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SD Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Zimmerman August 2017 Column

Connecting With Our Veterans!

This summer we have had hot temperatures, wind, and very few rain showers; leaving our soil as hard as rocks!

Rocks and stones play a large part in our life – Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and beautiful memorials for our veterans. For some of us, we have stones in our fields, our landscaping and in our prairies. There are agates in every pile of stones.

These rocks are right in front of our faces and yet without picking up each one, we do not notice all of them. Much like our journey at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, we are in search of the gems/stones we call veterans.

It is important that we help our veterans move ahead, live life to the fullest, reintegrate into their communities and have access to high quality benefits and services in a timely, consistent, and equitable manner. It is important that we help them establish a “new normal” in family relationships, wellness, and financial stability.

Help us acquire the tools to provide care, services, and final tributes for our heroes.

Help us be as responsive to our youngest veterans as we are to our oldest veterans.

Help us to return functionality to the men and women wounded in service.

Help us guide our veterans to the resources that can help them and their families.

Help us leave no stone unturned.

Encourage your veteran to contact the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (605.773.3269) or their local county or tribal veterans service officer.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs