

SIOUX FALLS POST 15



September 2025

Published monthly by American Legion Post 15, 1700 W Russell St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Issue Number: 2025—09

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Patrick Branco

This summer has been another busy one for American Legion Post 15. A few months ago, then-Department Commander Kevin Morello visited us for a weekend. It happened to be the weekend of our last dance, pancake breakfast, a funeral or two, and Post Everlasting. Kevin showed up at each event and even helped flip pancakes. At the end of the weekend, he exclaimed that we did more in a weekend than many Posts do in a year. I am inclined to believe him. So far this summer we have had three pancake breakfasts, 14 Avera pantry days, five vet visits, Flag Day ceremony, almost a 4th of July flag retirement ceremony, Tee It Up for the Troops, three car shows, Navy Week Admiral visit dinner, eight days at the Empire Fair, three Chamber events, Veterans Court, three Socials, and numerous funerals and color guard events.

In the next few weeks, we have more events coming up and are always in need of help. Tuesday afternoons we need folks who can spend an hour working with Avera in their food pantry filling food bags for needy families. We had the Auxiliary Golf tournament on August 19. Pat and Dale attended the National Legion Conference in Tampa. There will be Vet visits in September (please give it a try to attend one of these, you will be happy you did). On September 12-14 the Sanford Golf tournament will be held, featuring many retired professional golfers. They request the Legion members help by holding the pin flag at one of the holes. We hold the flag while the golfers are putting. We are there in uniform. We take shifts of one hour. Many of the golfers thank us for our service and are extremely friendly. Oh yeah, you get free lunch in the VIP tent! Please let Sue know if you can help with one or more of these shifts.

Finally, we need everyone's help selling tickets to our Comedy Night event in October. Please see Sue for tickets and make certain you get tickets for yourself before they sell out. It looks like it will be a great night of entertainment and an excellent fundraiser for us.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Deb Metzger

Our 4th annual "Chip in for Vets" golf tournament was again a huge success, with 140 golfers participating. We had great door prizes and raffles, thanks to our community partners. It was an honor to have the American Legion Post 15 Color Guard and the Singing Legionnaires perform, in addition to Commander Patrick Branco saying a few words to our golfers. Kasey Jacobson, Karen Dunham, and I want to thank all our members of Auxiliary Unit 15 for making this one of best golf tournaments out there. When all the numbers are tallied, I will let everyone know how we did. All proceeds go to the Veterans Community Project (Tiny Homes), which gives homeless veterans a place to live, along with providing support programs to help them find permanent housing and become productive members of our community. To date, 10 homes are completed. Five more are almost ready, and the last 10 will be constructed by the end of this year. Six veterans have already successfully worked through the program and moved to permanent homes.

The District 7 fall meeting will be in Montrose; please put it on your calendar. The Stand Down at the Alliance is September 19. Thanks to Sue Panning for chairing this event. Also on September 19 is the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Afterwards, everyone is invited to Legion Post 15 for pizzas, deserts and beverages. On September 24, our Auxiliary will work at the Pizza Ranch from 5-9 p.m. to raise money for veterans projects. Please come out and have a good meal as well as supporting our Legion family. Our annual Auxiliary New Member Potluck will be October 14 before our monthly meeting. I have invited our State President, Susie Learing. On October 13, the Legion Family will host a dinner for our American Legion Auxiliary National President, Pam Ray. Please put this on your calendar to attend - it isn't often we have a National President come to Sioux Falls!

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander

As members of the Sons of the American Legion, we are called to remember, to honor, and to preserve the legacies of those who sacrificed for our nation. Recently, I had the solemn privilege of visiting the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City.

The Memorial's reflecting pools, set in the footprints of the Twin Towers, bear the names of nearly 3,000 lives lost. Standing before them is a powerful reminder of both our nation's loss and the resilience of the American spirit. Inside the museum, artifacts such as twisted steel beams, personal mementos, and the gear of first responders tell the story of unimaginable tragedy, but also of extraordinary courage, unity, and sacrifice.

