

SIOUX FALLS POST 15



June 2026

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Editor: Diane Diekman diane@dianediekman.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Mark Parsley

Hello fellow Legionnaires—I am your new Post 15 Commander. A little about me: I was raised on a farm east of Elkton, South Dakota, just across the Minnesota state line. I did three years in the Army and nine years in the Minnesota National Guard.

With summer underway, I hope you'll get outside, enjoy the weather, and take part in our Legion-sponsored activities. Flag Day is June 14, and we'll host an event at Veterans Memorial Park at 7 p.m. On July 4, Sioux Falls will hold the Independence Day parade, and the Legion will participate with a float, our 1941 automobile, and members of our color guard. Volunteers are needed.

On May 2, we dedicated the Michael J. Fitzmaurice statue on the Sculpture Walk. John Theel served as master of ceremonies, and about 50 people attended, including Medal of Honor recipient Michael Fitzmaurice and sculptor Darwin Wolf. The statue is located at 11th and Phillips Avenue. Post 15 presented Mr. Fitzmaurice with a Medal of Honor flag, along with a flagpole and stand. I would like to thank Dick Moss for coordinating the event and Mike McGoffin for the work on the flag.

May 3 was another busy day for Post 15. Along with our monthly pancake feed, we held orientation for both Boys State and Girls State. Later that evening, we hosted our Post Everlasting program. Post 15 lost 36 comrades last year, and this ceremony served as our final tribute. It was a solemn occasion.

On May 4 we were invited to take part in Roosevelt High School's AFJROTC program. It was an excellent presentation and left us confident that the next generation will do great things.

Memorial Day was a busy day for Post 15. We placed flags, sounded Taps Across America, and served on honor guards and color guards at local cemeteries. Thank you to everyone who helped. For veterans, Memorial Day is a solemn occasion to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. May they rest in peace.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Deb Metzger

Auxiliary Unit 15 is so fortunate to have such engaged members. At last month's meeting, we elected officers for the new year. Thanks to everyone who stepped up to become part of the Executive Committee. I was proud to announce that an anonymous donor gave \$3,000 to be used for veterans and/or their families who are struggling. If you know someone who may benefit from this donation, please reach out to me and we will see what we can do to help them. Thanks for this generous donation!

We continue to do good things for our veterans and families. Activities last month: we sent 22 girls to Girls State, sold poppies on May 23, and commemorated Memorial Day. There will be NO bingo in June. The Pizza Ranch fundraiser is June 17 (bussing tables) and the State Convention is in Aberdeen June 18-21. Seven members are attending this convention and looking forward to seeing people from around the state. We will elect new officers and committee chairs and will vote on various bylaws, including a dues increase of \$5. Dues have not been raised for over 10 years. It is imperative we get this passed so we continue to "do business" as an Auxiliary.

Registration has begun for the 5th Annual "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament on August 18. We mailed the flyer and registration form to all teams from last year to give them first shot at registering. They have until June 16, before we open registration to the public. This tournament fills up every year. Proceeds support the Veteran's Community Project (Tiny homes) in Sioux Falls. Jim Linn, head of the VCP in Sioux Falls, presented information at last month's meeting. By the end of this year, all 25 tiny homes will be completed in addition to a storage building for donated items. If you are interested in getting a team, donating items for our raffle, or sponsoring a hole, please reach out to me. We welcome Commander Mark Parsley of American Legion Post 15 and look forward to working with him.

1ST VICE COMMANDER *Dick Moss*

The Michael J. Fitzmaurice Medal of Honor statue was placed on the Sioux Falls Sculpture Walk on May 2. It is located on the east side of Phillips Avenue across from Dakotah Bank. At the installation ceremony, Patrick Branco and Mike McGoffin presented Fitzmaurice with a Medal of Honor flag, complete with flagpole and stand. Donations continue to come in with ten Legion posts participating in the project.

Post Everlasting for Post 15 was conducted on May 3. Several families of deceased veterans expressed their gratitude for the remembrance.

