



# THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

*Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities*



## A Word from the President

by Teresa Huntimer Department President



*"Always Remember Serving Veterans, Not self"*

Auxiliary Members, Thank you to all who have help make our Christmas Gift Shops successful in this year of Covid-19. Everyone worked together to think outside of the box and to achieve our goals of ensuring our Veterans of a Merry Christmas. Christmas Parties also have its challenges and we will tackle that challenge also. I know our Veterans will enjoy the party even if it is different this year. They are always in our hearts. We currently have a Committee working on our webpage. Committee members are: Courtney VanZanten – Mary Jo Stier – Laurel Stringer - Dawn Barber – Katie Stier – Micheline Nelson – Teresa Huntimer. If you have any questions, please call them. Remember midyear reports are due. Thank you to those who have submitted their reports. Mid-Winter Conference is currently scheduled for February 19-21 at Cedar Shores in Oacoma. Reservations can be made by calling (605) 734-6376. The Joint banquet will be held on Friday night; Auxiliary will be held on Saturday night.

"Leadership consists of nothing but taking responsibility for everything that goes wrong and giving your subordinates credit for everything that goes well." Dwight D. Eisenhower I would like to thank everyone who has called or sent words of encouragement and prayers as I continue taking chemo treatments and place the uncle I have lived with many years in hospice. It has been a major challenge for me. You all have a special place in my heart. I pray you all have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

*Teresa Huntimer, 2019-2021 ALA SD Dept. President*



## National Security

by Jeannine Loesch, Dept Chairman

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the 6000 Airman stationed at Ellsworth AFB outside of Rapid City, SD.

I am suggesting VISA gift cards in the amounts of \$25 or \$50 that could be used at the local Base Exchange, Commissary or for online shopping. Contact information: *Michelle Eosso - 627 Fairmont Place - Rapid City, SD 57701*

If your Unit is unable to make a monetary donation Michelle and I also discussed "Thinking of You" cards. Let's let these Airmen know how much we appreciate them!! Items may be sent directly to Michelle and with the help of the First Sergeants she will see to it that they get to those in need.

As National Security Chairman, I think this would be a great way to promote the American Legion Auxiliary. District Presidents if you could share this with this information with your Units and see if they can HELP!! We need to help our active duty military. Let's see what the Department of South Dakota can do!!!

**Be a Light** - Jennifer Loosmore, member of Unit 48, Rosholt, decided to do something positive in her community in the midst of the chaos in our world. She was inspired by a song she heard from Thomas Rhett called "Be A Light." She sent letters to students and others, to sing verses of the song in a video, and show when they could "be a light" to someone else by helping make positive changes in this crazy world. After compiling what she received, a slide show brought it all together to share with the community. The evening of Oct. 30th was set for the event to take place with hot chocolate, snacks, show the video with music, then release Chinese lanterns into the night sky. Due to the cold weather, the video was shown inside the school, then lanterns released outside. It was such an inspiration for the community to "pass it on" to other groups.



### ADVANCE TICKET FORM - Deadline – February 10, 2021

American Legion Auxiliary Banquet – Saturday, February 20, 2021 - 6:00 pm  
NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Presidents Choice: Fresh Tossed Salad; Smothered pork chops served with a lightly spiced caramelized onion cream; Baked potato with sour cream and butter; Steamed Broccoli Florets; Dinner Roll and Coffee  
 Gluten free bread will be available on request.

Number of tickets requested @ \$25.00 per ticket \_\_\_\_\_

check box for special dietary needs and list needs with your check  
 TOTAL amount enclosed for Saturday Auxiliary Banquet \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Chamberlain ALA Unit #3

Send to: **Lila Speckels - 34465 249<sup>th</sup> St - Chamberlain, SD 57325**

For additional information, contact Lila at 605-234-5338 or 605-730-0548

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 MIDWINTER BANQUET SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2021 The banquet menu will be a buffet with fried chicken, roast beef, green beans, wild rice, roasted potatoes and apple crisp. Cost will be \$35 per person. Tickets can be ordered through **John Payer, 25120 344th Ave., Chamberlain SD 57325** or [John.Payer@hotmail.com](mailto:John.Payer@hotmail.com)