For members of the Sons of the American Legion, this visit carries special meaning. The heroism displayed on September 11 mirrors the courage of generations of veterans and patriots whose legacies we strive to uphold. This experience reminded me that remembrance is not only our duty to the past, but a guide for the future.

As Sons of the American Legion, we carry forward our mission: **Supporting our Veterans and Families, Promoting Americanism and Patriotism, and Supporting Our Nation's Youth.**

Reminders for Members

- Monthly Meeting: Thursday, September 11 at 7 p.m. at the Legion.
- 2025 Raffle Tickets: \$20 each, only 250 sold. Prizes: \$2,500 (Grand), \$500 (Second), plus 10 money-back winners. Tickets are available at the Legion office — Can we count on you to take a book of five to sell?
- Membership Renewal: Renew for 2026 and continue honoring the veteran who made your membership possible.

Get Involved: We encourage all members to **Be Active**—volunteer, help fundraise, or support community projects. Your Efforts Strengthen Our Mission. Contact me or the Legion office for details.

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Legion Riders welcome new member Dean Van Dyke.

Sep 6: Veterans Community Project of Sioux Falls 3rd Annual Poker Run.

Sep 13: USVMC 9th Annual Poker Run.

Sep 19: POW\MIA Recognition Day ceremony. Veterans Memorial Park.

Sep 23: Honor Flight. Maverick Air Center Hangar by 8:30 for Flag Line.

Oct 7: Honor Flight. Maverick Air Center Hangar by 8:30 for Flag Line.

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

Quote of the Month: "My favorite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' because it actually tells you something." – Groucho Marx



Patrick Branco, commander of American Legion Post 15 in Sioux Falls, and Vicki Branco, 1st Vice President of Unit 15 Auxiliary, talk with Vietnam veterans at the Post 15 booth at the Sioux Empire Fair. Post 15 member Sandy Erickson in the background. August 7, 2025. Photo by Al Arndt.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SEPTEMBER 2025

- 1 (Mon) Labor Day holiday
- 2 (Tue) Legion Post 15 meeting **NEW: 6:30 pm—\$1,025 drawing**
- 6 (Sat) District 7 meeting—Montrose
- 7 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
- 8 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
- 9 (Tue) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
- 10 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
- 11 (Thur) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
- 11 (Thur) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
- 16 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Shepherd's pie — reservations by Sept 11
- 19 (Fri) POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony—Veterans Park
- 23 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
Open to the public; reservations required for dinner
- 29 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 7 pm

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

- Oct 13—Auxiliary dinner for national president
- Oct 18—Navy Ball
- Oct 24—Comedy Night/Silent Auction

Veterans Visits

Veterans and spouses, we need you to exchange your military stories with those in retirement homes and hospice care. 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:

Sept 12—The Parkwood, 7800 South Western Ave @ 2 p.m.

Sept 18—Dow Rummel, 1321 Dow Rummel Street @ 2:30

Sept 19—Good Sam Prairie Creek, 4400 West Creekside Dr.—POW/MIA ceremony @ 10:30 a.m.



JULY 4, 2026 –
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
USA

We celebrate our
nation's 250th
birthday.

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Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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

New Post 15 Members

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

Tammi Brown, Tom Van Wyhe, Terrance Mikkelsen, Richard Stinger, Donna Newton Lett Kittrell, Cyler Anderson, Noah Bollinger, Thomas Dickey, John Hartke, Gwendolyn Jamerson, Gerald LaQua, Brian Long, Patricia Lynch, Steven Munson, Stacy Snetsinger, William Stokes, Judith Hanify

