



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



## REDEDICATION OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Veterans from across South Dakota, and some from neighboring states, gathered on the northwest shore of Capitol Lake in Pierre last weekend for the rededication of the South Dakota Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The memorial, a 7-foot tall, combat weary soldier holding dog tags of a fallen comrade, was unveiled September of 2006. It is a tribute to the veterans who returned home from war. The Memorial takes one soldier, as a symbol of the many South Dakotans who served during the violent conflict, and elevates him to the status they all deserve: brave individuals who served their country at a time when it took as much courage to come home as it did to fight.

Joe Gerlach, of Pierre, was the organizer of the weekend celebration which included a block party, parade, dedication ceremony and concert in the park.

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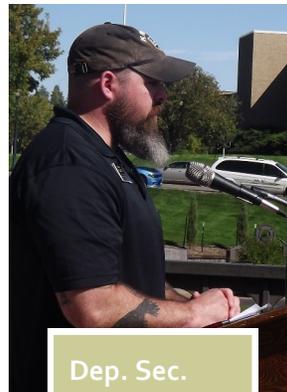
# RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY



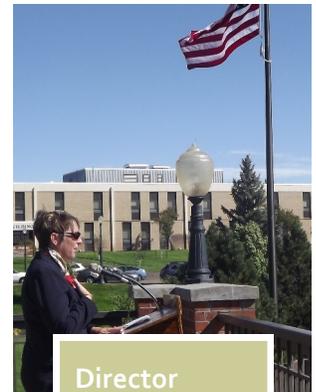
Senator Rounds



Sec. Zimmerman



Dep. Sec. Pollard



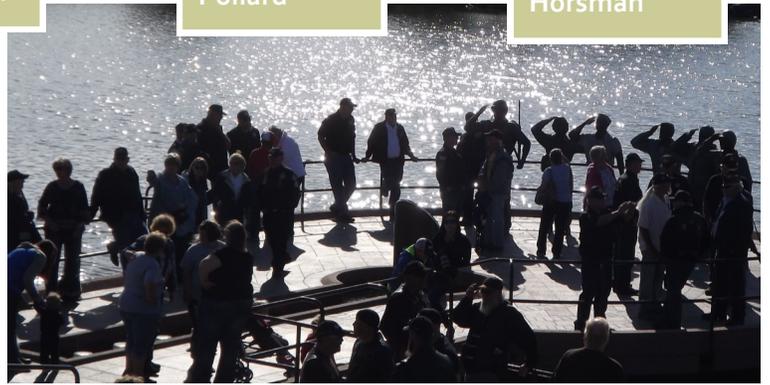
Director Horsman

Keynote speakers for the rededication ceremony included: Senator Mike Rounds, SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman, SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard, VABHCS Director Sandra Horsman, Janella Apodaca Rose from the National Alliance of Families and retired Brigadier General Jeff Marlette.

Although all the speakers messages were different; they all shared the same theme: today is about you, this statue is about you, - your honor, your sacrifices and your service.

Secretary Zimmerman and Director Horsman presented all of the Vietnam Veterans present with a United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration pin. SDDVA has additional pins if you know of some Vietnam Veterans that have not received one. (Information about the pin is posted on the next page.

Steve Novotny concluded the ceremony with a flyover in his helicopter and the playing of "Taps." During the Vietnam Conflict helicopters flew soldiers in and out of battle.



# The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

## Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin



*"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"*

**Front**



**Back**

**Purpose:** To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

**Eligibility:** Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

**Presentation:** These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.

**Symbolism:**

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.

# TRIBUTE TO THE TROOPS

## HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED SINCE 9/11

WHEN: Saturday, November 12

WHERE: South Dakota Air & Space Museum

Social from 9 AM to 9:45 AM with refreshments and coffee.

Program with SD Secretary of Veteran Affairs Larry Zimmerman and four veteran speakers who served since 9/11; Erin Dreis, Travis Bolt, Bob Liebman, and Branden Stackenwalt .

All are welcome to join together to thank those who have served since 9/11/01 with a special program in conjunction with the Black Hills Veterans Writing Group.



## CIVIL AIR PATROL UNIT IN SD WINS QUALITY CADET UNIT AWARD

Congratulations to the Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Rushmore Composite Squadron, "Home of the Wolf Pack". In recognition of the outstanding contributions of its cadets, officers, sponsors, parents, friends and supporters the squadron has been awarded CAP's Quality Cadet Unit Award for 2015-2016 for their vibrant and diverse cadet programs! The Rushmore Composite Squadron was the only unit in the South Dakota Wing to be so honored.

The squadron, one of six in South Dakota, is on Ellsworth Air Force Base. The unit's 66 members consist of 45 senior members and 21 cadets. Commander Captain Mike Johnson praised his unit saying, "We have been honored nationally as a squadron that truly values and embodies the development of the vital cadet program. This award is tangible recognition of the many contributions of our cadets who run the day-to-day operations of this essential segment of our CAP mission."

