

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



FLAG FLIES HIGH AT STATE VETERANS HOME



A new 88-foot flag pole has been raised at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. Eight feet of the pole and 14 yards of concrete serve as the underground foundation for the pole.

The flag pole was donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department and Auxiliary of South Dakota. VFW 3442 Custer Post donated the 20 x 38 foot Garrison flag that will fly from this pole.

The dedication ceremony for the flagpole will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2017, at 1:00 pm (MT) at the

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Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Our sincere thanks to these great partners who donated this magnificent gift to our Home.



VA PRIORITIZES IMPROVING VETERANS' ACCESS TO PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), together with the American Bar Association, The Veterans Consortium and National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium, signed a Memorandum of Agreement aimed at improving veterans' access to free legal services.

Veterans often face stressful legal problems — such as eviction, foreclosure, child support, or drivers' license revocations — that can affect their ability to gain or maintain employment and housing or focus on medical treatment. In the VA's annual Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups survey, legal assistance repeatedly tops the list of homeless veterans' unmet needs.


"We are encouraging the VA Medical Centers and other VA facilities to engage with their local communities to establish legal clinics and Medical Legal Partnerships to address veterans' legal needs that threaten their health and well-being," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "By signing this agreement, we are documenting a shared commitment to better facilitate veterans' access to legal services."

Currently, the VA hosts at least 165 free legal clinics in its VA Medical Centers, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Vet Centers across the country by partnering with external, legal-service providers, such as local bar associations, legal-aid organizations and law school clinics. More information on VA's coordination of legal services for Veterans at VA facilities may be found at <https://www.va.gov/OGC/LegalServices.asp>.

STAMPEDE MILITARY/VETERAN'S APPRECIATION NIGHT

The Stampede Military/Veteran's Appreciation Night will be held on Saturday, December 9, at 7:05 PM at the Denny Sanford Premier Center. For this special event, local businesses sponsor tickets so that veterans, active military personnel, and their families can attend the game for free.



For tickets, please contact (605) 336-6060 or (712) 470-1653.



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SCHEDULED

Saturday, December 9, 2017 7:05PM CT
vs. YOUNGSTOWN PHANTOMS
DENNY SANFORD PREMIER CENTER

VALLETTE JOINS PENNINGTON COUNTY TEAM

Thomas Vallette (Tom) is the newest Pennington County Veterans Service Officer (backrow—right side).

Tom served in the United States Air Force from 2000 until 2006 as an F-16 Crew Chief. Tom deployed to Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2005.

Following his rewarding military service, Tom pursued a bachelor's degree from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. Following his educational endeavor, Tom worked as an accountant, followed by work in the corrections field.

Please join SDDVA in welcoming Tom to the South Dakota veteran network.

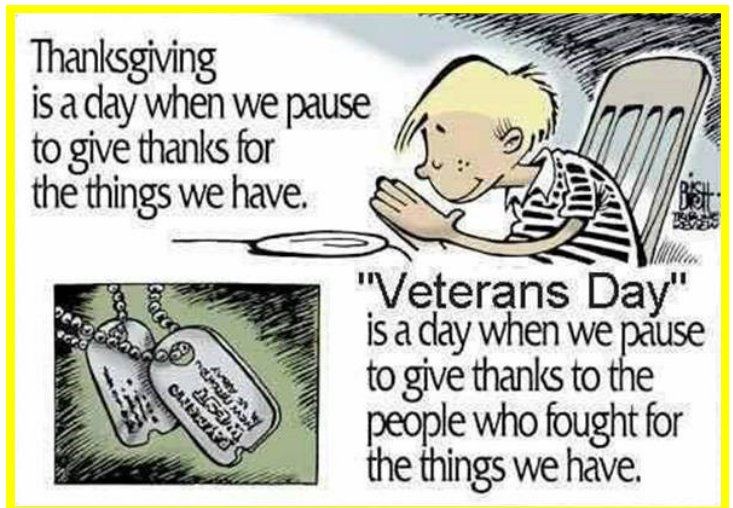


Upcoming Events

Nov 23-24—State Offices Closed
 Dec 2-3—Yellow Ribbon for the 153rd EN—Mitchell
 Dec 5—Governor's Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)
 Dec 12—SDDVA Mini Conference via Skype—10:00 am (CT)
 Dec 18-19—SDDVA Staff in training
 December 25-26—State Offices Closed

2018

Jan 1—State Offices Closed
 Jan 9—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
 Jan 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—RedRossa in Pierre—9:00 am (CT)
 Jan 10—SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Reception—RedRossa in Pierre—5:00—8:00 pm (CT)
 Jan 18—SD American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre—5:00 pm (CT)
 Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre AmericInn
 Jan 29—VFW Legislative Reception—AmericInn—Ft. Pierre—6:00 pm—7:30 pm (CT)
 Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
 Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
 Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls
 Aug 20-24—SDDVA Benefits School—Ramkota—Pierre



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