



# POST 15 NEWS



## SIoux FALLS AMERICAN LEGION

Americanism • Boy's State • Jr. Legion Baseball • Child Welfare

DECEMBER 2008

### Commander's Corner Terry Towns



Wow, Halloween has come and gone and by the time you read this so will have Thanksgiving. Time sure does fly when you're having fun. And fun we had recently – we were a part of the Welcome Home for the 147<sup>th</sup> FA, B-Battery on the day they returned to South Dakota. With the help of the VFW, the DAV, the PVA, our Auxiliary Ladies, and many other volunteers, we fed the group and their families. It was an honor to be able to provide this meal to everyone and be able to say "Welcome Home" to our troops. Darwin Wahlert was nominated and selected as this year's American Legion's Outstanding Achievement Award Winner presented by the Sioux Falls Vets Council – Congratulations Darwin!

But on a sadder note, one of our own passed recently during a trip to Hawaii – Dan Siemonsma. Although Dan belonged to the Renner Post, Dan was a very active member of our honor guard team. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family – Dan you will be missed.

Starting 1 December 2008, you will see some changes in the Kitchen. Dennis Bierle will be leaving his duties as the Kitchen manager, but will remain on as the Club Manager so long as his health holds up. Thanks Dennis for all your years of work for the Legion and some wonderful meals.

New Law Authorizes Veterans' Salutes during National Anthem — Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect recently. "The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

*Vietnam and Back: Paintings by Chuck Forsman* will be on display at the Washington Pavilion thru 18 January 2009 – the exhibit is FREE to the public.

I would like to congratulate School Bus Inc and McCrossan's Boys Ranch for being nominated for Employer of the Year for Hiring Veterans. Both these

### Season's Greetings

To All The Members of Post 15  
We Hope This Joyous Time  
Will Bring To You  
All The Goodness of Yuletide

**POST 15 INVITES LEGION MEMBERS  
AND THEIR GUESTS FOR  
FREE HORS D'OEUVRES  
FROM 1:00 P.M. UNTIL GONE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH  
THE LOUNGE WILL BE OPEN  
FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.  
WE WILL CLOSE FOR  
CHRISTMAS EVE AT 3:00 P.M.**

organizations help support our Veterans thru their hiring practices —Thanks!

Our membership goal this year is 1737 and we are currently setting at 1423.

My family and I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

If you want to contact me on any items, my home phone is 371-9679, the American Legion office number is 336-3470, my email is [tntowns@sio.midco.net](mailto:tntowns@sio.midco.net), and the post home address 1701 Legion Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. Please let me know what the American Legion can do for you.



*Veteran of the Year Award presented to Darwin Wahlert at the Veterans Day Program at Lincoln H.S. by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Bernie Ver Burg.*

# Auxiliary Announcements

## Bev Sievert, President

The weather didn't dampen the spirits of those who attended another wonderful Veterans Day program. The Singing Legionnaires gave another spectacular performance. Congratulations to Darwin Wahlert for receiving the Outstanding Achievement Award. Thank you to Jan Knutson and Darlene Fletcher for braving the weather to serve cake at the Legion noon luncheon.

I want to thank Darlene Fletcher, Avis Priest, the Legionnaires and other service organizations for helping serve lunch to B-Battery 147<sup>th</sup> FA and their families. Words can't explain the feeling we got seeing the troops come through the doors at the Elmen Center to be greeted by their families.

Our members were very generous giving to the Gift Shop at the Veterans Hospital. A total of \$603.00 worth of gifts was donated. Thank you everyone.

Don't miss our meeting December 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll be addressing Christmas cards for the veterans in the nursing homes. Bring your favorite goody and a \$5.00 gift to exchange. Remember the canned foods for the food pantry.

Flag stands made by Legionnaire Hanford Twaddle with small flags were delivered to the Veterans in the Nursing Homes for Veterans Day.

We've been asked to write letters of support to get the Purple Heart design on the Forever Stamp. The address to write to is: CITIZEN'S STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE,

C/O STAMP DEVELOPMENT, US POSTAL SERVICE, SUITE 5013, 1735 N. LYNN Street, ARLINGTON, VA 22209. Thank you in advance for mailing a letter.

Quoting President Franklin Delano Roosevelt "December 7<sup>th</sup> was a day that would live in INFAMY" The day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. They were words all

Americans heard emerge through scratchy radio speakers – for it was this act of aggression that brought America into the Second World War. Many may not remember Pearl Harbor, but almost all of us have a first-hand experience of the terrible attack.

September 11, 2001, will also be remembered for generations to come – just as we remember December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Let's not forget our history, remember Pearl Harbor.

Dick and I would like to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and a Joyous New Year.

## DECEMBER 2008

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1701 West Legion Drive, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104  
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# Legion Riders

I would like to welcome our newest members Jeannie Rabine, and Steve Jensen. This brings our membership up 27 now. I would like to thank SPC Antoinette Walker, and Tina Elliot who donated \$10 each towards the Legacy Scholarship Fund for next year. The Swap meet was a big success for us this year in terms of raising money and signing up new members, not only for the Riders, but also for the Legion as well.

We raised about \$888.00 from our \$300 visa card raffle. Next month we will be holding our elections of officers for the Legion Riders, so if there is a position you're interested in let us somebody know so you may be nominated for it. After a few complaints we have set up the Sunday after our meetings to have a get together. We will BBQ, ride or do whatever we decide to do that weekend. We do a lot but never hang out, so we want to have a day we can just have a get together. Jan 25, 2009 at 1230 we will be hosting a Chili Cook Off with Bean Bag tournament. 100% of entry fees will go back to the winners. We also highly encourage you to bring your kids or grandchildren, it will be fun for all.

## List of Events

**Dec 10** 1900 ALR Meeting  
**Dec 12** 1730 Taco Feed (Lennox)  
**Jan 14** 1900 ALR Meeting (with election of officers)  
**Jan 25 2009** (1230) Bean Bag Tournament and Chili Cook Off

If you have any questions or Concerns please feel free to email me at richardcobb@sio.midco.net or call me at 310-1952

## Volunteer Opportunity

The VAMC Volunteer Services is looking for a group of people who would be able to sew about 200 bags together for the veterans to use when they leave the hospital. They have the pattern and either they have the material or I will provide it. If you are interested, please contact me at 371-9679. Thanks, Terry Towns

## POST EVERLASTING



Gustav Carlson, Robert Heege, Michael Wynthein, Richard Gaffin, Henry DeBoer, Charles Sorenson, Lavere Edmunds, William Leitheiser

## Memorials for Honor Guard

For Dan Siemonsma from Gene Tooley \$20.00  
For Richard Gaffin from Gaffin Family \$100.00

## NOTICE

Need volunteers to help with Military Funerals -  
Please contact Gene Tornow- 371-3713



*Commander Terry Towns, Dist. Commander Dick Sievert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander Curt Pansch, County Vice-Commander Darwin Wahlert, and SAL Commander Todd Kuck at the Welcome Home for the 147<sup>th</sup>.*



*Avis Priest, Darlene Fletcher, and Bev Sievert helping out at the Welcome Home for the 147<sup>th</sup> B-Battery. THANKS LADIES*

## Veterans Forum

### Pat Kroupa, Post Service Officer

#### BURIAL BENEFITS

Many veterans believe that the Department of Veterans Affairs will pay for their burial. This is a fallacy that veterans and their families sometimes discover when it is too late to make other arrangements.

A burial allowance of \$300.00 and another \$300.00 plot allowance is payable only if the veteran was in receipt of pension or compensation at the time of death or if the veteran dies in a VA facility. The \$300.00 plot allowance will not be paid if the veteran is buried in a National Cemetery.

If the veteran dies of a service connected disability the entitlement can be as much as \$2000.00. The VA will also pay for transportation to the nearest national cemetery if the death is service connected. The nearest national cemeteries to Sioux Falls are the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, SD or the Ft. Snelling Cemetery in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Every honorably discharged veteran is entitled to a flag, a headstone, a memorial certificate and burial at a national cemetery. Spouses and dependent children are also eligible for burial at the national cemeteries. Veterans are also entitled to military honors which consist of an honor guard, folding and presentation of the flag and the playing of "Taps".

If you have further questions about your eligibility for burial benefits or questions about other veterans benefits please feel free to contact me. My office is at 521 N. Main Avenue, Suite 201, my phone number is 367-4201 and my E-mail address is [pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org](mailto:pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org).

Patricia Kroupa, Post Service Officer, (605) 367-4201, [pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org](mailto:pkroupa@minnehahacounty.org).

## VA Hospital Notes

### Darwin Wahlert, VA Hospital Representative

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving Day. I know I ate to much as usual. In November we had a Veterans Day Program and a lunch. We also had a Wal-Mart trip and a mall outing to go along with a holiday lunch. December 1, 2, & 3 the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop will open. December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day (please take a moment to remember). Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> is the American Legion Auxiliary of SD holiday Party at 2:00 pm in the auditorium. Dec 18th is the Annual Volunteer Holiday Party at 11:00 AM—1:00PM in the auditorium, also the All Organization Holiday Party for patients. Dec. 25th is Christmas and let's remember the hospitalized Veterans. Things currently not needed at the VA are lap robes and bed quilts, hard cover books, National Geographic, Readers Digests, magazines older than 3months, clothing of any kind, baked goods and used greeting cards. Volunteers are still needed in all areas of the VA and the work is very rewarding. Have a very safe and MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Remember to visit or call a sick or shut in VETERAN.



*Corporate Blue Star Banner Presentation to ABN Army Surplus – Roxann Zenobi, Rick Towns and Gene Tornow*

## SAL

### Todd Kuck, Commander

Mark your calendar for Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for a fund raising Pool Tournament. \$5.00 to enter, drawing for partner. 50/50 prize- 50% back to Pool player and other 50% to Operation helping hand. Sign up 12:30 p.- 1 pm. There will also be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Our prayers go out to Tom Jellema. Who is at Sanford Hospital. Remember we meet the second Tues. of each month at 7 pm.

We would like to Welcome Shawn Patch as our newest member.


**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Mon. – Saturday: 10:00 am to Close  
 Sunday: 11:00 am to Close

**DECEMBER 2008**

**PHONES**

Office: 336-3470 (room reservations)  
 Lounge: 336-0155 (stag reservations)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>2</b> Exec. Bd. Mtg 5:45 pm Go Getters 6:30 pm Regular Business Mtg 7:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Night Raiders 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Day  Pancake Breakfast 9 am - 1 pm	<b>8</b> Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Senior Pool Tourn. 12:00 Noon Auxiliary Mtg 7:00 pm SAL 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> Legion Riders Mtg 7:00 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Troublemakers 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> Legionnaires Stag 6:30 pm RSVP: 336-0155	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Vet's Council Mtg. VFW 7:30pm	<b>19</b> Vermillion Ampd 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve CLOSE AT 3:00 pm	 <b>25</b> Christmas Day CLOSED	<b>26</b> Dakota Daze 9:00 pm - 1:00 am	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Dakota Daze 9-1 am			

NOVEMBER 18, 2008 • 6:30 pm • RAFFLE: \$500.00  
 COST: \$6.00 or Free Stag Ticket  
 MENU: Ham Dinner  
 Beer Special: Old Milwaukee Light \$1.00 Taps  
 Liquor Special: Black Velvet - \$1.50  
 CALL 336-0155 FOR RESERVATIONS!!!

Legionnaire's  
**Stag**



**NO LADIES' STAG IN DECEMBER!**

# Chorus Notes

## Mike Binger, President

Pipestone, MN, welcomed us with open arms on Veterans Day as we added our name to the list of acts which have appeared over the years at the Performing Arts Center. This was part of their Legion Avenue of Flags fundraiser and was the first time the center was ever used for a Legion function. Many of us made the trip and were able to enjoy dinner at the Pipestone Legion Club, even though the chance for icy road conditions was very great. It meant that we could not display our own Avenue of Flags that day, and so we concentrated on singing, first at Lincoln High for the Sioux Falls Veterans Day observance. We certainly felt at home there even though the 2007 program had been held elsewhere; however, we had a new sensation in Pipestone with the great acoustics we sang in, not to mention the very receptive crowd.

In both appearances the audience enjoyed our rendition of "Salute to the Armed Forces," "God Bless America" and other selections, and we performed Stephen Stills' "Find the Cost of Freedom" at Lincoln following the 11 A.M. moment of silence. Previously on October 30th we were at the Good Samaritan Society, also with very good acoustics, for the Cosmopolitan Club Distinguished Service Award banquet.

Because of the weather, we had less turnout and income made at this year's Poultry Party on Friday, November 7th, but we are prepared to put it to good use. Many still came and we gave away all the cash drawings, hams, turkeys, and other prizes. Process is going on for the making of our second CD, with the first recording completed at Our Savior's Lutheran and another session coming probably next spring.

Christmas season starts with the Festival of Men's Voices on November 30th at the Washington Pavilion, and we are set to go back to the Veterans Hospital on December 18th for a 3:00 P.M. appearance which will be at their fourth floor auditorium. Our rehearsals are always on Monday nights, 7:30 P.M. at Post 15. Please call me at 929-4867, or contact any of our very loyal singers that you may know, in order to join us. Just sit in on three rehearsals and you might find us the best group you have ever known!

### POULTRY PARTY WINNERS:

\$500 – Darrell Hars	Camera – Jon Bergeron
\$100 – Bill Phillips	\$50 Sunshine Gift Cert –
\$100 – Sandy Orgish	Bob Jamison



*Aux. President Bev Sievert and Sgt-at-Arms Hoot Gibson with their flags at the Veterans Day Program.*



*Presentation of check to SF Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program – Curt Pansch, Terry Towns & Captain Lori Anderson*




*Darwin Wahlert and Commander Towns presenting 2-Star Blue Star Banner to Grandmother Char Jensen and Father Brian Busse for Ryan Busse – U.S. Navy & Josh Busse – U.S. Air Force - CORRECTION*

**Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008**

*American Legion Post 15  
Pancake Breakfast!*

POST HOME  1701 W. LEGION DRIVE

**Dec. 7 ★ 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.**  
**ADULTS 4.00** CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE **FREE**  
 PANCAKES • SAUSAGE • EGGS 

Proceeds Support The American Legion

## **Post 15 Senior's Pool Tournament**

Tues., December 9, 2008 • 12:00 Noon  
 Sign up at Bar or on the Bulletin Board  
**MUST BE SIGNED UP BY 11:30 a.m.**

– space is limited –

### **SENIOR POOL TOURNAMENT NEWS**

1<sup>st</sup>- Bill Jiacek & Quentin Parsons

2<sup>nd</sup>-Bob Kogel- & Jim Hillestad

3<sup>rd</sup> – LeRoy Christiansen & Vern Lanie

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
SIOUX FALLS POST No. 15  
1701 West Legion Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**



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Sioux Falls, SD

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Spend New Year's Eve  
at Post 15**

No cover charge  
Free favors  
Hats and Horns  
Free Lunch served  
at midnight  
Dakota Daze  
playing from  
9:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

You can find us on the web at: [www.siouxfallslegion.org](http://www.siouxfallslegion.org)

**OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
SIOUX FALLS POST 15 AMERICAN LEGION**

**OFFICERS OF SIOUX FALLS POST 15**

<b>COMMANDER</b> Terry Towns ***	<b>FINANCE OFFICER</b> Leonard Martinek ***
<b>1st VICE COMMANDER</b> Bernie Verburg ***	<b>ATHLETIC OFFICER</b> Ed Powers ***
<b>2nd VICE COMMANDER</b> Curtis Pansch ***	<b>HISTORIAN</b> Terry Towns ***
<b>ADJUTANT</b> Jim Stenseth ***	<b>SGT-AT-ARMS</b> Keith Bierle ***
<b>CHAPLAIN</b> Ken Brown ***	<b>LOUNGE MANAGER</b> Dennis Bierle ***
<b>VA ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN</b> John Weber	

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairmen: Rick Towns  
Dean Berdahl, Bob Brekke, Bob Eggers,  
Gene Even, Butch Finton, Gary Henle, Ed Powers

***THANKS POST 15 VOLUNTEERS!***  
*Funerals, Color Guard, VA Activities  
Pancake Breakfast*

Paul Anderson, LeRoy Arneson, Dean Berdahl,  
Harold Bosler, Ken Brown Paul Brude, Calvin Cink,  
Howard Daggitt, Carl Edman, Bob Eggers, Don  
Earley, Ron Earley, Gene Even, Butch Finton, Ken  
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Smook,, Jim Stenseth, Dale Stoll, Gene Tornow,  
Rick Towns, Terry Towns, Hanford Twaddle, Darwin  
Wahlert, John Weber, Robert Williams Bob Workman.

*Please Let Us Know . . .*

If you know of a Post 15 member who is ill in the  
hospital or nursing home, please call the office at 336-  
3470 so their name can be added to our visitation list.