## *Membership* by Rose Kraft, Dept. Chairperson

As we are approaching the Holiday Season, we have many of our veterans not with us, they may be deployed, they may live in other parts of the United States, or just because of COVID we are unable to be with them. It is a special time to remember all their favorites along with the story of why they are their favorites. This month's recipe is from Past Department President and District 1 President, Carol Edwards. Her husband, Russel, served in the US Army from 1971 to December 1981 and even though many batches of cookies came from the people he loved, his favorite were the Porcupine Balls. Thank you for your service Russel and all the other men and women who have not been with their family during the Holiday season. May each of you enjoy your special treats this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

### **PORCUPINE BALLS**

2 Cups Flaked Coconut; 1 Cup Butter; 1 Cup Dates; 2 Eggs well beaten; 2 T. Milk; 1 t. Salt; 1 t. Vanilla; 4 Cups Rice Krispies; ½ Cup Nuts  
Melt butter and stir in sugar until dissolved. Add dates continue cooking stir constantly until mixture leaves the sides of the pan. Cool and combine eggs, salt, and milk, add to date mixture.

Cool 2 minutes, add cereal, nuts and vanilla – mix well.

When cool shape into balls and roll in coconut and place on wax paper.

## *Centennial Babies*

**Addison Lee Henningsen** born February 29, 2020 is the daughter of Alex and Kristen Henningsen. She is eligible under her grandfather, Allen Henningsen. **Joey Ruth Olson** was born May 5th, 2020. She is eligible under her Grandmother, Jelene Wipf, a very active member of Canistota ALA Unit 162. **Kate Malloy Ganschow**, daughter of Carissa and Robert Ganschow of Wakonda, SD. Kate was born September 21, 2020. She is eligible for the auxiliary through her father, Robert, US Air Force. **Audrey Mae Eastman** from Unit #50 – Sisseton, SD. She was born on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

**Hainslee Larson** was born on January 27, 2020. She is a junior member of the Columbia American Legion Auxiliary Post #58, eligible under her grandfather, Ray Larson.

*Addison*

*Joey*

*Kate*



*Audrey*



*Hainslee*



*Congratulations! 13 Centennial ALA Juniors!*

## *In Loving Memory of*

**Unit 8 Pierre** – Phyllis Sarvis, October 2020; **Unit 21 Hurley** – Sharon Christensen, October 2020; **Unit 27 Kadoka** – Lola Joyce Riggins, November 2020; Laura Valandry, October 2020; **Unit 29 Woonsocket** – Marian Andersen, October 2020; **Unit 35 Highmore** – Nadine Day, October 2020; **Unit 42 Arlington** – Mavis Sorenson, September 2020; Donna Norgaard, November 2020; **Unit 50 Sisseton** – Agnes Bubak, October 2020; Joyce Hanson, October 2020; **Unit 58 Columbia** – Bette Peckham, November 2020; Unit 64 Wilmot – Barbara Nielsen, September 2020; **Unit 65 Dell Rapids** – Ruth Merry, October 2020; Delores Nebben, November 2020; **Unit 77 Blunt** – Helen King, June 2019; **Unit 92 Redfield** – Ila Bush, July 2020; Maxine Stemper, May 2020; **Unit 94 White River** – Donna Ryberg, June 2020; **Unit 97 Egan** – Genine Borah, August 2020; Gloria Johnson, June 2020; **Unit 124 Dupree** – Margaret Laurenz, September 2020; **Unit 128 Hudson** – Elaine Ekle, September 2020; **Unit 129 Waubay** – Loreen Aker, December 2019; Bonnie Kirchmeier, July 2020; Irene Herold, November 2020; **Unit 131 Valley Springs** – Mary Ackerman, October 2020; Gwynn Bodewitz, June 2020; Alyce Krause, February 2020; Jeanette Vosburg, February 2020; **Unit 139 McIntosh** – Caroline Dauwen, April 2020; Shirley Dillman, September 2020; Mary lou Siewert, September 2020; **Unit 146 Colome** – Martha Peters, October 2020; Joan Zimbelmann, October 2020; **Unit 148 Conde** – Karen Hearnen, September 2020; **Unit 210 Mt. Vernon** – Delores Wermers, November 2020; **Unit 213 Cresbard** – Gertrude Hahler, October 2020; **Unit 235 Marion** – Elsie Schmidt, October 2020; **Unit 253 Roslyn** – Jo Anne Olson, October 2020; **Unit 255 Bison** – Arlene Kari, April 2020; **Unit 264 Bowdle** – Catherine Dominicak, November 2020; **Unit 268 Virgil** – Irene McCallum, July 2020; **Unit 292 Tulare** – Della Benning, November 2020

Potter Post Unit #3 - Lila Speckels and Addelynn Hickey completed their 100 Miles for Hope on October 30, 2020. They



began the virtual 100-mile walk/run/ride journey for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation on August 2, 2020. It took them 84 days.



