



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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MAKES CONTRIBUTION TO MJFSVH FOUNDATION

Mike Smith and Roseanne Summerside from the First Congregational Church in Pierre donated funds to the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home Foundation.

Smith and Summerside presented SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman and Deputy Secretary Pollard with their donation this week.

Members of First Congregational Church held a fund raiser on Veterans Day with the proceeds going to the Foundation. This is the second year that they have made a donation to the foundation.



Inside this issue:

SD Veterans Commission Meeting	2
Zimmerman Participates in SDPB "In the Moment" Program	2
VA Presumptives Ruling	3
Civil Air Patrol	3
Upcoming Events	4

VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING

The South Dakota Veterans Commission met in Pierre this week. Commissioners attended the SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Reception on Wednesday evening and then met on Thursday morning.

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman provided the Commission with an update on the South Dakota legislative session as well as reviewed some of the bills that had been introduced. He noted that the Veterans Council is working on two legislative issues — nursing beds in eastern South Dakota and a East River Veterans Cemetery.

Secretary Zimmerman also briefed the Commission on the State Veterans Home, South Dakota Joining Forces and the VA's decision on the reconfiguration of the VABHHCS.

Commissioner Parr provided a Veterans Council update.

Materials from the Commission meeting can be found at: <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/aboutsddva/veterans%20commission.aspx>.

The SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative reception held this week was a huge success with twice the number of legislators attending.



ZIMMERMAN PARTICIPATES IN SDPB'S "IN THE MOMENT" PROGRAM

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman participated in South Dakota Public Broadcasts "In the Moment" program this week. Much of the interview focused on legislative session.

You can listen to him live at: <http://listen.sdpb.org/.../momentsd-attorney-general-veterans...> — space over to 17:05 to hear his message about care for veterans in South Dakota.



VA RULE ESTABLISHES A PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINANTS IN THE WATER SUPPLY AT CAMP LEJEUNE

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions: adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease.

Environmental health experts in the VA's Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later.

FIVE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LEGISLATORS JOIN CIVIL AIR PATROL

Five state legislators have joined the Legislative Squadron of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The five are: Sen. Ernie Otten, Rep. Jack Kolbeck, Rep. Kevin Jensen, Rep. Dan Ahlers and Rep. Sue Peterson.

Membership in the South Dakota Legislative Squadron is open to state legislators and elected state officials and their key staff members. Legislative Squadron members hold the honorary grade of major and are authorized to ride in CAP aircraft and participate in CAP activities.

At present there are 30 members in the South Dakota Wing's Legislative Squadron.



Upcoming Events

2017

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

April 19—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)

Jun 15-18—SD American Legion State Conference—Watertown

Aug. 14-17—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre—Ramkota



SDDVA's Offices will be closed Monday, January 16, in honor of Martin Luther King Day

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

