

SIoux FALLS POST 15



September 2026

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Editor: Diane Diekman diane@dianediekman.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Mark Parsley

Labor Day is approaching, with summer coming to an end and fall on the way. The Sioux Empire Fair was the first week of August, and we had volunteers there every day. Thank you to the Sons of the Legion for handling flag duties and to all Legion volunteers for their support. I would also like to personally thank Diane Diekman for her work on the newsletter. Thanks to her hard work and dedication, Post 15 won Best Newsletter at the state convention.

Our Legion baseball season concluded with the Junior A League State Tournament held July 30–August 2 at Harmodon Park. Although our teams did not win, they played hard and represented us well. Our Color Guard performed at the tournament and received many compliments. The Legion's presence truly enhances the game.

On August 8, I attended the USS South Dakota Day of Honor. The ceremony was well done, and the Sea Cadets, a youth unit for ages 10–18, did an outstanding job posting and retiring the colors. I also met Leon Gee, who served on USS *South Dakota*. He will turn 101 in September. USS *South Dakota* was in Tokyo Bay when Japan surrendered.

Upcoming events include our monthly meeting on September 1, which First Vice Dick Moss will lead while I am in Louisville, Kentucky. September 14–19 will be especially busy, with SDDVA training at the Alliance, Stand Down, and the Women Veterans Conference. Our MIA/POW ceremony is scheduled for September 18, and National Commander Jay Bowen may attend.

Please mark October 1 on your calendar. VFW Post 628, American Legion Post 15, their Auxiliaries, and the Alliance are planning a free meal and social at the Alliance. More details will follow. District 7 meeting at Tea Legion at 1 p.m. on October 10th. Let's have our entire Legion Family represented. Commander Peters's Homecoming will follow -- at the Alliance, with 4:30 p.m. social, 5:30 p.m. dinner, and presentation to follow.

UNIT 15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Deb Metzger

Where has the year gone? August 18 was our 5th Annual "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament at Elmwood Golf Course. It was a beautiful day for golf and fundraising for the Veteran's Community Project (VCP). We broke a record this year. It couldn't happen without the support of our Unit 15 Auxiliary members and the golfers who show up for this tournament. Thanks to the Post 15 Color Guard and the Singing Legionnaires for presenting the Colors and singing the national anthem. A special thank you to Jim Linn, executive director of the VCP, who talked about the difference we are making in helping homeless Veterans get a safe place to stay and work toward a permanent home. With this tournament completed, Unit 15 will have given the VCP over \$100,000.

We are working on updating our Constitution/Bylaws and Standing Rules. Thanks to Beth Honerman and her committee for taking this on. Please put September 9 on your calendar to come eat at the Pizza Ranch on 41st Street - Unit 15 will be bussing tables to raise money for our Unit. The Stand Down is scheduled for September 18 at the Alliance. Let Sue Panning (605-553-7524) know if you can help out. September 18 is also the POW/MIA Recognition ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park that evening. Put October 1st on your calendar for a get together at the Alliance for a free dinner for the Legion and VFW family to enjoy each other's company. Spouse/significant others are invited as well. No fundraising will be done - just an opportunity for Legion and VFW Family to show appreciation to its members. October 10 is our District 7 meeting in Tea along with the Homecoming for State Commander Bill Peters. Reservations are needed for the free meal. Let's everyone attend and support Bill Peters!

If you know of a Veteran or family member who can use our help, please reach out to me. We do not want them to think they have been forgotten.

1ST VICE COMMANDER Dick Moss

Kudos to Commander Mark Parsley for starting the bartending duties at the social on August 18. Taking over bartending responsibilities saves the Alliance salary expenses and provides beverages at a lower cost to veterans. Please note that this additional responsibility requires added set up time and needs more volunteers for the social.

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA) (Senate bill S.4744/ House companion H.R. 9237) is a massive \$58 billion legislative package backed by the American Legion. It is currently stalled in Congress. This act packages over 60 reform proposals including; Major Richard Star Act (for combat-injured retirees) and Love Lives On Act (eliminating remarriage penalties for certain surviving spouses). The American Legion views TCAVA as the most viable vehicle to advance long-delayed benefits and protect the broader veteran community. More information is available at www.legion.org/information-center/news/podcast/2026/july/tcava-podcast-addresses-key-questions-and-answers. Please contact your Congressional Representatives and support this vital legislation.



