



# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## SDDVA 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

SDDVA's annual report has been completed and has been provided to the legislators as required by statute.

The 2023 annual report highlights the outstanding accomplishments of our superb team of dedicated professionals and the unmatched support we receive from our county, tribal, state and federal partners and all of our veterans service organizations and their members.

This report demonstrates our commitment to ensuring South Dakota remains the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

It can be viewed on the SDDVA website at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/Other%20Publications/SDDVA%202023%20Annual%20Report.pdf>.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
2023

**SOUTH  
DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**



# CUPID VISITS STATE VETERANS HOME



It doesn't matter what time of the year it is, but we always have some special visitors stopping to see our residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. It might be Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, Cupid, the Easter Bunny, Uncle Sam, Baby New Year, Buckeye Chuck, Jack Frost, Father Time, the Great Pumpkin, or Tom Turkey!!!!

This week we had numerous cupids stop by and deliver cards, candy, goodie bags, cupcakes, and

balloons for our residents. A special shout out to the students, the Hot Springs American Legion Auxiliary, the Custer VFW Auxiliary, the State VFW Auxiliary and the Family Dollar Store. What a colorful Valentines Day we had at our Home!





# FEBRUARY 16 WAS GLENN HARTMAN DAY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Governor Kristi Noem proclaimed February 16, 2024, "Glenn Hartman Day" in South Dakota. Hartman devoted over 61 years of his life to his country, his state, and his county, assisting veterans and making sacrifices that demonstrated no mission was too hard and no challenge was too great.

Glenn served in the United States Army from 1962 to 1964, the South Dakota National Guard from 1964 to 1997, and as Hutchinson County Veterans Service Officer in South Dakota from 1998-2024.

Please join the Governor and SDDVA in thanking Glenn for his unending commitment to our veterans.



# 2024 NATIONAL VETERANS DAY POSTER CONTEST OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or a budding painter, here's your opportunity to show off your talent and use your artwork to honor veterans. The VA and the Veterans Day National Committee are now accepting submissions for the 2024 Veterans Day Poster Contest. Submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on April 1, 2024.

This contest is open to all. Your art should reflect this year's theme: "A Legacy of Loyalty and Service."

Eugene Russell, creator of the winning 2023 design, shared his thoughts, "My goal was to link the sight, sound, and feeling of how we served our country. The pole and American flag in this image are the ones currently flying over VA headquarters in Washington, D.C. It flies for each of us and those veterans to come."

The winning poster will be distributed to VA facilities and military installations worldwide and across cities and towns in our nation. It will also serve as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day National Observance at Arlington National Cemetery, scheduled for Nov. 11, 2024.

To ensure your submission meets the technical requirements, please review their [design submission guidelines](#) before engaging your creativity. Successful designs are very simple, with minimal imagery and verbiage. To view examples of past winning submissions, visit [The Veterans Day Poster Gallery](#).

Submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files by email to [vetsday@va.gov](mailto:vetsday@va.gov). Questions, please email the Veterans Day Coordinator at [vetsday@va.gov](mailto:vetsday@va.gov).



## MJFSVH UPDATE

Please join the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs in welcoming the newest member to our team at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Sherena Bair is a full-time homemaker. She will be working in Old Glory and Veterans Lane neighborhoods. Prior to joining our team, she worked for Cura.

Sherena loves spending time outdoors and going to concerts.



## BOSHARD RECOGNIZED



A big shout out, thank you, and congratulations to McPherson County Veterans Service Officer Samantha Boshard. Sam was recently presented the 2024 “Rich Kezar Veteran of Armed Services” Award by the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce.

The presentation was made during their recent Community Champions Awards Luncheon.

Pictured with Sam is her husband, Kevin Boshard.



# SDDVA UPDATE

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs leaders recently attended the South Dakota American Legion Mid Winter Conference in Deadwood.

SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock addressed the membership during the general session on Saturday morning and Field Service Officer Will Huffmon hosted a booth and was able to visit with veterans about benefits.

Huffmon also attended the 1/112th Aviation SDNG Yellow Ribbon event in Rapid City. This event affords the Department the opportunity to share information to guard members returning from deployments in an effort to assist them in reintegration and accessing benefits.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 1—BHSU Military Appreciation Night—Young Center (1625 St. Joe Street) in Spearfish  
Mar 25—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—Drive to Fly @ Great Shots—(2505 W. Benson Road)—Sioux Falls—2:00—5:00 pm (CT)  
Mar 26—Yankton County What's Brewing—VFW Post 791—(209 Cedar Street)—Yankton—10:00 am (CT)  
Apr 4—Brule County What's Brewing—Chamberlain Community Center—(112 N. Main Street)—Chamberlain—1:00 pm (CT)  
Apr 5—Melissa Stockwell Program—South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls  
Apr 12—Day County What's Brewing—VFW Post—(521 First Street West)—Webster—6:00 pm (CT)  
Apr 16—McPherson County What's Brewing—Eureka School Multi Purpose Room—(805 10th Street)—Eureka—1:00 pm (CT)  
Apr 17—SD Veterans Council Meeting—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—9:00 am (MT)  
Apr 19—American Legion Post 215 Mogen's Heroes Dance—El Riad Shrine—(510 S. Phillips)—Sioux Falls—6:00 pm  
Apr 26-27—DAV State Convention—Deadwood Lodge  
May 7—Corson County What's Brewing—McIntosh Pavilion—(Main and First Avenue)—McIntosh—10:00 am (MT)  
May 7—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 18—Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center—(1201 N. West Avenue)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (CT)  
May 21—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 19—Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center—(1201 N. West Avenue)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (CT)  
May 27—SDDVA Memorial Day Program—SD Veterans Cemetery—12:00 noon (CT)  
Jun 5—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 20—Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center—(1201 N. West Avenue)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (CT)  
Jun 7—8—VFW State Conference—Holiday Inn—Spearfish  
Jun 14—Midwest Honor Flight Day of Sweetness—Chick-fil-A—(4005 W. 41st Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 am—10:00 pm  
Jun 20—23—American Legion State Conference—Pierre  
Jun 30—Midwest Honor Flight Honor Ride—South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—Registration—1:00 pm/Ride Begins at 2:30 pm (CT)  
Jul 15—6th Annual Tee it up for the Troops Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—Arrowhead Country Club—(3675 Sheridan Lake Road)—Rapid City—7:15 am (MT)  
Jul 17—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Aberdeen

(Continued)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 1—2—South Dakota Suicide Prevention Conference—Sioux Falls Convention Center  
Aug 21—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Yankton  
Aug 26—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—The Barrel House—(4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—8:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 29—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair—Northwest Energy Freedom Stage—Huron  
Aug 29—Sep 2—SD State Fair—Huron  
Sep 3—5—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls  
Sep 18—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Rapid City  
Oct 12—Midwest Honor Flight Third Annual Elvis Night—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls  
Oct 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Brookings  
Nov 9—Fifth Annual Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair We've Got Your Six—Sturgis  
Nov 18—Wreaths Across America Fundraiser—The Barrel House—(4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—8:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 20—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Sioux Falls  
Nov 20—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Sioux Falls  
Nov 21—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Watertown  
Nov 22—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Rapid City  
Nov 23—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Pierre  
Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

## 2025 Events

Jan 8—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Pierre  
Feb 14—16—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Oacoma  
Jun 12—15—VFW State Convention—Ramkota—Pierre  
Jun 19—22—American Legion State Conference—Huron  
Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

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