### December Guide

December 7: Pearl Harbor Day

December 25: Christmas Day

Plan a Christmas program for Veterans



#### Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will be different this year. Due to COVID-19, contact your Christmas Party representative to find out if you may volunteer following VA protocols.

### First Annual Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair

#### "We've Got Your Six"

After two prep days in October, "We've Got Your Six," took place Friday November 6, 2020 in Sturgis. It was a drive-through fair. The event was open to **all veterans and their family members**. The purpose of the event was to show our love and appreciation to those who have served our great country and provide them with benefit information that they may be unaware of. We lined up 31 organizations and over 100 Veterans were

served in less than two hours. Many Posts, Units, and the ALR Black Hills Chapter donated funding to support this first annual event.



### Members to Remember



The Gingrich-Dixon #13 Wakonda Legion Auxiliary recently honored two long-time members with certificates and patriotic lap blankets. Pictured are members **Jean Mae Peterson** receiving her 70 year certificate and **JoAnn Ganschow** with her 65 year certificate.



Our Auxiliary Unit - Roy L. Hall Post #58 from Columbia would like to nominate **Kathie Vitense** "A Member to Remember." Kathie has been a member of the Legion Auxiliary for almost 20 years - joining in 2001! Even though Kathie has moved out of our community - she lives close enough by so that she can still be an integral part of our unit. Kathie volunteers many hours at the local hospital. She helps with our blood drive - checking donors in at this fall's drive. She understands how important it is that we give of ourselves to help others!

Kathie has "the gift of gab" which lends to being a great member of our unit. She is always willing to attend district meetings and makes anyone who attends events at our Legion feel welcome and comfortable. Unit 58 is proud of Kathie Vitense!

*There were five submissions for "Members to Remember" check the January Legionette for others.*

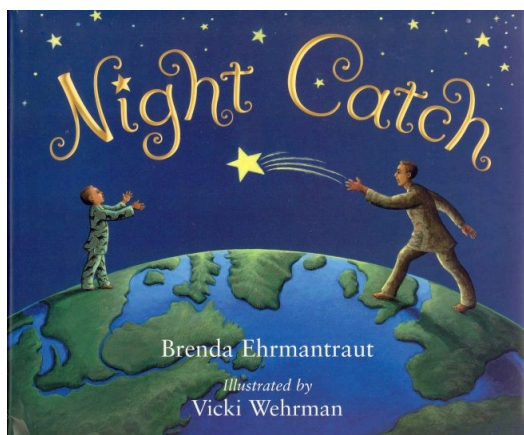
### Operation Pillowcases

Isabel Smith Wright Unit 120 made over 100 pillowcases so far to give out to our deployed service members.





## Kids Corner

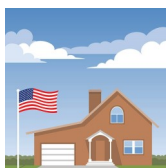


When a soldier's work takes him half-way around the world, he enlists the help of the North Star for a nightly game of catch with his son.

*Night Catch is a timeless story that connects families while they are apart and offers comforting hope for their reunion.*



Have you ever said good-bye to someone very dear? Here's a story about a little boy who figured out the best gift to give his dad who was leaving to serve his country . . . a paper hug.



## The America That I Know

In the America that I know  
People still proudly fly the flag,  
And when they express love of country  
They're not just meaning to brag!

In the American that I know,  
Children still love to go out and play,  
And only the setting of the sun  
Will mark the end of their day!



It was not in the distant past  
That our youngsters would "troupe off" to school,  
Where they learned right from wrong;  
We call that the "Golden Rule"!

In the American that I recall  
People dared to dream big dreams,  
They came here for a better life-  
Things were different then, it seems!



It was quite a challenge to "Homestead"  
Back in those uncertain years,  
One had to be brave and determined  
And not give in to your fears!

Soon a church would appear on the hillside;  
That's where the faithful would gather  
Hymns and heartfelt prayers were raised;  
To be like them, I'd rather!

Now, there are quiet, tree-lined streets,  
The wave of good neighbors passing by,  
And the wonderful traditions  
Of Mom, baseball, and apple pie!



The morning walk and the twilight stroll,  
The bustling of the city by day;  
The lush meadows of fertile farms,  
The "hello" that a friend may say!



There's the Sunday dinner with loved ones,  
Watching fireworks on the Fourth of July,  
Enjoying the parade and the band,  
As they go marching by!

