



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



## ZIMMERMAN RECOGNIZED FOR HIS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO VETERANS



Robert G. "Bob" Perez, U. S. Army Reserve Ambassador, recently paid SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman a visit in Rapid City.

Perez was visiting all military and veteran venues in the state.

During his visit he coined Secretary Zimmerman for his unending commitment to South Dakota's veterans. Secretary Zimmerman also presented Perez with an SDDVA coin and thanked him for continued communications and representation.

"Having a representative holding a position like this gives the state's Reserve components a national voice," said Zimmerman. "His knowledge of all services is outstanding, and having his presence on a national level is key for communicating our issues to that audience nationally."

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## CODE TALKER MEDAL EXHIBIT TO HONOR NATIVE AMERICANS, VETERANS

An Oceti Sakowin (Oh-CHAY-tee Shaw-KOE-ween) Code Talker Congressional Medallion exhibit will tour several South Dakota cities in October and November in observance of Native American Heritage Month.

The traveling exhibit "Honoring Native Pride and Spirit - Yesterday, Today and Forever" honors code talker veterans, their families and all veterans who served or are currently serving in the military. The medals are Congress' highest recognition and appreciation of people, institutions or events.

The exhibit will be open for public viewing from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. local time on each scheduled date along with an honor ceremony beginning at 11:11 a.m. The ceremony will include a featured speaker from the SDNG and highlight the service of code talker veterans and their families from all local tribes.

The public, family members of code talker veterans and all tribal members are invited to attend.

Recruiters from the SDNG will be available during the exhibit to speak about career opportunities for those who may want to serve.

The exhibit tour will conclude with a special celebration on November 11/Veterans Day at Crazy Horse Memorial, which will include a blast honoring all veterans at 11:11 a.m.

Exhibit dates and locations are:

- \* October 14 - Pierre: Indian Learning Center, New Gym, 3001 E. Sully Ave.
- \* October 21 - Watertown: Lake Area Technical Institute, 1201 Arrow Ave., Event Center (level 4)
- \* October 28 - Sioux Falls: University Center, 4801 N. Career Ave., Admin Bldg. (1st floor commons)
- \* November 11/Veterans Day - Crazy Horse Memorial, Welcome Center

The South Dakota National Guard is partnering with the SDNG Museum, SD Department of Veterans Affairs, Crazy Horse Memorial, Tanka, Black Hills Area Council #695, Boy Scouts of America, Throwback Softball, Sperlich Consulting, Women Veterans of the Black Hills and the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce to host the events.



## GOVERNOR VISITS STATE VETERANS HOME

Last Thursday, SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and Supt. Brad Richardson had the distinct honor to escort Gov. Dennis Daugaard, First Lady Linda, and their staff on a guided tour of the new veterans home. This was the Governor's third visit to the facility since the groundbreaking.

In addition, they toured the biomass plant and the cemetery. If all goes well our heroes will be moved into their new home by Veterans Day!

Others participating in the tour were: Hot Springs Mayor Cindy Donnell, State Engineer James Kliewer, TSP Architect Ron Mielke, Scull Construction's Steve Ivey and Don Carlson and MJFVH staff— Director of Operations Randall Meyers, Physical Plant Manager Tom Inman, Business Manager David Schiefen, and Director of Nursing Sue Beyer.

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman took time during the tour to honor Sandy Huddleston with a pin and certificate honoring his 30 years of service to the state of South Dakota.



## VETERANS COUNCIL ROUND TABLES

The South Dakota Veterans Council will be hosting "Veterans and Legislators Round Tables" in November. The council is comprised of representation from the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order Of The Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

The schedule for the round tables is:

- Wednesday—November 18th—Sioux Falls—(DAV headquarters—1519 W. 51st Street) 11:30 am
- Thursday—November 19th—Watertown—(American Legion Post Home—1412 9th Ave. SW ) 1 pm
- Saturday—November 21st—Rapid City (VFW Post 1273—420 Main Street) 10 am.



## SD GUARD, SURINAME MILITARY DEVELOP LEADERS

Members of the South Dakota National Guard, the Suriname Armed Forces and the Suriname Ministry of Defense participated in a subject matter expert exchange on non-commissioned officer professional development in Paramaribo, Suriname, in September.

