



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



155TH ASSUMES MISSION IN KUWAIT

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company assumed responsibility for vertical construction projects in Kuwait during a ceremony at Camp Beuhring, Oct. 14.

The 155th took over mission responsibilities from the California Army National Guard's 315th Engineer Company to improve survivability, remodel and complete new construction of base infrastructure in the U.S. Army Central area of operations in Kuwait.

As a construction company, the 154 members of the Rapid City and Wagner-based unit has a wide variety of occupational specialties, which include carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry.

A deployment ceremony was held in mid-August for the 155th prior to their pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas. After about a month in Texas, the unit departed for Camp Beuhring.

Since arriving, the 155th has been learning their new responsibilities and taking over current operations from the 315th. Additionally, they've completed projects to include one on the Udairi Range Complex, multiple concrete pads for emergency phones, a gazebo and many small repairs around base.

This is the second mobilization for the 155th, which deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Noble Eagle in 2002-2003.

The 155th was the first SDNG unit to deploy after 9/11 in support of the Global War on Terror, where they helped to build up base infrastructure in Kuwait in the lead up to the Iraq war.



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HILL HOSTS RELATIONSHIP BUILDING SESSION

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Veterans Service Officer Manaja Hill, hosted a relationship building event between the Tribe and its partners in veteran's services. The aim of the program was to share information with partners whose programs directly impact veterans on Standing Rock and impress upon these partners some of the unique challenges SRST veterans face in accessing these programs.

Presented was the unique geographical and demographic makeup of the reservation to include, travel challenges and distance between resources, limited resources within spread out communities, unique challenges incurred by the North/South Dakota state line, and lack of infrastructure. Additionally, local veterans were given the opportunity to express how these challenges in accessing resources directly impact them. Other topics discussed were the impact that the sweeping cuts of VA Compensated Work Therapy programs across the nation and the direct negative impact it had at Standing Rock. The day was concluded by visits to Warrior Lodge Shelter and the Veteran Industries/CWT locations in McLaughlin, SD.

SDDVA Field Officer Will Huffmon and Program Manager Steve Oliva represented the Department at this session.

WATERTOWN HOSTS CODE TALKERS EXHIBIT

This week the SDNG and the SDDVA hosted the Code Talkers exhibit and program in Watertown.

"It is an honor to be a part of this program honoring our native American Veterans," said SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman. "Having the opportunity to talk to the families of these heroes is heartwarming."

The exhibit will travel on to Sioux Falls and Crazy Horse.

Exhibit dates are: Oct. 28—Sioux Falls: Washington High School (501 N. Sycamore Avenue) (10-3 CT) and Nov. 11- Crazy Horse Memorial (10-3 CT).



HUSS NAMED CVSO AT FAULK COUNTY

Faulk County has selected David Huss, a Vietnam Veteran, as their new County Veterans Service Officer.

David's office hours are noon to 4:00 pm on Mondays and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesdays. In addition, Dave keeps busy operating family businesses and serving as a dispatcher for law enforcement office.

Dave's email address is: faulkcvso@venturecomm.net
Please join us in welcoming Dave to our team!



114TH FIGHTER WING AWARDED AS 2014 AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT

The 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard is pleased to be announced as the recipient of the 2014 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the time period Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2014.

The dedication and commitment of the members of the unit enabled the Air National Guard to fulfill its commitment to the missions of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, domestic improvement and most important of all - defense of America.

This is the seventh time the unit has received this award for exceptional meritorious service, the last in 2005.

"I'm very proud of the accomplishments of our Airmen, they are extremely deserving of this national recognition and truly represent the best of our nation," said Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander.

The award is signed by Lieutenant General Stanley E. Clarke III, director of the Air National Guard.



LT. GOVERNOR VISITS ELECTRIC BOAT FACILITY TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR USS SOUTH DAKOTA

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels recently visited the Connecticut facility where the USS South Dakota SSN 790 will be built. At the facility, Michels toured the recently commissioned USS Illinois and met with the ship commander, the chief of the boat and the ship manager who is overseeing construction of the USS South Dakota.

"The USS South Dakota BB-57 was the most decorated warship of World War II. With the construction of the SSN 790, we're moving the history of the USS South Dakota forward to protect our nation," said. Lt.

Gov.
Mi-
chels.

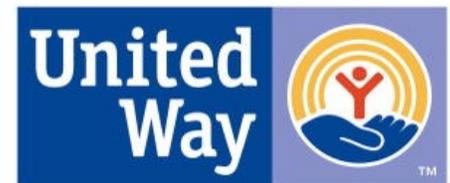
General Dynamics Electric Boat is building the multi-mission nuclear powered Virginia class submarine which will support a crew of 130 sailors. The company has been building submarines since 1899 when it assembled the U.S. Navy's first commissioned undersea warship, the USS Holland.

Construction for the USS South Dakota will begin in 2016. The submarine is expected to be complete in August of 2018.



PIERRE STAFF DONATES TO UNITED WAY

The Pierre offices of the South Dakota Department Of Veterans Affairs and the South Dakota Department Of The Military both had 100% participation in the United Way campaign again this year. Both departments have accomplished this for the past ten years.



John Fette serves as the coordinator for this project and is thankful for the support he receives from both the staff of both Departments.

CALL TO ACTION—FUNERAL STIPEND

During last year's Legislative Session the Legislature and Governor Daugaard approved a fifty dollar funeral stipend to be paid to Veterans' Service Organizations who provide honor guard assistance at veterans' funerals. Recently, it has come to our attention that many of the Posts that provide these services are/were not aware of this benefit.

Currently, our Department has funding available to provide a fifty dollar payment for each veteran's funeral that a Post Honor Guard assists with. The payments are made quarterly. Each post may choose to send in the form(s) individually after each service is performed, or Posts can send all forms for the quarter together prior to the quarterly deadline. The deadline for each quarter is as follows: September 30, 2015; December 31, 2015; March 31, 2016; and June 30, 2016.

If our Department receives these requests after the quarterly deadline the payments will be provided during the processing of payments for the following quarter.

Our Department is able to provide this payment for any funeral honors performed by Veterans' Service Organization Honor Guards on or after July 1, 2015.

Please go to the following link to obtain the instructions and necessary forms for receiving the fifty dollar funeral stipend: <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/benefits/State/MFHSRR%20FORM.pdf>

We are distributing this message to as many partners as we can. Our ask is that you also forward this message to any Veterans' Service Organization or partner that can ensure the word about this benefit is out. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and thank you for all that you do for our heroes and their families.

SENATOR THUNE STOPS BY VETERANS HOME

Last week Senator John Thune and members of his staff made a stop at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home.

Staff had the chance to visit with them about issues relating to veterans and their families.



Pierre/Fort Pierre
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Committee

PANCREAS CANCER
PURPLE LIGHT
CEREMONY

SOUTH DAKOTA
State Capitol Building Rotunda

Sunday, October 25, 2015
7:00 PM

Celebrating the lives of those who have passed from pancreatic cancer; those who have survived pancreatic cancer; and those who have provided care to our loved ones with pancreatic cancer in central South Dakota.

DEBT OF HONOR SCREENING

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and South Dakota Public Broadcasting will be hosting a screening of *DEBT OF HONOR: DISABLED VETERANS IN AMERICAN HISTORY*, a new documentary film by six-time Emmy Award winning director Ric Burns.

The free screening and discussion will be held Friday evening, October 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the DAV headquarters in Sioux Falls (1519 W. 51st Street)

DEBT OF HONOR examines the way in which the American government and society as a whole have regarded disabled veterans throughout history, beginning in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War and continuing through today's conflicts in the Middle East. The film combines personal stories, told by distinguished disabled veterans, with deep history narrated by leading scholars in the fields of disability studies, history and psychology to illustrate the human cost of war and the enormous sacrifices of military service. These sacrifices are brought to life through hundreds of carefully curated still images and archival footage from across the country.

DEBT OF HONOR: DISABLED VETERANS IN AMERICAN HISTORY will premier nationwide on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 9 p.m. (check local listings), as part of PBS' *Stories of Service*. The screening hosted by the DAV is part of an effort to share the film with the largest audience possible, including military personnel and veterans and their families. The National Endowment of Humanities is partnering with PBS and Washington, DC, public television station WETA to hold a series of such screenings in schools and with other organizations to highlight local stories of disabled veterans.

A STEEPLECHASE FILMS production

DEBT OF HONOR

DISABLED VETERANS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

A documentary film

Directed by RIC BURNS

Funding provided by LOIS POPE

**Free Screening & Discussion:
Friday, October 30
at 6:00pm**

DAV of Sioux Falls; 1519 W. 51st St.

SDPB
South Dakota
Public Broadcasting

50th Anniversary
National Endowment of
Humanities
FIFTY YEARS

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR AUSTIN

Hello All,

I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I am leaving my position at Black Hills National Cemetery. I will be starting a new position at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood IL next month.

I have enjoyed my tenure here and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with and for you. Thank you for the support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided me during my time at Black Hills National Cemetery. I have had a wonderful time at Black Hills National Cemetery with all of my staff, members of VSO and the community. I wish to bid farewell to you all. Even though I will miss my staff, community and cemetery, I am looking forward to this new challenge and to starting a new phase of my career.