Post 15 Color Guard at "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament. Right to left: Mark Parsley, Chris Van Briesen. Jason Bjorklund, Pete Waldner, and Darrel Kluge. August 18, 2026. Photo by Al Arndt.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kelly Gillespie, Detachment Commander

First, a big thank you to everyone who helped with the flag detail at the Sioux Empire Fair in August. Whether you raised or lowered the flag, helped with scheduling, or stepped up to fill a last-minute spot, your time and dedication were greatly appreciated. You helped Squadron 15 represent the Sons of the American Legion and honor our flag and veterans.

We are also proud to share that Squadron 15 received the SAL National Commander's Challenge Four Pillar Squadron Award. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our members in supporting the four pillars of the Sons of the American Legion. This award belongs to all of you who have volunteered, participated, and supported our Squadron throughout the year. Thank you for helping make this achievement possible.

I encourage every member to be part of what Squadron 15 is doing. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer, support our Legion Family, and help make a difference in our community. We are looking at future fundraising events later this fall. We want to have members involved in planning and supporting these efforts. Your participation makes a big difference in what our Squadron is able to accomplish.

Opportunities to help with various Legion Family events and activities are always listed on the meeting agenda that is sent out by email. Please look over the agenda and see where you might be able to lend a hand.

If you haven't renewed for the 2027 membership year, please do so. Every renewed member helps strengthen our Squadron and allows us to continue supporting veterans, their families, our youth, and our community. Call the Legion office if you have questions about membership, upcoming events, or how you can get involved.

Check out and follow our Sons of the American Legion Squadron 15 Sioux Falls Facebook page for updates, photos, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming activities. This fall, don't just be a member—get involved! Together, we can continue making Squadron 15 something to be proud of.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SEPTEMBER 2026

1 (Tue) Legion Post 15 meeting 6:30 pm
6 (Sun) Legion pancake breakfast & bake sale 8:30-noon—Alliance
7 (Mon) Labor Day
8 (Tue) Legion Auxiliary meeting 7 pm
9 (Wed) Legion Riders meeting 7 pm
10 (Thur) Membership Committee meeting 6 pm
10 (Thur) Sons of the Legion meeting 7 pm
14 (Mon) Honor Guard breakfast 7:30 am—Fryn' Pan
14 (Mon) Dine To Donate evening --Texas Roadhouse
15 (Tue) Legion Family Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm —Alliance—\$10 Meatloaf — call by Sept 10 IF YOU WILL ATTEND
18 (Fri) POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony 6:30--Veterans Park
18 (Fri) POW/MIA Recognition Day reception 7:30 pm
22 (Tue) Auxiliary Social 5 pm, dinner 6 pm, bingo 6:30—Alliance
Open to the public; reservations required for dinner
27 (Sun) Gold Star Family 1:30 pm --Veterans Memorial Park
28 (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

Oct 10 - District Meeting -- Tea Legion
Oct 10 - Commander's Homecoming
Oct 23—Night of Laughter and Music
Jan 9 -- Hawaiian Luau & Game Night

2027 South Dakota Dept Convention

Chris Fischer

Post 15 is hosting next year's American Legion State Convention at the Best Western Ramkota in Sioux Falls. Mark your calendar for June 18-20, 2027. All meetings and most activities will be held at the host hotel. A block of rooms has been set aside for this event, at a special convention rate. Soon we will be meeting to establish the 2027 Convention committees. Let's make this a memorable event for our State Commander Bill Peters. Contact Sue or me if you are interested in serving on a committee. Going forward, I will keep you informed in this monthly newsletter.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
USA

