

Shrine of Democracy



*"Service during War*

6505 W. Westminster Dr.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
December 2021

# Dakota 40 ET 8 er

*La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux*

*Grand du South Dakota Voiture 180*

Mc Cook and Minnehaha Counties South Dakota



*Charity during Peace"*

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6TH EDITION

VAVS - AMERICANISM - CHILD WELFARE - VAVS - BOX CAR ASSN. - NURSES SCHOLARSHIPS - POW/MIA - CARVILLE - POW/MIA - YOUTH SPORTS



**KEEP THE WHEELCHAIRS ROLLING  
at THE NORFOLK NE VETERANS HOME**



**Voiture 180 Voyageur Ron Behnke delivering a check to  
Norfolk Nebraska Veterans Home  
Administrator Jerry Eisenhauer.**

The facility Domiciliary Care at the Norfolk Veteran Home is licensed for 159 beds. All veterans who received an honorable or general discharge and have lived in Nebraska at least two years during their lifetime are eligible for admission. Spouses, widows and widowers of veterans and Gold Star parents are also eligible for admission.

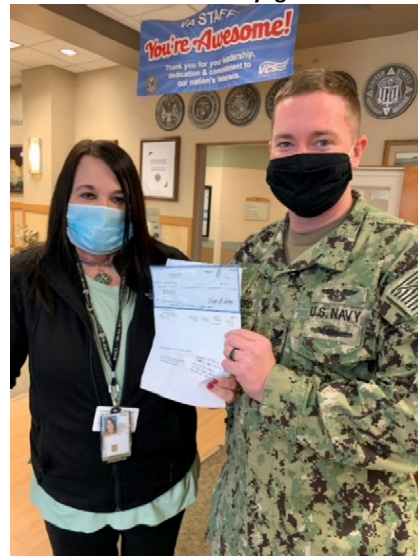
It is an honor to serve this dedicated, highly skilled home for our veterans. We thank the

administrator and staff for the fine care they give our veterans.

We also want to thank the 40 and 8 National Box Car Committee and National VAVS Directeur for sharing these funds with us.

## at FORT MEAD VA HOSPITAL

Grand du SD Voiture 180 Voyageur Jason



**Standiford delivers a "KEEP THE WHEEL  
CHAIRS ROLLING" check to Melody  
Wouden at the Fort Mead VA Hosp.**

Voiture 180 Voyageur Jason Standiford is a Recruiter for the US Navy, he and his family moved from Sioux Falls to Box Elder, SD to open a NEW Navy recruiting station in Rapid City. Voyageur Standiford continues to serve his Voiture by delivering "Keep the wheel Chairs Rolling" checks to the Fort Mead VA and Hot Springs, SD VA Hospitals.

**I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth,  
they can be depended upon to meet any national  
crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.  
Abraham Lincoln - US President (1809 - 1865)**

## **The Norfolk (NE) Daily News, Thanks for printing our letter.**

**Thanking veterans by Preston Olson**

Facebook

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Veterans Day, the one day a year we honor our living veterans for taking an oath that lasts a lifetime. I have had the honor to meet many veterans by my involvement in veterans and civic organization. I gave rides in parades in my convertible to veterans from the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Many of these veterans I think of often along with those I see regularly. I have contact with a few of my shipmates I served with. Most servicemen back when I was in the Navy, created very close friendships with some we served with that last a life time. Although we never see most of them again, we have many memories.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

An act by Congress approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday — a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veteran's service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation."

Confederate soldiers are officially considered American veterans and have the same protections

as Union soldiers because of an act of Congress on May 23, 1958, called Public Law 810 and other federal laws, but our government and many people in America are destroying these veterans' monuments etc. As a member of The Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses (Honor Society of American Veterans) we believe they ought to be protected, BUT TODAY OUR government does nothing.

On Veterans Day and every day when you meet one of my veteran friends, thank them for their service. They will appreciate it.

**PRESTON R. OLSON**

**Chef de Gare Grand du SD Voiture 180**

**A PICTURE SAYS 1000 WORDS. LEST WE FORGET.**



**A flower does not think of competing to the  
flower next to it. It just" blooms."**

## **A Soldier, a Sailor, an Airman, and a Marine**

got into an argument about which branch of the service was The Best. The arguing became so heated the four servicemen failed to see an oncoming truck as they crossed the street.

