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SD Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Zimmerman November 2018 Column

TGIF – ThanksGiving is Forever, to our Veterans!

November is a month rich in history and filled with numerous opportunities to thank our veterans, our military personnel and their families. It is a season of gratitude that should have etchings of how we secured and maintain our freedoms.

Earlier this month we gathered to honor and thank those men and women who have safeguarded our Nation both in peace and in war. It was a time to renew our commitment to those who have borne the battle; those who wrote a blank check made payable to: “the United States of America” for an amount of “up to and including their life.”

Our veterans have a long legacy - they saw battle unfold before their very eyes and crossed into enemy territories not because they wanted to, but because they knew it was the right thing to do.

November is Native American Heritage Month and is a great opportunity to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions our Native people have given this great state.

November is National Family Caregivers month. Caregivers exert a significant amount of energy and attention focusing on the needs of others by selflessly providing care to ill, injured and disabled veterans.

November is also National Veterans and Military Families month. Serving alongside our men and women in uniform are spouses, siblings, parents, and children who embody the ideals of patriotism, pride, resilience, service above self, and honor.

Last but not least, November is a time set aside to give thanks and count our many blessings. This year, as you gather with family and friends, please remember to be thankful for America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguard who bravely answered the call to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors. In every generation, brave Americans stepped forward and served honorable in the United States Armed Forces.

We have a rich heritage of values, courage, sacrifice and honor.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs