



John M. Bliss Post 628

Your insight to VFW Post 628 Monthly Events

January 2019



Bliss Bugle



Attention Members

Retirement Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)

The retired pay computed under each retired pay plan is adjusted each year, effective December 1st, by the change in consumer prices. The COLA is determined by the percentage increase, if any, between the average 3rd quarter Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the current year over the average 3rd quarter (CPI) of the prior year. In the event of a decrease in the CPI, the COLA will not be negative, but will be zero. Additionally, the COLA for the next year will reach back to the 3rd quarter CPI to the last year in which there was a positive COLA increase.

If the percent determined above is greater than 1 percent, the COLA for REDUX retirements will be reduced by 1 percent. If the percent determined above is 1 percent or less, the COLA for the REDUX retirement plan will be the same as for all other retirement plans.

The first COLA adjustment after retirement is calculated under a formula different than that above, if the member retires between January 1st and September 31st. This is to preclude the advantage of receiving a retirement based on both a new pay raise and full COLA in the first year of retirement. The amount of this first "partial COLA" is calculated differently for the Final Pay and High-36 retirement plans. The partial COLA for REDUX plan retirees is based on the High-36, with a further prorated deduction. The first partial COLA under the Disability retirement plan is the same as for the Final Pay retirement plan.

Note that the COLA for retired pay is calculated differently than the increase to active duty pay. Thus, retirement pay COLAs and annual active duty pay raises will differ as active duty pay raises will differ.

<https://militarypay.defense.gov/Pay/Retirement/Cola.aspx>



Military Compensation
<https://militarypay.defense.gov/>



Rememberance

George H.W. Bush 1924-2018 **John S McCain, III 1936-2018**



George Herbert Walker Bush was born June 12, 1924 to Prescott Bush and Dorothy Walker. He passed away on November 30, 2018 at the age of 94.

Our 41st President, Bush was a life member of the VFW Department of Texas. "President Bush was highly admired within the veteran community and beyond," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "He served as a Navy fighter pilot in the World War II Pacific Theater, as a U.S. congressman, U.S. ambassador, as CIA director, then vice president to President Ronald Reagan for eight years before being elected president, where he would win a resounding war against Iraq and end the Cold War. Our 41st president was also the last of eight presidents to earn the title of VFW member," he said.

Bush has a long resume serving the United States. He served the United States Navy from 1942-1945 and ranked as a Lieutenant. Following his service, he represented Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1967-1971. He then served as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations from March 1971- January 1973 before becoming the 49th Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1973-1974. Bush then spent September 1974 – December 1975 as the Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office to the People's Republic of China. He was the 11th Director of Central Intelligence from 1976-1977 under President Gerald Ford. Bush served as the Vice President of the United States from 1981-1989 under President Reagan, and then served as our 41st President of the United States from 1989-1993.

In retirement, George H. W. Bush stayed politically active through the Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump presidencies. He passed away on November 30, 2018 and was buried next to his wife Barbara at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas. Before his burial, he became the 12th U.S. President to lie in state in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, and his remains were laid in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

John Sidney McCain, III was born August 29, 11936 to John S. McCain Jr and Roberta Wright. He passed away on August 25th, 2018 and the age of 82.

"The senator is being remembered as a maverick at the U.S. Naval Academy, as a naval aviator, as a five and a half-year prisoner of war, and as a two-term U.S. congressman and six-term U.S. senator from Arizona," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "But we remember Senator McCain as a 32-year Life member of VFW Post 7401 in Chandler, Ariz., and as a staunch supporter of a strong military as well as a champion for our troops, our veterans and their families."

John McCain served the United States Navy from 1958-1981, and represented Arizona in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1983-1987 and U.S. Senate from 1987-2018.

McCain was buried on September 2nd, 2018 in the United States Naval Academy Cemetery after services in North Phoenix Baptist church and Washington National Cathedral.

Words from the Commander



Mid Winter Meeting
District 1 will meet at Post 628 in Sioux Falls on January 20, 2019 @ 2pm
(Department Rep: Rick Williamson)

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE/COUNCILS OF ADMINISTRATION AND VOD AWARDS BANQUET
January 27th and 28th, 2019
Sunday meetings will held at the AmericInn Teton Conference Center Fort Pierre.
REGISTRATION \$45.00 CHECKSPAYABLE TO: Department of South Dakota VFW

Just a reminder that Members Stag is the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Members Meeting is also the same night a 7pm.