They were hit by the truck and killed instantly. Soon, the four servicemen found themselves at the Pearly gates of Heaven. There, they met Saint Peter and decided that only he could be the ultimate source of truth and honesty.

So, the four servicemen asked him, Saint Peter, which branch of the United States Armed Forces is the best? Saint Peter replied, I can't answer that. However, I will ask God what He thinks the next time I see Him. Meanwhile, thank you for your service on Earth and welcome to Heaven.

Sometime later the four servicemen see Saint Peter and remind him of the question they had asked when first entering Heaven and asked Saint Peter if he was able to ask God for the answer to their question?

Suddenly, a sparkling white dove lands on Saint Peter's shoulder. In the dove's beak is a note glistening with gold dust.

Saint Peter opens the note, trumpets blare, gold dust drifts into the air, harps play crescendos and Saint Peter begins to read the note aloud to the four servicemen:

**MEMORANDUM FROM THE DESK OF THE ALMIGHTY**

**TO: All Former Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines**

**SUBJECT: Which Military Service Is the Best**

**1. All branches of the United States Armed Forces are honorable and noble.**

**2. Each serves America well and with distinction.**

**3. Serving in the United States military represents a great honor warranting special respect, tribute, and dedication from your fellow man.**

**4. Always be proud of that.**

**Warmest Regards,  
GOD,**



**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**AN AMERICAN LEGEND!**

**ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ!**

**FIVE (5) SOMETHINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE ADMIRAL!**

**1. RAN A SHIP AGROUND AND THEN TOOK A NAP!**

In 1908, Nimitz was bringing his ship, the USS Decatur, into Batangas Harbor in the Philippines. He not only guesstimated his position, he also failed to check the tides. Consequently, the ship came to a stop, ran aground on a mudbank. When he couldn't get the ship off immediately, he recalled the advice of his grandfather: "Don't worry about things over which you have no control." He ordered a cot to be brought to the bridge, and he slept until the tide rose and freed the ship. He was court-martial over the incident, but when they looked at his otherwise flawless record and the way he freely admitted his culpability, he was only reprimanded.

**2. RESCUED A MAN FROM DROWNING!**

In 1912, Lieutenant Nimitz was the Commanding Officer of the submarine USS Skipjack, when Fireman W.J. Walsh went overboard. There was a strong tide, and since W.J. Walsh didn't know how to swim, he was quickly swept away from the sub. Lt. Nimitz dove in after him and kept him afloat and alive until they could be rescued by a small boat.

**3. SURVIVED A PLANE CRASH!**

Right after the Battle of Midway, **Admiral Nimitz (to the right)** flew

from Hawaii to San Francisco in a seaplane to give an after-action report. On landing, the seaplane hit a log, flipping over and cracking in two. The co-pilot was killed, and another



severely injured. Wrapped in a blanket by a corpsman, Admiral Nimitz stayed on the sinking wing out of concern for the other passengers. The rescuers tried to gently direct him to the crash boat, but he evaded all attempts to steer him to safety.

Finally, an eighteen year-old seaman snapped at the old man who was getting in the way: "Admiral, if you would only get out of the way, maybe we could get something done around here." Admiral Nimitz saw that he was correct and went to the boat.

On the little boat, Admiral Nimitz stood up to better view the wreck, and was promptly yelled at by the coxswain to sit down. When he sat down, the blanket slipped, and the coxswain realized he'd just yelled at a four-star admiral. Admiral Nimitz stopped him as he tried to apologize. Stick to your guns, Sailor. You were quite right."

**4. WON THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC!**

When the former commander of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Kimmel was relieved because of the attack on Pearl Harbor, his staff assumed that they would be fired as well. Admiral Nimitz took command and kept all of them. He knew that they couldn't have predicted the attack on Pearl Harbor and saw no point in blaming them for something almost no one could have predicted. One of those people was Cdr. Layton. Cdr. Layton was friends with Cdr. Joseph Rochefort, who worked in Hawaii deciphering

encrypted Japanese communications. The head of Naval intelligence back in Washington, DC wasn't receptive to Cdr. Rochefort, and when he began finding evidence that the Japanese were planning an attack on Midway Island, he got the information directly to Admiral Nimitz through Cdr. Layton. When they had a meeting to plan the defense of Midway, Cdr. Rochefort was able to present what was essentially the Japanese battle plan. It's likely none of that would have happened if Admiral Nimitz had replaced Layton on his staff.

## **5. TURNED DOWN BIG MONEY TO STAY NAVY!**

Admiral Nimitz originally started out in the submarine fleet, and while he was there, he became one of the Navy's leading experts in aquatic diesel engines. He was such an expert that a manufacturer that built engines for the Navy approached Nimitz in 1913 with a job offer. At a time in his career when he was paid only \$300 a month, he turned down a job that would have paid \$25,000 a year. He was then told that if that wasn't enough, he should just name his price. But because he was so committed to the Navy, he turned down the second offer too.

## ***God and the 3 Mistakes,***

Tour boats ferry people out to the **USS Arizona Memorial** in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, **"Reflections on Pearl Harbor"**

by **Admiral Chester Nimitz.**

**Sunday, December 7th, 1941** — Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

**Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet.** He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat—you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. **On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.** Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters every where you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, **"Well Admiral, what do you think after**

**seeing all this destruction?"** **Admiral Nimitz's** reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, **"The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America.** Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained:

**Mistake number one:** the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk—we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

**Mistake number two:** when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

**Mistake number three:** every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes a attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it **There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST.**

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**I saw Admiral Nimitz at a distance on Treasure Island in 1960. It is the only time we had our ship the USS Watchman AGR 16 at full dress along with all the other ships at the Island.**

**What a beautiful sight, when all the ships are decked out with flags from the bow, over the top decks to the fan tail.**



**LET US NEVER FORGET JAPAN'S ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR WHEN SEVERAL OF OUR SHIPS AND AIRCRAFTS WERE DESTROYED.**

**2,403 LIVES LOST; 2008 NAVY MEN  
109 MARINES,  
208 ARMY MEN  
68 CIVILIANS**

**THIS INCLUDES 1177 SAILORS ON THE USS ARIZON, 429 SAILORS ON THE USS OKLAHOMA BB 37.**

## **MEMBERSHIP AT GRAND du SOUTH DAKOTA VOUTURE 180**

We have been working hard to achieve 100% membership in Voiture 180. Our report this week to Tammy Bennett in charge of National Membership was as follows: **Voiture 180, 100% now ?**  
Yes

**Alvin Kangas** renewal 9 years  
Drives a team of horses at the Laura Ingles Wilder home in De Smet, SD

**Leon Gee** WW II renewal 4 years  
USS South Dakota BB 57 shipmate

**JA Olson** renewal 4 years  
SOF Instructor/Army Reserve, teaches/instructs special forces, navy seals, marines and others

**Larry Zikmund** Reinstatement 5 years  
South Dakota State representative

**Marion Jaycox** WW II POW Reinstatement 9 years

**Dean Karsky**  
Minnehaha County Commissioner  
New 1 year

**Richard (Dick) Sanne**  
Transfer from Voiture 121  
New 65 years

**Gilbert Hoogendoorn** WW II  
Deceased

## **WE LOVE OUR DAKOTA TERRITORY**

Many Native American tribes lived on the Great Plains of North America. Iowa, Omaha, and Wichita are named after tribes of the Great Plains. Most people would recognize the names of Blackfeet, Crow, and Pawnee. Other tribes such as the Mandan and Prairie are less well known. The name of some tribes commonly known as the Sioux and Cheyenne are misnomers attributed to the tribes by French explorers. **These tribes were actually the DAKOTAS, the Native American word for "PLACE OF THE PEOPLE OF PEACE."**  
**Taken from the book "INDIAN TRIBES OF NORTH AMERICA" BY Josepha Sherman**

## **South Dakota State Motto "Under God the People Rule"**

The South Dakota state motto was adopted in 1885. This adoption of the motto took place four years before South Dakota joined the Union. The South Dakota state motto "Under God the People Rule" was suggested by Dr. Joseph Ward (founder of Yankton College) at the Constitutional Convention. Dr. Ward was also the one to suggest the North Dakota state motto.  
**State nickname, The Coyote State**

