



**SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

425 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
OFFICE: 605.773.8242  
FAX: 605.773.5380  
<http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017

**For more information, contact:** Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)  
(South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

## **State Veterans Home Staff Recognized**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The Great Plains Quality Innovation Network awarded the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home with the “Gold Milestone,” an award that recognizes the outstanding achievements and efforts to improve the quality of care and quality of life for veterans home residents.

”This award is a culmination of all departments at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home coming together as a team striving for excellence,” said Superintendent Brad Richardson.

Great Plains QIN works with healthcare providers and communities to implement data-driven quality initiatives to improve healthcare. They offer technical assistance, tailored education, best practices, tools and resources. Through these efforts, they work with the MJFSVH staff to improve patient safety, reduce harm and improve clinical care.

The QIO Program, one of the largest federal programs dedicated to improving health quality for Medicare beneficiaries, is an integral part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) National Quality Strategy for providing better care and better health. By law, the mission of the QIO Program is to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, economy and quality of services delivered to Medicare beneficiaries.

“The state home has a great team of professionals,” said Larry Zimmerman, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “They have panned some ‘gold’ by coming together and being an outstanding lineup that pressed their way to the top.”

-30-

For more information, please contact Audry Ricketts with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs at 605-773-8242 or [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us).