We are always in the need of volunteers for the post especially for the pancake breakfast on January 13th. If anybody is willing to help, please contact the office at 605-338-0869 or canteen 605-338-9421.

I wish you all a Happy New Year! *Nathan*

Inputs for the Feb Bliss Bugle are due to the office or commander@vfw628.com by Jan. 20th. Photos, articles, and announcements would be appreciated.

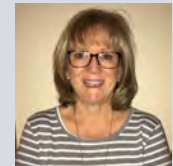
News from the State

A couple weeks ago a memo came out from National saying that they were going to hire a firm to call unpaid members because the list was large enough that they did not have enough manpower to tackle the task. That obviously has happened as apparently they are quite aggressive in their methods. I can not fix that but can make you aware that it could happen. Things like asking for your last 4 of your SSN, etc. We do not even ask for your SSN when you apply for membership. This did happen in Pierre and was brought to our attention. So again, pass this along to your members and especially the unpaid. Thanks again and if you encounter any other surprises please let us now.

*Darwin G Tolzin, Quartermaster/Adjutant
Dept of South Dakota VFW 605.332.7441*



Auxiliary President



Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a fabulous holiday!

A huge thank you once again to all that showed up to help with lefse making in Dec. And – ALL THE LEFSE sold out at the bake sale once again!! We had a total of \$265 in lefse sales and an additional \$210.50 at the bake sale. Fabulous baked goods and knick knacks were available.

Children's Christmas party was a success!! Kids and adults all had a great time!! Special thank you to the Lincoln High School JR ROTC for manning the carnival games and those that volunteered their time and talents to make it so much fun.

Jan stag will be held Wed Jan 16, 2019 – supper will begin at 6:15. Sloppy Joes will be served. Please contact the office prior to Jan 11 to reserve your place.

Spring legislative conference will be Sat/Mon Jan 27 & 28 in Ft Pierre. If planning on attending, please get your registrations in asap. Donations are being accepted for the Silent Auction and the Ways and Means table. Please contact Mary Kirkvold if you have donations to send.

Day County Coyote Hunt is right around the corner - - Jan 18-20. The hunt helps support our SD National Guard's Family Support Group. Numerous prizes are given in many different areas. If you have prizes or cash to donate please let us know, we will make sure the prizes get to Patti Mitchell in Grenville. Auxiliary member Marjory Aasen passed away in December. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

The next Auxiliary meeting will be on Wednesday Jan 2 at 7 pm.

*Let's see your Irish if you would like to participate in the St Patricks Day parade, please let us know. We would like to get an entry ready. Looking for a number of leprechauns to help with planning and decorations. Please feel free to call me at 370-8409 if you have any questions or concerns.
Kim*



Military Order of the Cootie

Just a reminder are next Scratch will be held on Jan,9th
Chizlic 5-7pm Scratch to follow.
Come have a lousy time!

Keep 'em smiling in Beds of White"

Vern Anderson

Seam Squirrel, Pup Tent #1



10

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17



Navy Midshipmen

Army Black Knights

The Army-Navy game is one of the most traditional and enduring rivalries in college football. It has been frequently attended by sitting U.S. Presidents. On December 8, 2018, Army beat Navy 17-10 to increase their winning streak in the series to 3 games.

The teams have met 119 times since their first meeting November 26, 1927. Navy leads the series with 60 wins, Army has 50 wins and there has been 7 ties.

PAST AUX PRESIDENTS PET PROJECT

The Past Presidents have supported the Berakhah House for their Pet Project. They are currently collecting the items listed below. Please place any donations in the black wire bin at the south entrance by Feb 6.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Kitchen/ bathroom paper products/Dish Soap | Dryer sheets |
| Kitchen/bathroom cleaners | Stain Removers |
| Liquid laundry and dish soaps | Liquid hand soap |
| | Coffee |
| | 13 and 30 gal. trash bags |

Past Presidents will meet on Jan 19 at 9:30 am.

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Post/Lounge Closed	Post/Lounge Closed	1 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo Post Closed New Year's Day	2 Post & Aux. Mtg. 7:30pm Members Stag 6:30pm	3 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo	4	5 Iron Creek Band 8 pm
6 Post/Lounge Closed	7 Post/Lounge Closed	8 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo MOAA 12pm Marine Officers 7PM	9 Cooties Chislic 5:00p-7:00p Cootie/MOCA Mtg. 7:30pm	10 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo	11	12 Prairie Thunder Band 8pm
13 Post/Lounge Closed Pancake Breakfast 8:30am - 12:30pm	14 Post/Lounge Closed	15 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo	16	17 Vets Council Mtg. 7pm Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo	18	19
20 Post/Lounge Closed	21 Post/Lounge Closed Martin Luther King, JR. Day	22 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo Marine Corp League 7PM	23	24 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo	25	26 Doc Holliday Band 8pm
27 Post/Lounge Closed	28 Post/Lounge Closed	29 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo	30	31 Burger Night 5-7pm Bingo Post Exec Committe Mtg 6:30pm		

Simmons Lounge

Simmons Lounge
Open 3pm-10pm Tues-Thurs
3pm-CL -Fridays
9am-CL Saturdays

Drink Specials

50 Cents off domestic drafts Tues 5-CL
\$1 off domestic beer bottels Thurs 5-CL
\$1 off all well drinks Friday 5-CL

New menus items are coming to the Simmons Lounge.

Future Events:

Feb 9th Hucklebrrys

Feb 16th 80's Prom



Post Officers 2018-2019

Commander _____ Nathan Beiningen
Senior Vice Commander _____ Ryan Killion
Junior Vice Commander _____ Dan Ridgway
Quartermaster _____ Hosea Bennett
Judge Advocate _____ Harry Engberg
Surgeon _____ Vern Anderson
Trustee _____ David Parr
Trustee _____ Randy Kirkvold
Trustee _____ Harry Engberg
Adjutant _____ Doug Starr
Service Officer _____ David Parr
Chaplain _____ Scott Bakken

John Bliss VFW Post 628
3601 S. Minnesota Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105



REMINDER!! If you are moving, please call our office at 338-0869 and let us know your new address! Thanks!!

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SIOUX FALLS, SD
PERMIT NO 345

Auxiliary Officers 2018-2019

fPresident _____ Kim Vennard
Sr. Vice President _____ Marla Edman
Jr. Vice President _____ Laurretta Petersen
Secretary _____ Cathy Jo Toolry
Treasurer _____ Cathy Jo Tooley
Chaplain _____ Diana Wells
Conductress _____ Betty Hodge
Assistant Conductress _____ Connie Foss
Guard _____ Judy Evink

Office: 605-338-0869
Lounge: 605-338-9421
Honor Guard: 605-338-0869
Service Officer: 605-333-6869
Office email:
jtbliss628@aol.com
Manager: manager@vfw628.com

Commander: commander@vfw628.com
Post Web Site: www.vfw628.com
Facebook: VFW Post 628
State VFW Office: 605-332-7441
State Website: www.sdvfw.org

Available at the Post

Urns and flag cases made by Post 628 members are available at the Post. Please contact the office at 605-338-0869

Honor Guard News

In December, the VFW Honor Guard provided military honors for six veterans. (3 Army, 2 Navy, 1 Marine). All were for non-VFW members.

We continue to need help in our desire to honor our fallen veterans, whether or not they are members of our Post. If you are willing to assist us by joining our Honor Guard team, please contact our VFW Post Office or our VFW Honor Guard Commander at 605-338-0869

Members Stag January 2nd 6pm

Be sure to call for reservations

Office: 605-338-0869

Lounge: 605-338-9421

New Year's Eve Party 12/31/18

Social Hour 5 pm - 7 pm

SLACK WATER JACK 8 pm

Good Of The Order

First Afghanistan War Veteran to Lead Arkansas Post

Trisha Leslie, who served in Operation Enduring Freedom from 2010-2013, took on the role in April for VFW Post 4556 in Pocahontas, Ark. And to her, the accolade symbolizes change. "Not only am I the first Afghanistan War veteran elected, but I am also the first female combat veteran and the youngest elected commander for our Post," Leslie said. "Too often, we are scared of change and not knowing what comes with it. But in order to evolve and keep the VFW a successful organization, we have to accept change."