I would like to personally wish each and every one good luck for their future endeavors. My cell phone number and email address remain the same. Do keep in touch. I leave you my warmest thanks and best regards for the future.

Warm Regards,

Srey M. Austin, Director
Black Hills National Cemetery
Fort Meade National Cemetery
Hot Springs National Cemetery

BRUBAKER TO RETIRE

James Brubaker, Director of the U.S Dept. of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices in Sioux Falls and Fargo, will retire October 30, with 28 years of service to veterans and their families.

Mr. Brubaker has been the Director of the VA Dakotas Regional Offices since January 3, 2010. He is responsible for administering compensation and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits for nearly 156,000 veterans and their families in North Dakota, South Dakota, and 15 counties in Minnesota. These services total almost \$385 million in annual benefit payments to more than 33,000 veterans.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the Sioux Falls and Fargo Veterans Service Centers completed more than 11,000 compensation rating related claims, with over 4,000 of these awards for veterans from other states. The Sioux Falls and Fargo Regional Offices' claim accuracy for compensation ratings is one of the best in the country.

Mr. Brubaker began his VA career at the Detroit VA Regional office in 1987 and continued in successively more responsible VA positions, concluding his career in Sioux Falls.

A reception in his honor will take place October 30 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the auditorium on 4th floor of the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center at 2501 W. 22nd Street.

GOODWILL OFFERS BOOTS TO SUITS



You've served us, now let us serve you with **\$40** towards clothing and accessories to help prepare for employment.
November 11-25, 2015

Proof of Military Service required.
At participating Goodwill stores only.
Limit one clothing/accessory voucher per person.

Check this out — Boots to Suits!!!!!!

Goodwill of the Great Plains (1902 Eastgate Ave.) in Pierre has a new program — Boots to Suits.

Their mission is to help people with or without barriers gain employment in order to build their own independence and improve their lives.

The Boots to Suits program ties into that mission by helping veterans with a \$40 Goodwill store voucher for clothing for a job, or even a job interview. This program will be running from November 11th to the 25th. Veterans need to

show proof of their military affiliation to receive their voucher. The vouchers are to be used in one visit.

★ ★ DRESS for SUCCESS ★ ★

MEN

WOMEN

Boots to Suits:

- Wear a navy, black or dark grey suit
- Button-down, long sleeved shirt, not overly patterned
- Match belt leather to shoe leather

Helmets to Hard Hats:

- Wear neutral colored slacks (no denim)
- Solid-colored collared or button down shirt (no t-shirts)
- Loafers or boots (no gym shoes)

Boots to Suits:

- Wear a neutral colored suit (black, grey, beige, navy)
- Skirt hem should fall below the knee
- Closed toe pumps, heel no higher than 3"

Helmets to Hard Hats:

- Wear neutral colored slacks (no denim)
- Solid-colored collared or oxford (no t-shirts or tank tops)
- Flats or boots (no gym shoes)



Upcoming Events

- Oct. 28—Code Talker Medal Exhibit—Sioux Falls—Washington High School (501 N. Sycamore Avenue)
 Nov. 4—Boots to Business—Starting or Growing a Veteran-Owned Business—Pierre Post 8 American Legion
 (520 W. Pierre St) - 8:30 am—3:30 pm (CT)
 Nov. 7—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon (CT)
 Nov. 11- Code Talker Medal Exhibit—Crazy Horse Memorial
 Nov. 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Hot Springs—10:00 am
 Nov. 16-17—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—Redrossa—Pierre 1:00 pm (CT)
 Nov. 17—Women Veterans Honoring Ceremony—SRST Admin Bldg—Ft. Yates, ND 11:00 am
 Nov. 18—Veterans Council Leg. Round Table—Sioux Falls—(DAV —1519 W. 51st St) 11:30 am (CT)
 Nov. 19—Veterans Council Leg. Round Table—Watertown—(Amer. Leg. Post—1412 9th Ave. SW) 1 pm (CT)
 Nov. 21—Veterans Council Leg. Round Table—Rapid City (VFW Post 1273—420 Main Street) 10 am (MT)
 Dec. 1—SDDVA Mini Conference—Rapid City TREA—1981 Centre Street—10:00 am (MT)
 Dec. 2—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre—American Legion Post 8 —520 W. Pierre Street (CT)
 Dec. 3—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings—American Legion Post 74—1229 Western Avenue (CT)
 Dec. 8- Governor's Budget Address—Pierre

2016

- Jan. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre
 Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre
 Jan. 27-28-State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre
 Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City
 Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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