The Civil Air Patrol was officially designated the official Air Force Auxiliary by Congress in May 1948 when they were given three core missions – emergency services, cadet programs and aerospace education. In 2015, CAP became part of the Air Force's "Total Force" which also includes active-duty, Guard and Reserve members.



## POTLUCK AT THE STATE VETERANS HOME

Last week, residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home hosted the first-ever all-household potluck. Many times, neighborhoods have potlucks, but this was the first time that all of the households came together for an all facility potluck. Can't you just imagine the aromas that filled the hallways? Residents dishes included: chili, nachos, frog-eyed salad, macaroni salad, lettuce salad, brownies, cookies, banana bread, apple cinnamon cake, and carrot cake.



## POW/MIA RECOGNITION CEREMONY AND AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED AT VETERANS HOME

Last week, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home hosted a birthday party for the United States Air Force. In addition they had a ceremony honoring our POW/MIAs.

Cutting the cake was Superintendent Richardson, the oldest and youngest USAF resident and a USAF member from the University of South Dakota.



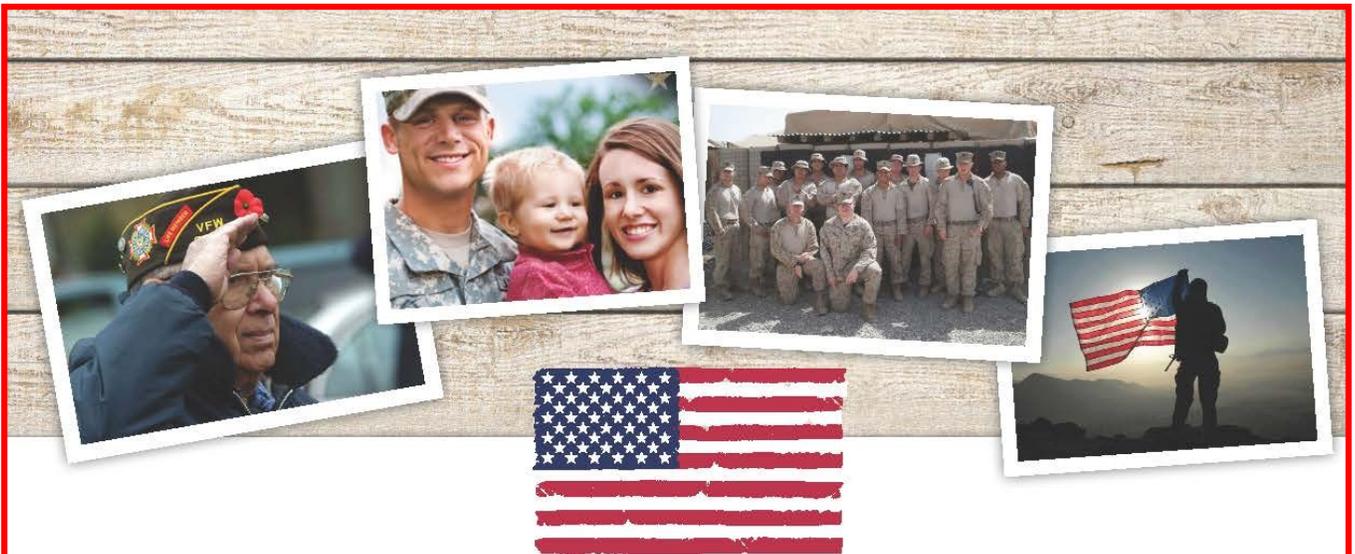
## REPAIRS MADE AT STATE VETERANS CEMETERY

This week staff of the maintenance department at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home dedicated time to clean up and make repairs at the State Veterans Cemetery.

Staff worked on cleaning the headstones, resetting headstones that have settled/shifted, trimming trees and cleaning up the grounds.

This project takes about two weeks to complete. Our hats off to the team working on this project to ensure our heroes are taken care of.





# Siouxland Veterans and Military Families

**Join us for a Free Dinner, Groceries  
Boots for Military Kids and Resource Fair!**

**Tuesday, November 1**

Doors open: 5:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: American Red Cross, 4200 War Eagle Dr. Sioux City

*To receive event updates via email, send request to [siouxlandtroops@gmail.com](mailto:siouxlandtroops@gmail.com)*



# Upcoming Events

- Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
 Oct. 8—DAV Fall Conference—DAV—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)  
 Oct. 18-19—South Dakota Veterans Commission Meeting—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre 1:00 pm (CT)  
 Nov. 7-8—SDDVA Refresher Training for CTVSOs—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)  
 Dec. 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—Hot Springs—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—Yankton—10:00 am—3:00 pm (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)  
 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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