



# THE VETERAN



Charles R. Doman Post 131, American Legion  
Valley Springs, SD 57068

Vol. 14

Rick Larsen, Editor, April 2026

Issue 4

Rick Larsen, Legion Commander

Carol Kooi, Auxiliary President

## THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



## From the Editor

April is arriving, completing the first quarter of 2026. Inside you will find information on Military History nights, a soup supper fundraiser, and results from the February baseball pancake breakfast and March soup supper fundraisers. Planning is underway for the May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day program. Our first annual pizza and pop gathering to recognize our Vietnam veterans is scheduled. Details of the District 7 Legion meeting are included. We are very close to our membership goal. Post officer nominations for the next year have started. Nominations close and voting is at the April Legion Meeting,

Rick Larsen - Editor

## Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## Contacts

### Legion

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## From the Commander

The following information is from the Post Legion Meeting held at 7 pm on March 16, 2026. The baseball pancake breakfast was reviewed. The profit for the baseball team is \$1,517.11. A donation was received for \$150 to support the Legion teams. The total added to the baseball account is \$1,667.11.

The March soup supper profit is \$192.40. This was added to the remodeling account. This brings the remodeling fund to \$640.82. The next project is to replace the Post electrical panels. The April Soup Supper is on April 9<sup>th</sup> serving from 5-6:30 pm. Chili, broccoli cheese (Mindy is making) and vegetable beef (Melinda is making) soups will be served.

Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>, was discussed. Weather permitting, the casket flags will be put up at the Post and cemetery at 6:30 am. Our Post will be in Brandon at 9 am for their ceremony. Our program is at 11 am and the search for a guest pastor is underway. The Pleasantview Cemetery program will follow. Lunch will be served after the cemetery program. Watch for more information in the May newsletter.

The District 7 Legion Meeting is on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at Sioux Falls Post 15 at the Alliance Center. The meeting will be at the old AAA building on the west end. A lunch will be served by the Post 15 Auxiliary for a free will donation starting at 2 pm with the meeting to start at 2:30 pm or later depending when the department commanders arrive from an earlier District meeting.

Kari Beck will be giving a presentation on "Stonewall Jackson" on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is rescheduled due to the winter storm. April 19<sup>th</sup> will be the next Military History Night. Both programs start at 6:30 pm. More information to follow on the April speaker and topic.

We have one member left to renew and with that, our Post will be at 100%. I will reach out to work on this. Donald Muth's 50-year membership certificate was received. We will work on presenting the certificate.

The first round of Post officer nominations were received. The nominations will remain open until the April Legion Meeting. Here are the current nominations.

Commander – Rick Larsen

Vice Commander – Roger Kooi

Adjutant/Finance Officer – Ken Bodewitz

Chaplain – Melinda Johnson

Sergeant at Arms – Dean Struecker

Post Historian – Carl Johnson

March 29, 2026, is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Pizza and pop will be served at the Legion Hall on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in honor of our Vietnam veterans. All Post members and families are welcome to attend. Expenses are paid by our Post so there is no charge to attend.

Rick Larsen – Post Commander

### **Soup Supper Fundraiser Thursday, April 9, 2026 5-6:30 PM**

Join us for our April fundraiser. On the menu is chili, broccoli cheese (Mindy) and vegetable beef (Melinda) soups, corn bread muffins, chips, hot dogs, sodas and water. Volunteers are needed from 2 pm food preparations and setup to 7:30 pm (clean up). Profits will go to our Post remodeling fund.

### **Military History Night**

March 22<sup>nd</sup>—reschedule from March 15<sup>th</sup> due to weather. Ms. Kari Beck, is giving a presentation on "Stonewall Jackson."

April 19<sup>th</sup>—speaker and topic to be announced at a later date.

Both presentations start at 6:30 pm.

Refreshments and a time for Q&A will follow the presentations. This event is free and open to the public.

### **Vietnam Veterans Pizza and Pop Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm**

Post members and families are welcome to come and help celebrate our Vietnam Veterans. There is no cost, the Post is covering the expenses.

# Military History

February 15, 2026



Top photo: The Military History Program was well attended.



Left photo: Mr. Jeremy Risty giving a presentation on Custer's Last Stand.

The next presentation is on March 22nd with Kari Beck on Stonewall Jackson at 6:30 pm.




The March 12th Soup was a great success thanks to the volunteers and supporters. Top left photo: the turnout was wonderful! Top right and left photo: a big part of the fundraiser's success is all the volunteers that prepared and help serve the soups.



# Happy Easter

# April 2026

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			1	2	3 Breakfast 8 am	4
5  <i>Happy Easter</i>	6	7	8	9 Soup Supper 5-6:30 PM	10 Breakfast 8 am	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Breakfast 8 am	18
19 Military History 6:30 PM	20 <u>Meetings</u> Sons 6 pm Legion 7 pm	21	22	23	24 Breakfast 8 am	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Our Post dues are a low \$45 per year. Auxiliary dues are \$30 (senior) and \$5 (junior) per year. Sons of the American Legion dues are \$25 per year.

*It Is Not The Price You Pay For Membership, It Is The Price You Paid To Be Eligible To Join; It Is The Value Of Being A Member.*



CHARLES R. DOMAN POST 131

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