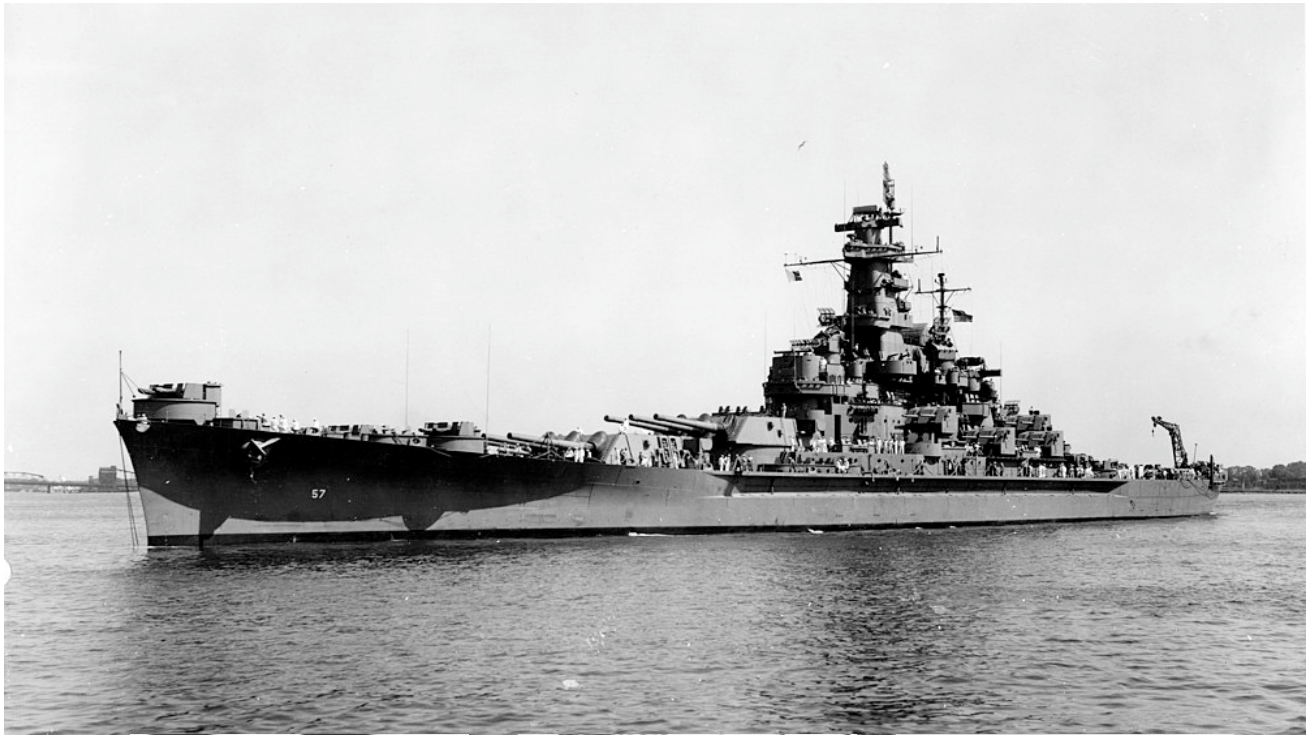
## **North Dakota State Motto "Liberty and Union Now and Forever, One and Inseparable"**

The North Dakota motto was adopted in the year of 1889, it was suggested by Dr. Joseph Ward of Yankton (founder of Yankton College). Dr. Ward wasn't the original creator of the North Dakota motto, however. This honour befalls American politician, Senator Daniel Webster.  
**State nickname, The Peace Garden State"**

**THE DAKOTA TERRITORY IS HOME TO  
EIGHTEEN (18) 40 and 8 Voitures;  
With 391 members SD 83 %, ND 72 %  
3 VOITURES AT 100% with 15 plus members,  
8 Voitures with less than the required 15 members, (sad, sad, sad)**

**National Sous Directeur Youth Sports,  
Joel Doyscher Volga, SD  
National Sous Directeur Membership,  
Gena Keller Revillo, SD  
National Sous Directeur VAVS,  
Larry Smith Brookings, SD  
National Directeur Special Awards,  
Greg Hall Pierre, SD**

## USS SOUTH DAKOTA BB 57 (BTLESHIP X) Most decorated ship in the U.S. Navy



Chaplain Leads Memorial Service on USS South Dakota



Silver King, brother to Emperor Hirohito's famous white horse Silver Tip, stands on a San Francisco dock looking at Admiral Halsey's battleship, the USS South Dakota



Casualties of USS South Dakota buried at sea off Guam 1944

## ***MERRY CHRISTMAS***

To all my fellow Voyageurs, comrades  
And friends. Wishing you all stay safe  
From the China virus. May our Lord  
Bless and Protect our America and all  
Of us. GOD'S PEACE, Preston



USS South Dakota crew members who attended the 2018 reunion at the ship's Memorial in Sioux Falls, SD. We are so grateful to all of them.

**I LOVE MY STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
AND OUR WONDER COUNTRY  
AMERICA**