Christmas season, our hearts are filled with warmth and cheer. This is a time for giving, sharing, and spreading goodwill. The Honor Guard exemplifies these values through your acts of service and kindness. Whether participating in parades, ceremonies, or community events, your presence brings a sense of pride and unity to all who witness it.

During this festive season, let us continue to uphold the traditions that make our Honor Guard so special. Let us reach out to those in need, lend a helping hand, and spread the joy of the season to everyone we encounter. Your efforts make a significant impact, and your dedication does not go unnoticed.

As we celebrate these holidays, let us also look forward to the new year with hope and determination. Together, we will continue to honor our commitments, support one another, and strive for excellence in all that we do.

Thank you for your service, your dedication, and your unwavering spirit. Wishing you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas filled with joy, peace, and love.

With heartfelt gratitude and festive cheer, Bill

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

From November 12-16, the Singing Legionnaires were privileged to represent the American Legion during a four-day trip to our nation's capital. The chorus performed at WWII, Lincoln, and Air Force Memorials, the National Cathedral, Mount Vernon, and at a senior living facility in Alexandria, Virginia. The chorus visited Arlington National Cemetery, as well as several other historical sites, and toured the Capitol building with Rep. Dusty Johnson. Several spouses as well as Post 15 Commander Dale Hill and wife Judy accompanied us on this very memorable trip. The culmination of 75 years of service has been in planning for most of the year, with the much-appreciated assistance of Aaron Van Beek with Midwest Honor Flight.

The Singing Legionnaires also performed November 11 for the Veterans Day program at the Military Heritage Alliance. The chorus is scheduled to perform December 9 at the Royal C. Johnson Veterans' Memorial Hospital, December 14 at the Army/Navy game party, and December 16 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community. The chorus posted flags on November 11 Veterans Day and will be resuming its Avenue of Flags program in May 2025. The chorus is still offering individual sponsorships for posting flags along downtown Phillips Avenue. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor a flag, perhaps in honor of a loved one, please contact Todd Schmidt or Bruce Naasz. Also, 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 who may be 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.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Larry Panning

The **Pistol, Sporter** and **Precision** teams have all started practice. Precision team will be competing at Winter Airgun Championship in Colorado Springs Dec. 13-15. **BB** gun planning is underway with season starting in January. Humboldt Sharpshooters are moving forward on building their new range. They still need to raise about \$30,000, so if anyone wishes to help or needs a tax deduction, they are a non-club so contact Legion Office or me (605-940-6309) to help get you in contact with them. **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT** and wishing everyone a **Merry Christmas** as we move into the holiday season.

BINGO

There will be no Singing Legionnaire poultry party this year. Auxiliary Bingo runs from January through October.



Post 15 Honor Guard members enjoying their monthly breakfast, provided free to all veterans by Hy-Vee Stores to celebrate Veterans Day, November 11, 2024. Photo from Al Arndt collection.

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.

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Alsdpost15 [#SDLegion](https://www.instagram.com/SDLegion)

www.siouxfallslegion.org



Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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

2024 ARMY / NAVY GAME

DECEMBER 14 - 1300 N Industrial Ave, SFSD

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Event hosted by the Legion Riders Chapter 2 with the Post 15 "Legion Family" all participating.

- **Doors open at noon**-Chili tasting, Auxiliary bake sale, Sons of Legion Dimock cheese & flag sales
- Post 15 **Singing Legionnaires** 1pm-1:30pm
Christmas Sing along / Military Medley
- **Game time** 2pm / chili awards at half time
- **Door prize and raffle** winners at the end of the game. **RAFFLE** is a USA Flag Heritage .22 LR Blk Std 6.5" round Cocobolo grip – tickets available late November in the Legion office and from members.



OFFICIAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME



Sioux Falls post 15 American Legion Honor Guard Members attending the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the BG Dean Mann Readiness Center on 11/13/24

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 prints and mails 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>.



Tribute to a great Veteran, Educator, & Sioux Falls Post 15 American Legion Honor Guard Member- BG Dean Mann to the South Dakota Army National Guard Readiness Center named after him on 11/13/24.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Ronald Wingert, 90, Army, 10/26/2024; James Baker, 82, Army, 10/28/2024; Robert Kroon, 84, Army, 11/9/2024

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



Become a Plank Owner

in the
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of the
Navy League of the United States

Deadline for charter members
February 3, 2025

This nonprofit civilian organization supports and advocates for America's sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine.

www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/

diane@dianediekman.com

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



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Post 15 members visiting with veterans and spouses at Good Samaritan Prairie Creek retirement home on November 21, 2014. Everyone present shares experiences and memories.

New Post 15 Members

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

Freddy Real, Travis Elam, Richard Hazen, Michael Stearns, Ryan Souvignier, Willaim Burggraaf, Blair Kuhlman, Chul (Spencer) Ha, Kristy Myers-Boland, William Bruns, Charles Hughes, Homer Hill, Eric Jelken, Michael Donegan

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	Sharon Taplett-Lundgren
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

Membership: Patrick Branco	Americanism: Martina Goergen	Youth Trooper: Dave Rowe
Rummage Sale: vacant	Baseball: Randy Miller	Office Maintenance : vacant
Vets Council: John Bachmeier	Dance: Patrick Branco	VAVS: Chris Fischer
Post Everlasting: vacant	Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien	Pancakes: Dale Haas
Gun Shows - Mike McGoffin	Flag Retirement: Dick Moss	Shooting Sports: Larry Panning
	Birthday Party : vacant	Color Guard/Flag Etiquette: Chris Van Briesen

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