



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



## REPUBLIC OF CHINA MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

South Dakota veterans who served in Taiwan between 1955-1979 may be eligible for the Republic of China Mutual Defense Commemorative Badge.

From 1955 to 1979, a Mutual Defense Treaty was established between the United States of America and the Republic of China (ROC), which protected Taiwan from invasion in the aftermath of the Chinese Civil war.

The Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of China has produced the "U.S.-R.O.C. Mutual Defense Commemorative Badge" to express the appreciation for the contribution to maintain the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, made by all American soldiers who served in Taiwan during that period.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, is asking the county and tribal veterans service officers to help find these heroes so that they can be awarded this



medal.

"Recognizing these heroes provides us an opportunity to thank and honor the sacrifices they made," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Every veteran has a story to tell and along with that military service comes a variety of medals and awards".

In addition, the Ministry also produced "Honor Medal for 823 Bombardment" for those who helped Taiwan defend itself during the 1958 Taiwan Strait Crisis.

Veterans that served during this time frame are encourage to contact their local county or tribal veterans service officer for an application. Veterans will need a copy of their DD214 form as well.

"Recognition such as this, ties the past to the present and it makes sure people understand the sacrifice underlying the freedom and democracy this nation enjoys," said Zimmerman.

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## STEFFENS RETIRES



Residents and employees at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home gathered last Friday to say good bye to Mat Steffens and wish him the best in his retirement.

Mat has served as the veterans service officer at the Home and has worked closely with numerous veterans and their families.

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman and Superintendent Richardson presented Mat with certificates of appreciation for all that he has done to enhance the lives of our veterans.

## COMMUNITY OF WAGNER RECOGNIZES LOCAL GUARD UNIT

Sunday afternoon while many of us were watching football, the community of Wagner hosted an event to recognize the South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company.

Approximately 155 soldiers, assigned to the Rapid City and Wagner-based 155th, returned home in July from supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (Spartan Shield). The 155th mobilized to Kuwait in August 2015 where they provided engineer support in the construction of base camps and internment facilities, as well as constructing, repairing, and maintaining other vertical infrastructures in support of units within a brigade combat team, division or corps.



Kevin Bowen and Todd Breen



Don Hosek and Kevin Bowen

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen and Charles Mix County VSO Todd Breen were on hand to visit with veterans about programs and services.

Wagner Mayor Don Hosek, a Vietnam Veteran, was the keynote speaker for the celebration. Field Officer Bowen took this opportunity to thank Mr. Hosek for his service to this great county and to present him with a commemorative Vietnam Veteran lapel pin.

## JAVA WITH GOODSPEED

Darwin Goodspeed, Director of the Sioux Falls Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System, invites veterans to visit with him over coffee at the courthouse in Aberdeen on October 14, 2016, from 1:00-3:00 PM

Mr. Goodspeed will be available to talk with veterans and their family members about what's going on at the local VA and answer questions about health care benefits.



## SD WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The South Dakota Funeral Directors Association will hold their annual Wreath Laying Ceremony on Monday, December 12, 2016, at 11:00 am (CT).

Their ceremony is held in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America Project.

The ceremony will be held at the Flaming Fountain Veterans Memorial on Capital Lake in Pierre.

For more information, please contact Tammy Kerr, Executive Director of the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association (605-246-9466).



# SVRC STUDENT VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER

USD Honors Military Service

Center for Continuing Education - Room 117D  
SVRC Phone: 605.677.3944  
E-Mail: SVRC@usd.edu



## VETERANS AND MILITARY RESOURCE FAIR

18 ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING!  
OPEN TO STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 20TH  
3PM-6PM

WHERE:  
USD Campus  
Student Veterans Resource Center  
Temporary Student Center Room 117D  
Address: 414 E. Clark St.  
Phone: 605-677-3944

### Organizations include:

- American Legion
- American Red Cross
- Army OneSource
- Clay County Veterans Service Officer
- Disabled Veterans (DAV)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- SD Department of Labor
- SD Department of Veterans Affairs
- SD Family Assistance Center
- SD VA Health Care System
- Sioux Falls Vet Center
- Student Veterans America / USD Vet Club
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Volunteers of America - Veterans Outreach
- Wounded Warriors
- 211 Helpline - Military and Family Support

# Upcoming Events

- Oct. 18-19—South Dakota Veterans Commission Meeting—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre 1:00 pm (CT)  
 Nov. 1—Operation Engage America—Sioux City, IA  
 Nov. 7-8—SDDVA Refresher Training for CTVSOs—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)  
 Nov. 11—Veterans Day  
 Nov. 12—Tribute to the Troops—SD Air and Space Museum Ellsworth AFB—9:00 am (MT)  
 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

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer  
 South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>  
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>  
 Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue  
 Pierre, SD 57501  
 Phone: 605-773-8242  
 E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

