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## **GOVERNOR DAUGAARD PROCLAIMS WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed Friday, March 30, 2018, as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day,” calling on all South Dakotans to recognize the courage, service and sacrifice of the men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

Some served as ground troops in a combat capacity in country, some were a mile off shore in a Navy ship providing gunfire support, some were air support, while others provided the necessary support roles both in Vietnam, other nearby posts and some back in the States that are so vital during a foreign engagement. Whatever the specific method of service, all were affected in some way by that experience.

“Through the establishment of an annual statewide Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans recognition day, South Dakotans can continue to express their appreciation and honor the men and women who served during the Vietnam War,” said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, and our partners, have dedicated the last two years honoring our Vietnam Veterans by presenting them with a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative pin,” said Zimmerman. “Thanking veterans is one of the most rewarding tasks that I have afforded with my duties. They have earned our respect and our gratitude”

“It is important that we pause, remember and recognize the bravery of all who served and to do all we can to help heal the wounds of war,” said Zimmerman. “Although their service can never be repaid, America must never forget their service.”