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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 and the South Dakota Department of the Military, 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 12, Armed Forces Day on May 20 and Memorial Day on May 29.

"It is certainly fitting to dedicate a month to consider all of the ways that members of our armed forces both past and present have earned and preserved our American way of life," said Adjutant General Timothy Reisch, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military. "We also honor in a special way, the many contributions and tremendous support of our military family members without whom our service would be impossible."

The days provide an opportunity to honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate those who serve and have served. These men and women continue to play a major role in the development of our country documented through a history of uncompromising honor, dedication to duty and genuine love of country, according to South Dakota Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Zimmerman.

“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. “These men and women step forward every day to train, fight and defend our freedoms.”