Raising American flags at the VA Hospital on May 16 was a great privilege, and several veterans were present.

The Ad Hoc Finance Committee proposal needs to have Bylaws that detail the duties/responsibilities and number of members. The current Bylaws do not address the Committee, but rather just the Financial Officer. In the future, additional committees will be proposed. The intent is to spread out responsibilities and increase member participation. If you have any ideas, please share them with me.

VA Hospital Picnics

Post 15 is providing escorts for picnics at the VA Hospital on June 17, July 15, and August 19. **Ten volunteers are needed for each one.** 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 the Friday prior**, so a head count can be turned in for meals.

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:

June 23 - Touchmark, 111 W 17th Street @ 1 p.m.

June 25 - Ponderosa Lodge, 7400 S Louise Ave @ 10:15 a.m.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander

It is truly an honor to serve a second term as your Squadron 15 Commander. I appreciate the continued trust and support from our members, and I look forward to building on the momentum we've created together. The dedication and willingness of our Squadron to step up and serve our veterans, our community, and our nation's youth is something we can all be proud of.

As we move into June, we have an important opportunity to honor one of our nation's most recognized symbols. We are currently looking for a few members to assist with the Flag Day Flag Retirement Ceremony on Sunday, June 14 at 7 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial. This ceremony is a meaningful way to show respect for the American flag and uphold a long-standing tradition of the Legion Family. If you are able to help, please contact the Legion office or email sdsq15sal@gmail.com. Your participation helps ensure this ceremony is conducted with the dignity and respect it deserves.

As July 1 approaches, a new membership year begins. I encourage all members to renew your 2027 membership early. Your membership matters. It plays an important role in recognizing our veterans and helps the Legion continue advocating for the benefits they have earned through their service to our country.

Be sure to check us out on Facebook at "Sons of the American Legion Squadron 15 Sioux Falls"—to stay up to date on events and activities. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events as we continue our mission together.

FOLLOW US on Instagram!

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www.siouxfallslegion.org



Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—JUNE 2026

- 1 (Mon) May Executive Board meeting 7 pm
- 2 (Tue) Legion Post 15 meeting 6:30 pm
- 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
- 11-14 (Thu-Sun) Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall - Brookings
- 14 (Sun) Flag Day
- 14 (Sun) Flag Retirement 7 pm —Veterans Memorial Park
- 16 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10
Burgers & brats— reservations by June 11
- 22 *NO-SHOWS IN MAY —MEALS WERE ORDERED*
- 17 (Wed) Picnic with the Vets 11:30 am —VA Hospital
- 18-21 (Thu-Sun)—Department convention—Aberdeen
- 19 (Fri) Juneteenth holiday
- 23 (Tue) NO Auxiliary Social
- 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 (except holidays)

Save the Date

July 4—Independence Day parade—downtown Sioux Falls
July 7—Military Appreciation Night—Harmadon Park
July 8—Reading Declaration of Independence—S.D. Battleship
July 15—Corvette Club “Hot Summer Nights”
July 18—Military Appreciation Night—Canaries Ball Park



Flags posted by Post 15 volunteers at the Sioux Falls Veterans Hospital on Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2026. Dale Hill photo.



JULY 4, 2026 – HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA

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

Upcoming America 250 events include the Independence Day parade in downtown Sioux Falls at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, and a ceremony at 4:30 p.m. on July 8 at the Battleship South Dakota Memorial to read the Declaration of Independence. Sign up for the parade at <https://sfindependenceparade.com>.

America's 250th Anniversary Independence Parade

Sioux Falls will be hosting an Independence Parade on July 4th, going down Phillips Avenue. According to the organizing committee, it'll go regardless of the weather, except for lightning or tornadoes. The Post's participation will include the color guard that leads the parade, driving the 1941 Chevy, the Legion Riders, and a float.

