



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
Fax: 605-773-5380
<http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, August 22, 2018

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

Mike Maske Receives 2018 SDDVA Employee of the Year Award

PIERRE, S.D. – Michael Maske of Sioux Falls has been named the 2018 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Employee of the Year. Maske was recognized by his peers at SDDVA's annual benefit conference Monday, Aug. 20, in Pierre.

Mike serves as a field service officer for the Department and covers the I-29 corridor, representing over 31,000 veterans. Mike began his career with the Department in 2013 as a claims examiner and later was promoted to state veterans service officer and field service officer.

Key Achievements of the Employee of the Year:

Exceeding expectations regarding veteran's issues.

Commitment to, and enthusiasm for the Department's mission statement.

Job knowledge.

Outstanding outreach efforts.

Involvement and active participation with service organizations.

Growing relationship with T/CVSOs.

"Mike Maske lives to be the voice for veterans," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "His knowledge skills and abilities are recognized and respected by all of us. He is a welcome sign whenever he and his service dog, Gunner, appear!"

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and its partners assist South Dakota veterans in receiving over \$650 million in annual benefits.. The Department's mission is to be the voice for South Dakota's veterans. Visit us online at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.