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(South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

SD Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Zimmerman November 2017 Column

NOVEMBER IS REMEMBER MONTH


President Donald Trump has proclaimed November as "Veterans and Military Families Month." It's the first time that as a nation we will be encouraged to honor and support our veterans for more than a day. Let's dedicate this month to honor those ordinary people who have done something extraordinary so that we may all enjoy the freedom we treasure today.

Every day, we wake up to the gift of freedom because of the men and women who wore the uniform; that stood guard and protected us. They are the greatest icon of the American spirit.

Their love for this country was so strong, they signed a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of "up to and including their life." They left home and family having no idea where their mission would take them, living in flawed conditions. They gave everything they had to our country for the entire length of their service. They pushed themselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually to be able to serve.

Veterans of all ages have greatly contributed to the future of this country. November provides us all a great opportunity to ask our veterans to share their stories. It's a great opportunity to connect the past and present to the future. Their stories and our learning from them honors and respects our heroes. They can awaken future generations to their potential.

Let us be proud to stand with those who have fought to not only preserve these values for generations to come—but also to show us what it means to live by them every day.

Veterans and families, thank you for your service, and thank God we live in this great nation and state. You are appreciated and respected today, tomorrow and forever.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs