



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



DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR NATIONAL GUARD UNITS

A deployment ceremony will be held for about 165 soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion and its Forward Support Company, Nov. 11, at 3 p.m. (CST) at the Huron Arena.

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the units depart for about a nine month deployment to Kuwait.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, U.S. Sen. John Thune, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

The mission of the Huron-based 153rd is to provide command and control of assigned or attached engineer units. The mission of the Huron- and Parkston-based FSC is to provide logistics and maintenance support.

A community recognition event will also

be held for the FSC, Nov. 11, at 9 a.m. (CST) at the Parkston High School auditorium.

The units will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

This will be the second mobilization for the 153rd which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005. This is the first deployment for the FSC.



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MAKE YOUR BUCKET LIST FOR VETERANS

On Oct. 8, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first Veterans Day Proclamation encouraging widespread observance of this anniversary and asking all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry to join hands in the common purpose.

It's the one day set aside each November to honor those who have served and continue to serve our nation. The holiday also offers a great opportunity to remind Americans about the sacrifices service members and their families make year-round, year-after-year.

Everyone has a bucket list — with adventurous things they want to accomplish in their lifetime — new job, expanding education, travel, new food venues, and crazy fun challenges.

How about considering a bucket list for meaningful things you can do throughout the year for our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for our country. While a simple "thank you" is always a good way to show your support, there are many more personal ways you can demonstrate, all year-long, your appreciation to those who have served — display your American flag, teach your children about veterans and the sacrifices they have made, attend a Veterans Day program, take a moment of silence to remember those who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom, take a veteran to breakfast or lunch, take a veteran some homemade treats, give a veteran a gift card, visit a local retirement home and chat with some of the elderly veterans, volunteer at a VA Hospital, mow a veteran's lawn, shovel a veteran's sidewalk, take groceries to a veteran, support a veterans service organization project that benefits veterans, or take a veteran to a ballgame.

Or how about learning more about the veterans in your family — ask them to share their story. Spencer Kimball once said, "I promise that if you will keep your journals and records, they will indeed be a source of great inspiration to your families, to your children, your grandchildren, and others. Each of us is important to those who are near and dear to us and as our posterity reads of our life's experiences, they too will come to know and love us." It is important for the legacy of our veterans to be shared with all generations. We need to hear first-hand the entries in their journal in life.

How many of you know how many veterans you have in your church, your school, your neighborhood, your community? The "Veterans Bucket List" is a great way to help you find those heroes in your community and show your appreciation.

If you own your own business, how about adding hiring a veteran to your bucket list or put a sign in your window that thanks veterans for their service.

Alexander Graham Bell once said, "The achievement of one goal should be the starting point of another." You can achieve your first goal by attending a Veterans Day program in your community and your starting point could be your "Veterans Bucket List." Let's remember our heroes all year around, not just on Veterans Day.



Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

FETTE HONORED FOR HIS SERVICE TO VETERANS



SDDVA Staff gathered today to bid farewell and to thank John Fette for his service to the Department and his service to South Dakota's veterans.

Fette, began his public service in 1968 when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served boots on the ground in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and is a decorated recipient of the Purple Heart.

John is a credentialed minister and has served as chaplain in the South Dakota State Legislature since 1989 and has held the office of chief chaplain in the State House of Rep-

representatives for three years.

He started his career with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004; and has served as the administrator of the state's bonus program during that tenure. He has served on South Dakota's Homeless Consortium and the Second Chance Reentry Program.

John's commitment to enhance the lives of veterans doesn't end at work; he is a life member of the Pierre Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, the State Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2038, and is a member of the American Legion Post #8.



we wish him the best wishes and an enjoyable retirement.

SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN OPERATION ENGAGE AMERICA

SDDVA State Veterans Service Officer Erin Bultje represented the Department at the Operation Engage America's Operation Warming Hearts outreach event in Sioux City, Iowa this week.

Veterans and their families were provided a delicious warm meal, and had the opportunity to visit numerous information booths and receive winter clothing items.

This resource fair offers support, awareness, education and resources for veterans, first responders and their families living with post traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury and for those in the community who want to support them and be a

part of the solution. Their mission is to "Engage, Connect, and Educate."

OEA's next event will be held Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, at Liberty Elementary School in Sioux City, IA from 5:30pm-7:30pm.



OFFICES CLOSED SO STAFF CAN OBSERVE VETERANS DAY

The SDDVA and SDDOM Offices will be closed Friday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.



Veterans Conference

NOVEMBER 10 & 11

ALL VETERANS WELCOME

Breakfast & Lunch
Provided



Veterans are to
wear fatigues

UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS

REGISTRATION

Veterans
Pre-Register: \$10 per person
At the Door : \$20 per person
Non-Veterans
\$20 per person

CONTACT INFO

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NON-PROFIT NIGHT



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SIOUX FALLS SKYFORCE

FRIDAY | **7:00** | **SANFORD**
JANUARY 6TH | TIPOFF | PENTAGON

\$10 TICKETS

UPPER SECTION | NORMALLY \$20 EACH

\$3 FROM EACH TICKET WILL BE DONATED TO
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
ARRIVE EARLY AND STOP
BY DAV'S TABLE IN THE
PENTAGON FRONT LOBBY!



AFFILIATE OF THE
MIAMI HEAT

VS



AFFILIATE OF THE
DALLAS MAVERICKS

ORDER TICKETS:
FILL OUT ORDER FORM BELOW
AND RETURN TO THE SKYFORCE
OFFICE (2131 S. MINNESOTA AVE., SIOUX FALLS)
OR CONTACT JACK AT
(605) 332-0605 OR
JACK@SKYFORCEONLINE.COM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

of Tickets: _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Payment Information

Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Discover _____ Cash/Check _____

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ VIN Code _____

\$3 of each ticket sold goes back to 

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 7-8—SDDVA Refresher Training for CTVSOs—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)
 Nov. 10—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—Rapid City—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
 Nov. 11—Veterans Day
 Nov. 12—Tribute to the Troops—SD Air and Space Museum Ellsworth AFB—9:00 am (MT)
 Nov. 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
 Dec. 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—Hot Springs (Lower Level Conference Room)—10:00 am—3:00 pm (MT)
 Dec. 6—Governor's Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)
 Dec. 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre—10:00 am—3:00 pm—(CT)
 Dec. 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—VFW (209 Cedar Street) Yankton—10:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
 Dec. 12—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony—Flaming Fountain—Capitol Lake—Pierre—11:00 am (CT)
 Dec. 14—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Sioux Falls DAV—12:00 noon (CT)
 Dec. 15—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Watertown American legion—12:00 noon (CT)
 Dec. 17—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Rapid City VFW—10:00 am (MT)

2017

- Jan. 10 - Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
 Jan. 11—SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Reception—5:00 pm—8:00 pm (CT)
 Jan. 30—VFW Legislative Reception—AmericInn—Fort Pierre
 Feb. 1—American Legion Legislative Reception—American Legion Post 8 Cabin—Pierre (520 S. Pierre Street) - 5:30 pm (CT)
 Feb. 4—Valentines for Veterans Concert—Sioux Falls Washington Pavilion—3:00 pm (CT)
 Feb 10-12—SD American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
 Jun 15-18—SD American Legion State Conference—Watertown

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