

SIOUX FALLS POST 15



August 2026

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Mark Parsley

Hello fellow Legionaries, summer is moving pretty fast. At the state convention, our own Bill Peters was elected Department Commander of South Dakota. Congratulations, Bill, and best of luck.

The Fourth of July was a great day. The parade drew a strong turnout from guests and Legion volunteers alike. That evening, before the fireworks, we held a well-received flag retirement ceremony.

We skipped our July meeting to gather at Harmon Park for Military Appreciation Night, where we cheered on our Legion Baseball teams and watched our new state commander, Bill Peters, throw the first pitch. It was great night at the ballpark.

Hot Summer Nights on July 15 had a great turnout, including the most Corvettes I have ever seen. Thank you to all Post 15 volunteers. We had a successful fundraising effort.

I just received my annual membership renewal, and I would greatly appreciate everyone submitting renewals as soon as possible. This will help our membership committee and Go Getters. As of today, 409 have renewed with 915 to go.

The Sioux Empire Fair is July 31—Aug 8. We will need many volunteers to work there. Our membership meeting is August 4 at 1830. Since we did not meet in July, there is a full agenda. Hope you can attend. Our monthly social is August 18 at 1700. The meal will include pasta with meatballs, chicken Alfredo, spinach salad, breadsticks, and dessert.

I plan to attend the National American Legion Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, from August 28 through September 3. and look forward to the learning opportunity.

Post 15 will host the South Dakota American Legion Convention in June 2027. This is a major event, and I will be asking for volunteers in the near future. I hope you are having a great summer and enjoying time with family and friends.



Dale Haas and 7th District Vice Commander Dale Hill in uniform for the 250th Independence Day parade in Sioux Falls on July 4, 2026. Dale Hill led the Color Guard in his Revolutionary War uniform. Photo by Al Arndt.



Post 15 Veteran Jim Minnig wearing his father-in-law's uniform. Photo by Al Arndt.



Post 15 Veteran Rose McGaha. Photo by Al Arndt.

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Dick Moss*

Celebrating our Country's 250 Birthday has been wonderful. In addition, volunteerism from members of Post 15 has been outstanding. From placing and retiring flags at the VA Hospital, Fourth of July parade, flag retirement ceremony at the fairgrounds, picnic with the Veterans, visits with veterans in assisted living residences, Hot Summer Nights, Avera pantry, to the air show. These activities demonstrate to both the general public and to veterans in our community the commitment of the Legion. Job well done to all involved.

The latest information regarding "Take Care of American Veterans Act" is presented by National Commander Dan Wiley on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCTvOJ4D060>. In this in-depth discussion, Commander Wiley explains what is at stake if Congress fails to act. While reasonable people may disagree on the legislation, he argues there is a significant risk that many long-sought programs, some pursued for five to ten years, could never be implemented. He also discusses concerns that proposed changes affecting tinnitus and sleep apnea disability ratings could still move forward under the existing VA rule as early as the end of this fiscal year. I encourage every member of Post 15 to get the information shared in this presentation. Bottom line is Rescind the Rule or Pass the Act.

I had the privilege of riding in the '41 Chevy during the Independence Day parade with past commander Larry Panning. Hot but a great experience. Learned a great deal of history. Thanks Larry. The Flag Retirement Ceremony at the fairgrounds that evening was a huge success in front of a very large crowd. Thanks to John Small of Sunny Radio for the privilege to demonstrate proper retirement of worn, faded, or tattered U.S. Flags.

Post 15's involvement in Hot Summer Nights was another great experience, even if it was hot. The Air Show was also an event that demonstrated Post 15's willingness to volunteer and recruit new members.

VA Hospital Picnic

Post 15 is providing escorts for the last summer picnic at the VA Hospital on August 19. **Ten volunteers are needed.** Meet at the hospital at 11:30 to push a patient in a wheelchair to the outside picnic area. Your lunch is free. To volunteer, call the Post 15 office by August 14, so a head count can be turned in for meals.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander

As we begin the new membership year, I encourage every member of Squadron 15 to renew for 2027. Renewing early is one of the easiest ways you can support our Squadron and the veterans we serve. It lessens our administrative expenses by reducing the number of reminder notices sent. Our goal is to reach 80% renewal by December 31. This will demonstrate the strength of our Squadron and help us continue supporting veterans, their families, our nation's youth, and our community. You can renew online at myLegion.org, stop by the Post 15 Legion office from 11 - 3, or call the office at 605-336-3470.

I also encourage members to consider Lifetime Membership. This one-time investment guarantees you'll never have to renew, while demonstrating your long-term commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. If you are interested in learning about the Lifetime Membership program, please email me at sdsq15sal@gmail.com or call the Post 15 Legion office.

At our Tuesday, August 11, Squadron meeting, we will discuss fundraising opportunities and welcome your ideas and participation. Successful fundraising efforts allow us to continue supporting veterans, their families, youth programs, and our local community.

Thank you for your continued support of Squadron 15 and, most importantly, for honoring the veteran whose service made your membership possible. Together, let's make it our goal to reach **80% renewal by December 31!**

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:

August 13 - Ponderosa Lodge, 7400 S. Lewis Avenue @ 2:30 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—AUGUST 2026

- 2 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
 4 (Tue) Legion Post 15 meeting 6:30 pm
 8 (Sat) USS South Dakota Day of Honor 10 am Battleship Memorial
 10 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
 11 (Tue) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
 12 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
 13 (Thur) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
 13 (Thur) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
 18 (Tue) --"Chip In For Vets" Golf Tournament— Elmwood
 18 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
 Pasta w/meatballs— call by Aug 13 IF YOU WILL ATTEND
 19 (Wed) Picnic with the Vets 11:30 am—VA Hospital
 25 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
 Open to the public; reservations required for dinner
 31 (Mon) Executive Board meeting 6:30 pm

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

Save the Date

Sept 18—POW/MIA Recognition Day
 Oct 23—Night of Laughter and Music

VAVS *Chris Fischer*

Post 15 attended the VHA stakeholders meeting at the VA Hospital on July 8. Sioux Falls VA director Sara Ackert gave opening remarks, followed by briefings from the following departments: Claims processing, Community Care, Home Health Care, ongoing and future construction projects, update on the PACT Act, regional re-alignment, Electronic Health Record software and Tele-Health for dermatology, audiology, optometry, wound, sleep aids, stroke, EEG, and remote patient monitoring. Larry Panning and I attended the quarterly VAVS meeting on July 15. A review of current and upcoming facility projects included the Boiler plant, Sterile Processing department, and relocation of the Kitchen.

Upcoming events include Farmers Market beginning August 3, Volunteer Luncheon and training August 7, picnic with the Vets on August 19, and Car Show with 240 entries on August 12. Stand Down for Vets will be at the Military Alliance on Sept. 18, followed by Women's Veterans Retreat on Sept. 25 at the Sanford Barn. Volunteer s are needed for drivers, wheelchair escorts, way-finders, and Front desk help. Gift cards are needed for restaurants, zoo, bowling, baseball games, Dave&Busters, barber shops, or any retail locations that sell sweatpants.

AMERICA



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
USA

We celebrate our nation's 250th birthday all year long.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Honoring the Heroes. Strengthening Friendship. Building Community.

DATE Saturday, July 25, 2026 TIME 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM LOCATION American Legion Sioux Falls Post 1700 W Russell St Ste 510 Sioux Falls, SD 57104 WHO SHOULD ATTEND Korean War veterans and their families, veterans, community leaders, and members of the Korean-American and local communities.	PURPOSE To honor Korean War veterans for their sacrifice and service, and to strengthen friendship between South Korea and the United States. ★ EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ★ - Memorial & Appreciation Ceremony - Korean Food & Refreshments - Korean-Themed Raffle Prizes - Veteran & Community Gathering
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★★ WE REMEMBER. WE HONOR. WE ARE TOGETHER. ★★

DAKOTA KOREAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Saturday, July 25—Open to the public

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

DINE TO DONATE

Support

AMERICAN LEGION POST 15
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
3:30PM-10PM

10%

DONATION NIGHT
 for American Legion Post 15.
 Present this flyer at the Sioux-Falls location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to American Legion Post 15!

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LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Legion Riders participated in the Flag Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park and led the Independence Day Parade in Sioux Falls.

Mission Award pins were presented to Arlene Allen (best co-pilot in the world) and Larry Hunt.

Al Kingsley shared that he participated in Golden Age Games and brought back 2 silver and 2 bronze. Way to make us proud, Al!

Upcoming Event: Aug 16: Yankton Riverboat Days Parade.

Our meetings are the second 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. 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: "One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by." *Jeannette Walls*



Independence Day Parade, Sioux Falls. July 4, 2026. Photo by Jess Borg.

POST EVERLASTING May They Rest in Peace

Lester Clayton Bly, 98, Navy,
7/4/2026; Philip Bechtold, 90, Marines,
7/6/2026

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



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Randy Miller

July 7, 2026- *Military Night* hosted by SEBA/ Post 15 Baseball Teams at Harmodon Park was a great night. Thanks to all who participated and attended. We received many positive comments on how much the Chorus performance and Color Guard added to the festivities.

-Jr Legion Game; East 21 – West 5 (5 Innings)

-Sr. Legion Game; West 7 – East 0



Bill Peters, SDAL Department Commander, and Mark Parsley, Post 15 Commander, being presented by Randy Miller, Post 15 Athletic Officer, with baseballs commemorating Military Night.

SD American Legion Baseball (ALB) Standings (Power Points) are here: <https://sites.google.com/view/sdlegion/senior-division>.

SF Post 15 Sr. West finished 31-12-1 overall, 2nd seed (18-7).

SF Post 15 Sr. East finished 15-26 overall, 12th seed (9-16).

SF Post 15 Jr. East finished 16-25 overall, 10th seed (12-15).

SF Post 15 Jr. West finished 13-29 overall, 13th seed (8-21).