We currently have a basic committee consisting of Paul Clinton, Marsha Dede and Mike McGoffin. The basic concept of the float is for a trailer with banners on each side; the Post show banner; and Legion Family members riding the float or walking alongside. Some folks on the float dressed in uniforms from the Revolution to present day. We need your help to refine the float, find uniforms and people who can fit them. If you're interested, contact the Legion office or one of the folks listed above. We also need volunteers to ride on the float, walk beside it, or march in the color guard. With your help, we can make this a parade to remember. —Mike McGoffin

LEGION RIDERS

Lamar Nance, Chairman

The Legion Riders participated in the Brandon Loyalty Day Parade.

The winner of the Pellet Grill was Kardel Miiller, Ethan SD. Kat and Tom from the Slayton Legion Riders discussed an August ride for both ALRs.

Upcoming Events:

Jun 2 - Midwest Honor Flight – Welcome Home at 8 p.m.

Jun 7 - 605 Ride arrives at Garretson and Sioux Falls

Jun 9 - Brookings Wall escort - From Dacotah Bank Center to Soccer Fields in Brookings

Jun 14 - Flags at VA for Flag Day

Jun 14 - Veterans Memorial Park 7 p.m. for Flag ceremony

Our meetings are 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, the 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: "I told my doctor I broke my arm in two places. He told me to keep out of those places." — Rodney Dangerfield



Legion Riders in the Brandon Loyalty Day Parade
May 3, 2026

New Post 15 Members

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

Mike Ferrell, Ronald Janusiak, Patricia Hegerfeld, Michael Olson, Timothy Koob, and Delmer Linge

21-Gun Salute vs. 3-Volley Rifle Salute

"The 21-gun salute is not to be confused with the three-volley salute (or three-rifle volley) rendered at military honors funerals," states The Arlington National Cemetery website.

A salute of 21 guns is the highest honor a nation renders, usually reserved for national leaders and national flags. Lower ranking officials receive salutes from 19 guns down to 11. The custom stems from when warships would signify a lack of hostile intent by firing their cannons out to sea until all ammunition was spent. Gun salutes are by cannon or artillery and always in odd numbers.

Deceased veterans are honored by three volleys fired from rifles, not guns, by a funeral honor guard of three, five, or seven members. The three-volley tradition originates from when battles would be paused for both sides to clear their dead from the battlefield. When that task was completed, they fired three rifle volleys to signify the continuation of battle. — Editor

American Legion Tribute Rifle Raffle

The Rifle raffle is going strong. We have already sold enough tickets to pay our expenses. Now is the time to kick our sales into high gear. We are selling 1,776 tickets for the Henry tribute rifles in .22 and .44 magnum calibers. The drawing for the rifles will be held when we sell all the tickets or December 31, whichever comes first. We'd like to be able to hold the drawing by Veteran's Day. What a way to celebrate! To do that, we need your help. Check out a booklet of 15 from the Legion office. Tickets are \$20 for one or three for \$50. Proceeds go to support our Legion programs. Thanks for your help getting this done. —Mike McGoffin

CHORUS NOTES *Len Neugebauer*

On May 2 the Singing Legionnaires sang the national anthem at the Howard Wood Relays. The chorus is scheduled to perform on June 14 in Egan SD for Community Flag Day/250 Service and on June 29 at Dow Rummel Village. The chorus continues to rehearse Monday nights at 7 p.m. Anyone who may be 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 66cycler2019@gmail.com. The chorus resumed its Avenue of Flags program by posting American flags on May 16 Armed Forces Day and May 25 Memorial Day and is scheduled to post flags on June 14 Flag 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.

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

On Memorial Day morning, as I sat and reflected on the past years serving as your Honor Guard Commander, I was filled with deep gratitude for each and every one of you. It has been a true privilege to lead the Post 15 Honor Guard, and I am proud of all that we have accomplished together.