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

Notes

- Thank you for your patience while we transition to a new "bar routine" at some of our events. If you'd like a specific beverage, call the office and we will attempt to accommodate. Tomato juice and orange juice will be added next month per requests received at the last social.
- Legion Tribute Rifle Raffle Update – Ticket sales are moving along well. We have 36 ticket books left to be signed out. Although our goal is to hold the drawing on Veterans Day, we'll keep going until all are sold, or December 31, whichever comes first. Tickets are \$20 apiece or three for \$50. The three for \$50 sell as well or better than the singles. If you've signed out a book, please finish selling it. If you haven't picked up a book yet, please get one from the Legion Office. Let's work to have the drawing on Veterans day.
- **Please pay your 2027 dues.** Paying now saves dollars. National mails a reminder each month until dues are paid. When we pay early, no more notices have to be printed and mailed.
- Reservations are needed for the commander's homecoming on October 10. The QR code on the flier (page 7) takes you to the registration page.
- This edition of the newsletter has been prepared with the design program Canva, the replacement for Publisher, which is going away next month. There is much to learn, and you'll be seeing changes throughout the next months. Contact the editor at diane@dianediekman.com if you have suggestions for what you'd like to see in future newsletters.

LEGION RIDERS Lamar Nance, Chairman

Honored Guests were Post 15 Commander Mark Parsley and Representative Laura Lynne Watters from West River. Mission awards were presented to Greg Hollenbeck and Jack Frye.

Upcoming events:

Sep 5 - 727th DAV Poker Run

Sep 12 - Post 15 Chapter 2 American Legion Riders Poker Run. Registration 10-11:30 at the Wooden Nickel in Crooks. Be there or be square.

Sep 18 - POW\MIA Recognition Ceremony in Sioux Falls

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, 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: "Stand firm in your refusal to remain conscious during algebra. --Fran Lebowitz



Todd Proffitt and Mark Honerman at Hot Summer Nites in Sioux Falls. July 15, 2026. Photo by Sue Peters.

POST EVERLASTING

May They Rest in Peace

George Harter, 93, Army, 8/14/2026

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



SD Post 15 Veterans and Youth Fun

At the direction of the Post 15 Executive Board, I have filed required paperwork to South Dakota Department and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and have established Post 15 Veterans and Youth Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The purpose of this Fund is to provide direct support to veterans and their families in need, and to support youth programs – Boys State, Legion Baseball, Youth T Shooting Sports and other youth programs. We hope adequate annual donations will provide scholarships in the future.

This Fund was established to allow a greater deduction by donors when filing taxes in place of the current 501(c) status of National American Legion that Post 15 has previously been under for donations. Many companies will only donate to 501(c)3 organizations.

I encourage all members of Post 15 and local businesses to support this program. 95+% of donations will be used for purposes described above, with minimal administrative overhead expenses (such as banking, postage, and accounting expenses). Organization officers will not receive any compensation.

Donations can be on a one-time basis, an annual donation, or a donation from your estate. Please support this organization with your donations. — Dale Hill, Post 15 Past Commander



Unit 15 Auxiliary members registering golfers at "Chip in For Vets" tournament on August 18, 2026. Photo by Al Arndt.

CHORUS NOTES Len Neugebauer

On August 2 the Singing Legionnaires performed at First Methodist Church and on August 9 at Peace Lutheran Church. Although the singing of the national anthem at Harmodon Park on July 30 was cancelled due to weather, the chorus was able to sing the national anthem on August 18 for the Auxiliary Unit 15 Golf Tournament at Elmwood Golf Course. The chorus is scheduled to perform September 14 for the WELCA women's group at Peace Lutheran Church and September 18 at the POW/MIA Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. The chorus continues to rehearse on 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 at 66cycler2019@gmail.com. The Singing Legionnaires will post flags on September 1 Labor Day and September 11 Patriot 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:

Edward Selzler, Larry Williams, Bruce Vannatta, Connie Black, Steve Eliason, and Dave Poppenga

HONOR GUARD COMMANDER

Bill Peters

The Post 15 Honor Guard continues to carry out one of the most meaningful responsibilities we have as American Legion members—paying a final tribute to our fellow veterans. This month, we recognize Mel Plate, who has retired from the Honor Guard. Mel, thank you for your years of service, your dedication, and your willingness to stand beside fellow Honor Guard members as we honored our fallen veterans. Your commitment has been sincerely appreciated, and we wish you all the best. We are also pleased to welcome three new members to our Honor Guard: Greg Bulthe, Steve Eliason, and Wendall Peterson. Thank you for stepping forward and becoming part of this special team. Your willingness to serve helps ensure that when a veteran is laid to rest, we are there to provide the dignity, respect, and final salute they have earned.

