



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



VA RECOGNIZES EXPOSURE TO WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 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. are effective as of this week.

“Establishing these presumptions is a demonstration of our commitment to care for those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin. “The Camp Lejeune presumptions will make it easier for those veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

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
- Parkinson’s disease

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

This presumption complements the health care already provided for 15 illnesses or conditions as part of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. The Camp Lejeune Act requires the VA to provide health care to veterans who served at Camp Lejeune, and to reimburse family members, or pay providers, for medical expenses for those who resided there for not fewer than 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.

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SDPB TO BRING “THE WALL THAT HEALS” TO CHAMBERLAIN IN AUGUST

In conjunction with **The Vietnam War**, a new 10-part documentary film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick premiering this fall on SDPB, South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) has arranged to bring *The Wall That Heals*, a 250-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to Chamberlain on August 10-13, 2017.

The Wall That Heals, a half-scale replica of the “The Wall” in Washington, D.C., will be on display at the I-90 Information Center and Rest Area at Chamberlain, near the Dignity sculpture. The exhibit is part of SDPB’s statewide outreach effort to honor veterans from the Vietnam era, Gold Star families, and others affected by the Vietnam War.

The Wall That Heals, and its accompanying Education Center, honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War. It bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

“South Dakota has a long tradition of honoring its veterans and others involved in war. Being able to bring *The Wall That Heals* to South Dakota is a thrill and an honor for South Dakota Public Broadcasting,” says Julie Overgaard, Executive Director of SDPB. “We’re grateful to have a scenic location that will make *The Wall That Heals* accessible to thousands of South Dakotans and visitors to our state.”

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most visited memorials in our nation’s capital, with more than 5.6 million visitors each year. However, many Americans have not been able to visit what has become known to many as “The Wall.” The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), the organization that built The Wall in 1982, wants to give all veterans and their family members all across America an opportunity to see the Memorial. Hosting *The Wall That Heals* provides South Dakota with a multi-day experience that includes an educational experience for local schools and organizations on the history of the Vietnam era and The Wall.

Plans for the display of the replica in Chamberlain will include arrival and departure ceremonies. Local residents and retired and active military personnel will staff *The Wall That Heals* 24-hours a day during its time in Chamberlain.

The Wall That Heals will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. *The Wall That Heals* honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.



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SDPB TO BRING “THE WALL THAT HEALS” TO CHAMBERLAIN IN AUGUST (CONTINUED)

“Taking *The Wall That Heals* on the road gives thousands more veterans and their family members an opportunity to see The Wall and honor those who have served and sacrificed so much,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. “It helps veterans from all of America’s conflicts to find healing and a powerful connection through their common military experiences.”

“More than 200,000 people visited *The Wall That Heals* in 2016. Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in nearly 500 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. Hosting *The Wall That Heals* provides a community with a multi-day experience that includes an educational experience for local schools and organizations on the history of the Vietnam era and The Wall. The exhibit includes The Wall replica and a mobile Education Center comprised of:

digital displays of photos of service members whose names are on The Wall; letters and memorabilia left at The Wall in D.C.; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

VVMF coordinates local stops of *The Wall That Heals* and the accompanying mobile Education Center. The current schedule and more information can be found at: www.thewallthatheals.org. The 2017 national *The Wall That Heals* tour is hauled through a partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA) and generously sponsored by: USAA, PBS, and GEICO. The appearance in South Dakota is made possible by Friends of SDPB.



SCHEDULE CHANGES AT WAGNER OUTREACH CLINIC

Beginning April 3, 2017, the Wagner clinic will be open full days on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays as well as Wednesday mornings. It will be closed Fridays and Wednesday afternoons.

During the time the clinic is closed, all calls will be transferred to the regional Nurse Triage Call Center. Wagner clinic staff will also be working with veterans to reschedule their Friday telehealth appointments. If this is not possible, hours will be readjusted to ensure an RN is present for the appointment.

When the clinic is closed, the LPN and MSA will be doing non-direct patient work and additional tasks being determined by Sioux Falls VA leadership.



WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR THE SFVAHCS ART SHOW

The SFVAHC hosted their annual creative arts competition last Thursday. With over 70 entries, judges were challenged to select the winners.

In the Veterans Division, Monty Colvin was recognized for his eagle sculpture entitled, *Last Act of Defiance*. First through third award winners in the veterans division were:

1st place—Gary Conradi for his pelican photograph entitled “*Watchful*.”

2nd place—Darla Larsen for her farm painting entitled “*A Fall Memory*.”

3rd place—Morris Jorgensen for his stained glass sculpture entitled “*Chain Around my Heart*.”

In the employee division, Erin McClaren was recognized for her counter cross stitch entitled “*Camelot*.” First through third award winners in the employee division were:

1st place—Darcy Millette for acrylic and pencil flowers entitled “*Floral Study*.”

2nd place—Lonny Bauer for the oil painting entitled “*Star Spangled Buffalo*.”

3rd place—Tim Fitz for his wood and wire sculpture entitled “*Dakota Wind Trees*.”

Nationwide, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help veterans

recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Across the country each year, veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition. The competition includes 51 categories in the visual arts division this year that range from oil

painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are 100 categories in the performing arts pertaining to all aspects of music, dance, drama and creative writing. Through a national judging process, first, second and third place entries in each category are determined.



Upcoming Events

- Mar. 17—Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Code Talker Honoring Ceremony—Wakpala School Auditorium—1:00 pm
Mar. 29—"Clay County's Fallen" Research Contest—USD School of Education—Room 118—Vermillion—5:00-8:00 pm (CT)
Apr. 13—SFVAHCS Veterans Town Hall—Dakota Playhouse—DSU Campus—Madison—5:00 pm (CT) with Benefits Fair at 4:00 pm (CT)
Apr. 13 Purple Up for Military Kids Day
Apr. 19—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Apr 28-30—DAV Annual Convention—AmericInn—Fort Pierre
May 12—Improving Combat Veterans Care—Sioux Falls University Center
Jun 15-18—SD American Legion State Conference—Watertown
Jun 22-25—State VFW Convention—Pierre
Aug. 14-17—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre—Ramkota

Here's
What's
Happening!



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