Your dedication, compassion, and unwavering support for our veterans and their families does not go unnoticed. The honor, respect, and professionalism you show at every service reflect the very best of what this organization stands for. What you have done—and continue to do—truly makes a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Memorial Day is a time of remembrance. It is a day set aside to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country, as well as to remember the families who have carried the weight of that sacrifice. Through our presence and our commitment, we help ensure that their service is never forgotten.

We honor those who are no longer with us, but whose legacy lives on in the work we carry out and in the honor we render. Every detail we perform, every flag we present, and every moment of respect we show carries their memory forward with pride, dignity, and gratitude.

Thank you for the dedication you have shown during my time as your Commander. I ask that you continue this important mission—supporting our veterans and their families, and ensuring they receive the honor, care, and recognition they so richly deserve. Together, as the Post 15 Honor Guard, we honor the past, serve the present, and strengthen the future.

CELEBRATE OUR 250TH!

SIGN UP IS NOW OPEN

to be part of the 250th anniversary of the

4th of July Parade

in Downtown Sioux Falls

DO YOU WANT TO MARCH OR DRIVE YOUR FLOAT?

JOIN THE HISTORIC CELEBRATION!

MARCHERS
Marching Bands,
Groups, Performers

FLOAT ENTRIES
Decorated Floats,
Vehicles, Businesses

please sign up your team at:

WWW.SFINDEPENDENCEPARADE.COM

DOWNTOWN SIOUX FALLS

SHOOTING SPORTS *Larry Panning*

BB Gun and **Sporter Air Rifle** will attend the Daisy Air Rifle Nationals in July. **Precision Air Rifle** will have a match in Alabama in June. The other teams are off for the summer. **Chase the Ace** is over \$40,000 with only seven cards left to draw. Your opportunity to win is every Sunday afternoon between 3 and 5 p.m. at the Humboldt Bar.



Ron Lien’s team placed over 3,500 flags on veterans’ graves at Woodlawn Cemetery. May 23, 2026. Photo by Al Arndt.



Legion Post 15 and VFW Post 628 assisted Alliance staff with lunch buffet for Feeding South Dakota: Wil Bolduc, Amy Bolduc, Pat Branco, Mark Parsley, Vicki Branco, Bob Garrigan, and Bobby Smith. April 29, 2026. Photo by Sue Peters.



Barry Andres, Bill Peters, Al Arndt, and Mike McGoffin with Post 15 table at Hy-Vee free breakfast for veterans and active military, May 20, 2026. Al Arndt photo.

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.

Battleship South Dakota Memorial



Museum opens for the summer on May 1

12th St & Kiwanis Ave

www.facebook.com/bb57memorial

info@southdakotabattleship.org

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Fly A Flag In Honor Of Loved Ones—The Post 15 Chorus is offering to fly your flag along Phillips Ave during 8 holidays for a \$44 donation. Call the Legion office for details.

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Commemorating the first reading of the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago in Philadelphia



4:30—Battleship South Dakota Sea Cadet Division posts the colors

Remarks by sponsoring organizations



July 8, 2026
4:30 PM

Battleship South Dakota Memorial
12th Street & Kiwanis Ave
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Firing the Revolutionary War cannon "Providence"



5:00 Reading of the Declaration of Independence

5:30 Concert by
Sioux Falls Municipal Band



Free and open to the public

Community event to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States

Bring lawn chairs

For additional information:
(605) 367-8002
info@southdakotabattleship.org



Post 15 volunteers who posted the flags at the Sioux Falls VA hospital on Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2026. Dale Hill photo.



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

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY Unit 15

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1st Vice President Pat Micko
2nd Vice President Barb Hayes
Secretary Beth Honerman
Treasurer Kathy Dathe
Chaplain Kasey Jacobson
Historian Robin Schiro
Sergeant-At-Arms Nancy Renner
Parliamentarian Ann McGoffin

Past President Kellie Heazlett
Executive Board Karen Dunham
Executive Board Bobbi Jo Ramm
Executive Board Nancy Renner

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Pancakes: Dale Haas
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