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T.F. Riggs High School Recognized as National Veterans Day Regional Site for Second Time

PIERRE, S.D. – T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre was recently notified by United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald that for the second time, Riggs was selected as a designated regional site for the observance of Veterans Day by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Day National Committee. Riggs was one of more than 40 designated sites nationwide, and the only site in South Dakota.

Each year, the Veterans Day National Committee reviews submissions from across the nation that represent fitting tributes to America's heroes. This is the second year that the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs applied for and secured the designation on behalf of the T.F. Riggs High School ceremony.

"My sincerest congratulations to Jay Mickelson and his team for showcasing a great ceremony each year," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Veterans of our armed forces deserve our utmost appreciation, and I'm proud that T. F. Riggs has been recognized as a leader in displaying our state and nation's gratitude."

This year's program will focus on honoring South Dakota's Korean War Veterans and will be held in the T. F. Riggs High School Theater (1010 E. Broadway Ave. in Pierre). Pierre City Band will begin playing patriotic music selections at 10:15 a.m. CST, with the program starting at 11 a.m. The Bells of Remembrance will ring at 11-11-11.

"How wonderful it is to be recognized again as a regional site for the celebration of Veterans Day," said Jay Mickelson. Mickelson, a teacher at T.F. Riggs and enthusiastic community leader, has served as coordinator of the community Veterans Day program since 2001.

"It will be especially meaningful to honor those who fought during the 'Forgotten War,'" said Mickelson. "We are losing these heroes at a rate of 800 per day in the United States. It is our duty to hold high their service to our nation."

The South Dakota Fallen Heroes banner exhibit will be on display in the atrium of the theatre.