July 30-August 2, 2026 – SF Post 15 Jr. East Hosts the Class A Junior State Tournament at Harmodon Park in Sioux Falls. Come support your favorite team(s) and American Legion Baseball. (Free Admission for Veterans)

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On July 6 the Singing Legionnaires performed at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community and on July 19 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The chorus also sang the national anthem on July 7 at Harmodon Park for Legion Baseball Military Appreciation Night as well as on July 30 at Harmodon Park for Legion Baseball State Tournament Opening Ceremonies. The chorus is scheduled to perform August 2 at First Methodist Church, August 9 at Peace Lutheran Church, and August 18 to sing the national anthem at the Auxiliary Unit 15 Golf Tournament at Elmwood Golf Course. The chorus continues to rehearse on Mondays at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in singing with our men's chorus or who has questions regarding chorus activities is encouraged to contact chorus president Bruce Naasz at 605-310-6210 or 66cyclor2019@gmail.com. The Singing Legionnaires posted American flags on July 4 Independence Day. The chorus offers 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.

New Post 15 Members

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

Valerie Meland, Darrel Christensen, and Dale Carman

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

Alsdpost15 **#SDLegion**

www.siouxfallslegion.org



Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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



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 8, 2026**

10 am – Concert by Sioux Falls Municipal Band Brass Quintet

11 am - Ceremony with guest speaker Jeremiah Schneider,
Secretary of South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Master of ceremonies: Matt Michels



12 pm—Book release event
*Calvin Graham: Combat Veteran at Age 12
God on a Battlewagon*



Battleship South Dakota Memorial

West 12th St & Kiwanis Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD

605-366-3291 / 605-376-8002

info@southdakotabattleship.org



*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.*

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB Gun team placed 12th in Rogers, Arkansas. One shooter scored a perfect 100 in prone for first place. Another shooter got second place in the kneeling and a third shooter placed third in standing and kneeling. The **Sporter** team's six shooters placed eighth with one shooter placing first in the prone portion. The **Precision** Team shot at Clinton, Ohio, in competition. Many shot their personal best. Improving scores throughout the season speaks well for their dedication and offers promise for future years. Congratulations to all shooters and take a break so we can start again in the fall. Thanks to all for your continued support.

Celebrating America's 250 Birthday Independence Day—July 4, 2026 Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Photos by Al Arndt.



Jim Puthoff, Pete Waldner, and Ed Hruska



Sioux Falls Post 15 American Legion members in the parade



Post 15's first mission of the day was to post 60 flags at the VA hospital at 6:30 a.m. (And then take them down at 5:30 p.m.)



Post 15 pit crew for the '41 Chevy: Mike McGoffin, Dick Moss, John Bachmeier, Joe Greco, Ryan Sweeter, and Larry Panning



Chris Van Briesen commanded the Color Guard that led the Independence Day Parade in downtown Sioux Falls.

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



USS South Dakota
Day of Honor—August 8
10—concert 11—ceremony
12th St & Kiwanis Ave

www.facebook.com/bb57memorial
info@southdakotabattleship.org

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SHOW STARTS
7:00 PM

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OR BY CALLING
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\$50
SINGLE TICKET

\$80
2 TICKETS

\$1000
SUITES
(INCLUDES 10 TICKETS)

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August 18, 2026
Elmwood Golf Course

"Chip in for Vets"

**\$550
PER TEAM
4 PERSONS**

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Tournament!

Registration: 8 - 9
(Coffee & Rolls)
Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.

FORMAT:
4 Person Scramble
FUGHTED:
Pay 3 FUGHTS: 1st, 2nd 3rd each flight
PIN PRIZES: Front and Back Nine

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
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Auxiliary!

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

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Clubhouse Banner, Two Teams
„RED“ SPONSOR - \$1000
1 Team & Hole Sign
„WHITE“ SPONSOR - \$500
Feet, Sponsor Recognition Sign
„BLUE“ SPONSOR - \$100
Hole Sign

The ALA is a 501c19 Non Profit
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For more info contact: Golf Committee

Kasey Jacobson - 605-270-9289
email: jacobson1122@gmail.com
Karen Dunham - 605-366-3291
email: karendunham@dunhamresidential.com
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OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

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Commander Mark Parsley
1st Vice Commander Dick Moss
2nd Vice Commander Kate Van Dam
Finance Officer Jim Cero
Historian vacant
Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Puthoff
Chaplain Donna Puthoff
Adjutant John Bachmeier
Post Service Officer John Bachmeier

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE— Patrick Branco—Chair
Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Randy Miller, Bob Groenewold
Wayne Sprecher, Jonathan Theel, Terry Wolf

COMMITTEES

Membership: Patrick Branco
VSO: John Bachmeier
Vets Council: Jonathan Theel
Post Everlasting: vacant
Birthday Party : vacant

Americanism: Martina Goergen
Baseball: Randy Miller
VAVS: Chris Fischer
Memorial Day Flags: Ron Lien
Flag Retirement: Dick Moss
Color Guard/Flag Etiquette: Chris Van Briesen

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Gun Shows: Mike McGoffin

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