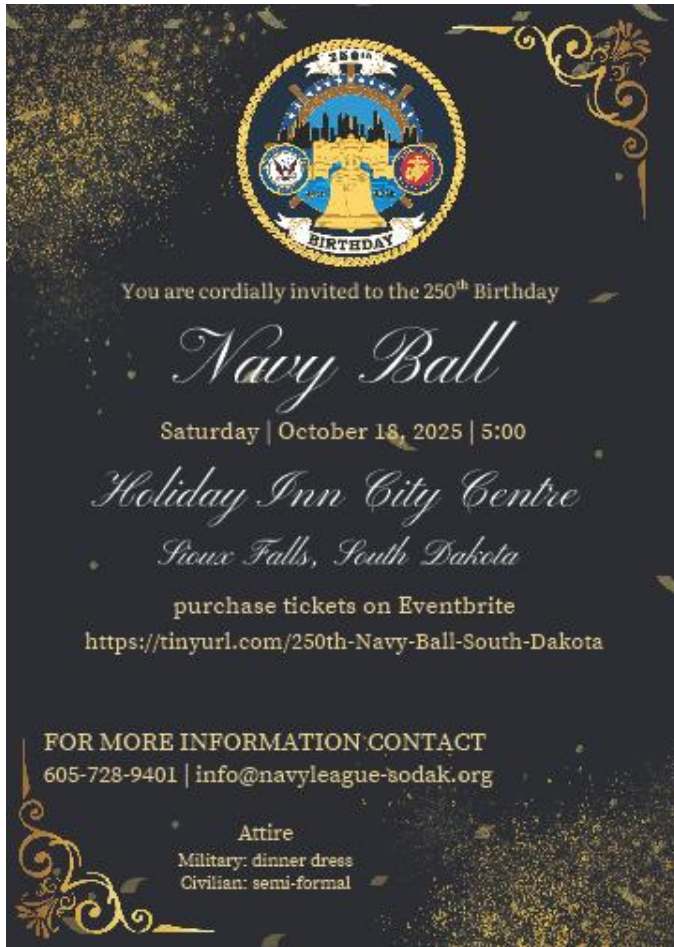
Up To Now!

Sioux Falls Post 15 members are encouraged to sign up to receive the Department's newsletter, *Up To Now!*, in their email inboxes each month:

<https://sdlegion.org/up-to-now>

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.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Randy Miller, Post 15 Athletic Officer



Photo: Dietrich Haan, Sioux Falls Post 15 East (Team Black); Zakk Evers, Head Coach Sioux Falls Post 15 West (Team Black); Randy Miller, Post 15 Baseball Liaison. At the SDBCA American Legion All-Star Game in Brandon SD, August 11, 2025.

Great event for those selected, showcasing talent from across the state. Individuals selected have completed their final year of eligibility.

Congratulations to South Dakota Class A All-State American Legion baseball players representing Sioux Falls Post 15 teams:

Colin Lunders, SF Post 15 East, 1st Team

Boston Bryant, SF Post 15 West, 1st Team

Honorable mentions went to Dietrich Haan, Ethan Olson, and Brody Schafer of SF East and to Caden Voss and Kyler Boyd of SF West.



Rear Admiral Michael Wosje and SD Dept Membership Chairman Bill Peters at the Navy Week dinner hosted by Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 at the Alliance during Navy Week. August 4, 2025. Photo by Sue Peters.



Unit 15 organizers and golfers at the Chip in For Vets tournament at Elmwood Golf Course. August 19, 2025. Photo by Al Arndt.

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

The Singing Legionnaires performed on August 3 at First Methodist Church, on August 4 at the dinner for Navy Rear Admiral Michael Wosje at the Alliance, on August 11 at First Reformed Church, on August 19 to sing the national anthem at the Auxiliary Unit 15 Golf Tournament, and August 25 at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community. The chorus is scheduled to perform September 19 at the POW/MIA Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park and September 29 at Dow Rummel Village. The chorus rehearses at Post 15 on Monday nights at 7 p.m. 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 66cycler2019@gmail.com. The Singing Legionnaires will be posting flags on September 1 Labor Day and September 11 Patriots Day. They offer 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 businesses that might like to participate in this flag program.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

This past month, our Honor Guard has once again answered the call to duty, providing military honors at several funerals and ceremonies. We extend a warm welcome to the new members who have joined our ranks, and we thank our longtime members for their continued dedication.

A special thank you goes out to Wayne Sprecher, who has served as Commander at most of these funerals. His leadership and commitment have been invaluable, and we are grateful for the time and care he gives to each family we serve.

The families are always deeply moved by the presence of the Honor Guard—it is a lasting reminder that their loved one's service will never be forgotten. We also keep in our thoughts those members who, for health or other reasons, are unable to participate at this time.

If you have ever considered joining the Honor Guard, now is a great time to step forward. There is very little cost involved, and your commitment makes a tremendous difference to the families we honor and to our Post.



American Legion Singing Legionnaires opening the "Chip in For VETS " Golf Tournament on August 19, 2025, by singing the national anthem. Photo by Al Arndt.



Chaplain Donna Puthoff and the Post 15 color guard at the dinner honoring Rear Admiral Michael Wosje. Nearly 200 guests attended the dinner hosted by Sioux Falls American Legion Post 15 at the Alliance during Navy Week. August 4, 2025. Photo by Sue Peters.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

Robert Sterud, 81, Marines, 8/12/2025

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



HUMOR FOR HEROES

COMEDY NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

OCTOBER 24TH
1600 W RUSSELL ST, SIOUX FALLS, SD

COMEDIANS
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TRAVIS WEBER (ARMY)
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TICKETS \$15 EACH 2 FOR \$25

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AMERICAN LEGION

NEW RATES FOR PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP

AGE 24 & under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 & over
\$2,007	\$1,924	\$1,834	\$1,736	\$1,630	\$1,515	\$1,390	\$1,254	\$1,113	\$972	\$835	\$701	\$579	\$494

Members can renew at the Post 15 office or online. Choose the PUFL option with 12 equal payments or one lump sum: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>. For more information, contact Post 15 at 605-336-3470.

2026 DUES

Paying now saves \$\$\$. Starting in July, National mails a reminder each month until dues are paid. When we pay early, no more notices have to be printed and mailed.

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Unit 15 Sioux Falls, SD
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SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB Gun finished in second place nationally, but I heard nothing about scholarships awarded. Daisy is continuing the practice of awarding the top ten shooters that started last year. We had one top ten shooter who received a scholarship. All teams are taking a break and the first to begin practice will be the **Precision** team starting mid-September for a match at Anniston, Alabama, from Oct 9-12. **Sporter Air Rifle** will start early October and **BB Gun** in early January. The new building is water tight and **FUND RAISING** continues. They are running a **CHASE THE ACE** game with current pot of about \$3,500 at the Humboldt Bar on Sunday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. We provide minimal support for these teams while they travel the country advertising for us. I am planning on attending some of these to maybe win and show my support. Can't win if you don't play, right?



Full field of golfers at the "Chip in For Vets" golf tournament at Elmwood Golf Course. August 19, 2025. Photo by 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 Patrick Branco
1st Vice Commander Dick Moss
2nd Vice Commander Sandy Erickson
Finance Officer Jim Cero
Historian **vacant**
Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Puthoff
Chaplain Donna Puthoff
Adjutant John Bachmeier
Post Service Officer Fred Ahrens

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrick Branco—Chair
Wayne Sprecher, Jonathan Theel, Terry Wolf, Dale Hill,
Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Tony Brende, Randy Miller

COMMITTEES

Membership: Patrick Branco
Rummage Sale: **vacant**
Vets Council: Jonathan Theel

Americanism: Martina Goergen
Baseball: Randy Miller
Dance: Patrick Branco
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

President Deb Metzger
1st Vice President Barb Hayes
2nd Vice President Vicki Branco
Treasurer Kathy Dathe
Historian Elaine Shaefer
Sergeant-At-Arms Jill Tolbert
Chaplain Kasey Jacobson
Secretary Beth Honerman
Parliamentarian Ann McGoffin

Past President Kellie Heazlett
Executive Board Judy Hill
Executive Board Roxann Zenobi
Executive Board Pat Micko

Youth Trooper: Dave Rowe
Office Maintenance : **vacant**
VAVS: Chris Fischer
Pancakes: Dale Haas

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