South Dakota and Suriname, in coordination with U.S. Southern Command, established a successful security cooperation relationship in 2006 under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

Since then, numerous exchanges have taken place between the SDNG and Suriname's armed forces to share experiences and best practices in a variety of military training and topics.

This exchange included service members Army Master Sgt. Marcus Frey, Air Force Master Sgt. Lori



Hoop and Army Staff Sgt. Richard Watkins.

The SDNG service members were able to observe how the Suriname Army survives in a jungle environment.

The SDNG NCOs exchanged the favor by sharing their leadership techniques when it comes to deploying and leading Soldiers in combat.

Not only do the service members learn more about each other's culture they also develop how to teach soldiers from another country.



## SD VETERANS COMMISSION TO MEET IN NOVEMBER

The South Dakota Veterans Commission will be meeting in Pierre November 16-17. The main focus of their agenda will be the review of their findings on their veterans preference survey. They will also be bringing in representation from state, county, and municipal governments, as well as the schools to visit about veterans preference practices within their respective entities.

The Commission meeting will start at 1:00 pm on Monday, November 16, and should conclude by noon on Tuesday, November 17. The meeting will be held in the conference center of the RedRossa in Pierre (808 W. Sioux Avenue).



## VA ANNOUNCES \$12.8 MILLION IN FUNDING TO HELP THE HOMELESS

United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald announced \$12.8 million in renewal funding through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program to 20 community agencies that currently provide transitional housing with supportive services for homeless Veterans under the Transition in Place (TIP) model.

As a key component of the VA's plan to eliminate homelessness among veterans, VA's GPD program provides per diem payments to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing for specific homeless veteran populations, which includes the innovative TIP approach to assist homeless veterans transition from homelessness. TIP encourages rapid movement from transitional housing to permanent housing which enables veterans to live as independently, as possible, while increasing housing stabilization.

These awards follows an announcement last week of \$4 million in renewal funding through the GPD program to 21 community agencies that currently provide enhanced services for homeless Veterans with special needs.

More information about the VA's homeless programs is available at [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless). Community organizations seeking details and/or more information, may contact the National Grant and Per Diem Program office at <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp> or by calling 1-877-332-0334.

Volunteers of America, Dakotas in Sioux Falls received \$967,888.

## SCHIEFEN JOINS SDDVA TEAM IN HOT SPRINGS

David Schiefen has joined the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs team and will serve as the new business manager at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

"I've enjoyed working with some great leaders within the State of South Dakota for nearly twenty years," said Schiefen.

Schiefen's career with the state began in August 1991 at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. During his tenure there he held various administrative duties. In May 2003 David made the move to Pierre to work for the Department of Corrections, where he served as the Policy and Compliance Manager for nearly five years. In 2008 he joined the Department of Social Services as the Administrator for the Office of Recoveries and Fraud Investigations, a position he held for over three years.

In May of 2011 David moved to Montana to work for the Department of Public Health and Human Services as the Third Party Liability Supervisor.

When asked about his move back to South Dakota, David said, "It's great to be back in South Dakota!"

David's email address is: [david.schiefen@state.sd.us](mailto:david.schiefen@state.sd.us) and his phone number is 605.745.5127 x. 1500114.





## FARGO VA WOMEN VETERANS HONORING and OUTREACH EVENT



The Fargo VA is honored to be partnering with the STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE, Dept. of Veterans Affairs in providing an *Honoring Ceremony* for all WOMEN VETERANS.

**Who:** WOMEN VETERANS who have served in the  
US Armed Forces

**When:** **NOVEMBER 17, 2015**  
**11 AM-2PM**

**Where:** Standing Rock Sioux Administrative Building  
Fort Yates, ND

# WOMEN'S VETERANS HONORING CEREMONY

- Women's Healthcare Education
- Questions answered about CHOICE Program
- VA Photo ID picture taken
- Widow and Survivor Benefits and Education
- Enrollment into VA Healthcare

[For more information please contact:](#)

Standing Rock Sioux Tribal VSO- Manaja Hill: 701-854-8527

Fargo VA Woman Veteran Program Manager- Glenda Trochmann: 701-239-3700 x.3893

**RELATIONSHIP BUILDING STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE  
US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES  
October 14, 2015**

0830 Posting of Colors – American Legion Post 239  
Honor Song – SRST Veteran Employees  
Invocation – Veteran

Welcome – Chairman Dave Archambault II

Introduction of Guests w/Comments

Laxonne Liver sage, Fargo VA

Sandra L. Horsman, VA-BHHCS

James Brubaker, VA-Benefits

Ron Cornelius, Indian Health Service

Invited:

Senator Thune, R-SD

Senator Rounds, R-SD

Senator Heitkamp, D-ND

Senator Hoeven, R-ND

Representative Kramer, R-ND

Representative Kristy Noem, R-SD

0930 **Planning Department, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**- Slide Show Presentation  
Presentation will focus on the economics of the Reservation, demographics, communications, non-health care issues related to health care, generally an overall description of challenges faced on the reservation.

1000 Break

1015 **"Voice of the Veteran"** – Open forum for individual veterans to share their story and issues  
Travel- Claims- Separation Pay –v- Compensation-  
CBOC- Etc....

**Lunch – On Your Own**

1300 **Department of Veterans Affairs, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**- Slide Show Presentation  
Presentation is focused on the program mission, goals and objectives of this two part entity which fall into two categories of operations: a. Non-Profit-Veteran Services and b. For-Profit-Veterans Construction Team.

1330 **Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)**-Veterans Administration and Indian Health Service  
Task Force – who, where, when or develop for tribe, state, region  
Collaborations with staff and facilities  
Initiatives  
Cultural adjustments to VA programs  
Funds paid to IHS

1500 Closing Statements  
Retire Colors

**For Information Contact:** SRST, Department of Veterans Affairs 701-854-8527

## STYX FALLS VA STAND DOWN

SDDVA team members Heather Henderson, Jerry Lemme, Erin Bultje, Dusty Abrahamson and Don Thomson staffed a booth at the Sioux Falls VA Stand Down last week. Pat Kroupa, Minnehaha County Veterans Service Officer, also participated in the Stand Down.

There were over 50 providers available to assist veterans and answer any questions they had with regard to benefits and services.

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety. At secure base camp areas, troops were able to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, mail and receive letters, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a safe environment.

Today, Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help homeless veterans and provide access to the community resources needed to begin addressing their individual problems and rebuilding their lives.



## VABHHCS OFFERS FLU VACCINE CLINICS

Veterans enrolled in VA Health Care may obtain their flu vaccine at any of the upcoming walk-in clinics provided by the VA Black Hills Health Care System. Veterans may also be vaccinated during a regularly scheduled appointment.

### Fort Meade VA Medical Center: Building 113, Room 178

Saturday, October 3, 2015	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Friday, October 30, 2015	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 2015	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday, November 6, 2015	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Hot Springs VA Medical Center: Primary Care, Room A048

Friday, October 30, 2015	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 2015	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday, November 6, 2015	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Rapid City VA Clinic

Friday, October 30, 2015	7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 12, 2015	7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



# Upcoming Events

- Oct. 5—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
 Oct. 6—Project Connect—Sioux Falls—521 N. Main Ave—2nd Floor—9:00 am—1:00 pm (CT)  
 Oct. 9—SFVAHCS Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church in Sioux Falls (3100 W. Ralph Rogers Rd) 9:00 am (CT)  
 Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls  
 Oct. 14—Code Talker Medal Exhibit—Pierre: Indian Learning Center, New Gym—3001 E. Sully Ave. (10-3 CT)  
 Oct. 14—Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Building Relations Session  
 Oct. 21—Code Talker Medal Exhibit—Watertown: Lake Area Technical Institute—1201 Arrow Ave., Student Event Center (level 4) (10-3 CT)  
 Oct. 24—VVA Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting—1519 W. 51st St—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)  
 Oct. 28—Code Talker Medal Exhibit—Sioux Falls: University Center, 4801 N. Career Ave., Admin Bldg. (commons area) (10-3 CT)  
 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

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- 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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