I'm thankful that in our country  
Church bells sound, and may still be heard,  
That we may still open our Bibles,  
To read and revere God's Word!

In the American that I know  
We still value our liberty,  
We champion peace and justice,  
And we call this "The Land of the Free!"



Just think of the precepts you value,  
And consider what it is worth  
To live here in America;  
The greatest country on earth!

*Dorothy Streeter from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #114, Volga wrote and submitted this poem.*





*Do you want to adopt a Veteran for Christmas?*

*Cards can be mailed to*

**Ft. Meade VA Medical Center**  
113 Comanche Rd., Ft. Meade, SD 57741

**Hot Springs VA Medical Center**  
500 N 5th Street, Hot Springs, SD 57747

**Sioux Falls VA Medical Center**  
2501 W 22nd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57117

**Hot Springs State Veterans Home**  
2500 Minnekata Ave, Hot Springs, SD 57747

**S.D. Human Services Center**  
3515 Broadway Ave., Yankton, SD 57078

**The Cornerstone Mission—Homeless Veterans Outreach**  
401 3rd Street Suite 1, Rapid City SD 57701

**Volunteers of America - Northern Rockies**  
Veterans Services  
111 New York Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

**Volunteers of America - Dakotas**  
Veterans Services  
PO Box 89306, Sioux Falls, SD 57109

**Cards for Thanksgiving & Christmas**

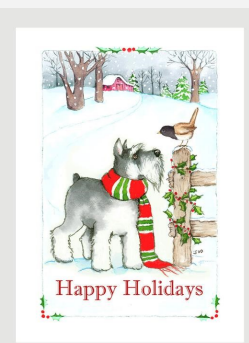


The Piedmont Valley Unit 311 spent were busy little elves making cards for the Veterans at the Ft. Meade VA Medical Center and Hot Springs VA. Although Christmas Parties will look different, the Christmas spirit is still strong!

Thank you to all the individuals and units that sent Thanksgiving cards for the residents at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs.



Check all your local nursing homes, assisted living, and churches.



### December Prayer

By Kathleen Geiman Dept. Chaplain

Father, I thank you for hearing my prayers, no matter day or night. I thank you for being by my side in times of crisis and hurt, as well as joy and laughter. Continue to be by my side Lord, as I move through this world, a disciple of your name and truth. Let me never stray from you, but always keep open a line of communion and communication, eager to hear your wisdom, as I am always eager to rejoice in your name.



### Child Welfare Challenge

Children & Youth department chairperson Joyce Smith has issued a challenge to the South Dakota American Legion Family to see who can collect the most donations for the Child Welfare Fund. She received some funds from one Post and a few Units.

Money has to be sent to the Department Headquarters.



### Trick or Treat

ALA Mobridge Unit 4 District 4 participated in Mobridge's Trunk & Treat on Halloween, Oct 31st. Instead of candy the Mobridge Unit gave out Patriotic Pencils.

Jan Wales, treasurer for Mobridge ALA Unit, giving out "the treat" a pencil, to the trick or treaters. Mobridge unit provided 360 pencils to students.



### ALA Centennial

Congratulations to the American Legion Auxiliary on their 100th year anniversary!

Unit 250 Castlewood surprised the Post 250 Legion members with a great meal and dessert. They were appreciated by the Legionnaires present.



### BE IN THE KNOW

Department Secretary: Laurel Stringer 129 North Main, Hartford, SD 57033

Phone: 605-461-3389 or email at [southdakotaala@gmail.com](mailto:southdakotaala@gmail.com)

Visit the SD ALA Website at

**[www.sdlegionaux.org](http://www.sdlegionaux.org)**

Subscribe to the South Dakota Legionette. Send your news and pictures to the editor at

[Micheline.Nelson@live.com](mailto:Micheline.Nelson@live.com) or mail them. For reporting an error on names or addresses, change of addresses and deceased members, email or call headquarters first.

Thank you!

### 2021-2022 Endorsements

On November 23, 2020, the members of Sully Unit #79 in Onida, South Dakota, proudly endorsed **Mary Jo Stier** for the office of President for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of South Dakota, for the year 2021-2022.

At the Pierre Unit October meeting, Pierre Unit 8 proudly endorsed **Patsy Madsen** for SD Dept State 2nd Vice for the upcoming 2021-2022.

On October 13, 2020, The American Legion Auxiliary Pike-Huska Unit 230 of Aurora, South Dakota, endorsed **Wendy Henley**, for the office of Department Chaplain for the year 2021-2022.

### THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGIONETTE

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