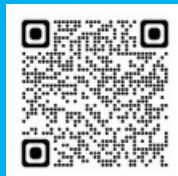
Every funeral we attend is a reminder that what we do matters. For the family, seeing fellow veterans standing together can bring comfort at a difficult time. For us, it is our opportunity to say one final time: Thank you for your service. We have not forgotten you. I continue to be extremely proud of our Honor Guard and grateful to every member who gives of their time, often on short notice and in all kinds of weather.

To our current members—thank you for answering the call. To Mel—thank you for your faithful service. And to Greg, Steve, and Wendall—welcome to the team.

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www.siouxfallslegion.org



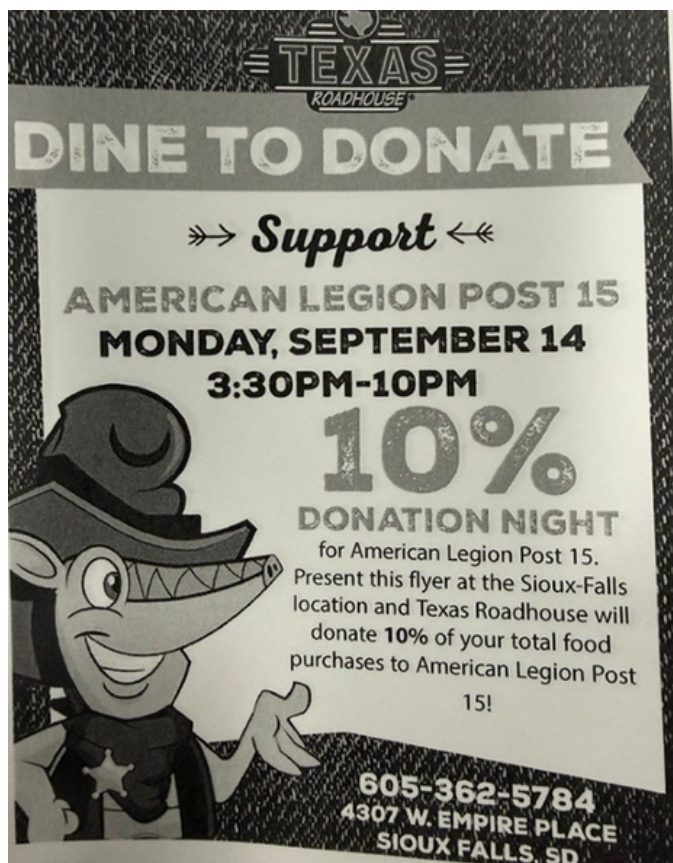
Post 15 website

www.facebook.com/siouxfallsamericanlegionpost15

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**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

Shooting sports activities concluded last month. Members enjoyed the final days of summer and are soon off to school and awaiting the beginning of a new season. More details to follow in coming months. Thanks for all your support this past year!!



South Dakota American Legion Department Commander Bill Peters in the Sioux Falls Independence Day parade with Dave Rowe. July 4, 2026. Photo by Sue Peters.



Sioux Falls Post 15 American Legion Honor Guard at burial of Army veteran Roger Puthoff at St. Anne's Cemetery in Humboldt on July 24, 2026. Al Arndt photo.

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



Open thru September 30
Free admission
9:30-5:30 daily

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

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7:00 PM**

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\$80
2 TICKETS

\$1000
SUITES
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OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION

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2nd Vice Commander **vacant**
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Historian **vacant**
Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Puthoff
Chaplain Donna Puthoff
Adjutant John Bachmeier
Post Service Officer John Bachmeier

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Steve Rueschhoff, Al Arndt, Randy Miller, Bob Groenewold
Wayne Sprecher, Jonathan Theel, Terry Wolf

COMMITTEES

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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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