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(South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

## **National Military Appreciation Month**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – At the encouragement of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed May as “National Military Appreciation Month,” a time for all to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate those who have served in the past and those now serving, as well as their families.

“The vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of freedom, security and prosperity enjoyed by the people of this great nation,” the Governor’s proclamation states. “The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members and their families.”

National Military Appreciation Month includes: Loyalty Day on May 1, Victory in Europe Day on May 8, Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 6, Armed Forces Day on May 21 and Memorial Day on May 30.

These days provide an opportunity to learn more about military members and the families who have given of themselves to support and defend the principles we hold dear.

“The month of May provides a great opportunity to remember, honor and pay tribute to our nation’s heroes – heroes who set aside their personal safety to defend and protect their family, their community and their nation from those who would threaten our way of life,” said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “As Americans, we could not enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty without the service of these men and women fulfilling an extraordinary duty.”

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