



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT HONOR RIDE

This Sunday, June 30, is the fourth annual Honor Ride!

Registration begins at 1:00 PM at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc. (they will be open for lunch before registration begins).

This ride provides a great opportunity to honor a veteran you know and ride to raise funds for Midwest Honor Flight.

Ride includes a slow salute past the Sioux Falls VA Hospital and to the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Each participant will receive a meal ticket for after the ride, a rocker patch for the 2024 event, and a raffle ticket.

Participants are encouraged to bring along a picture of a veteran they wish to honor during the ride.

"RIDING TO KEEP THEM FLYING"



HONOR RIDE
MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT



Sunday, June 30, 2024 | 2:30 PM

Registration begins at 1:00 PM at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (they will be open for lunch at 12:00 PM). Honor a Veteran you know and ride to raise funds for Midwest Honor Flight. Ride includes a slow salute past the Sioux Falls VA Hospital before a ceremony at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. A meal is included after the ride.

MORE INFORMATION:

MIDWESTHONORFLIGHT.ORG/RIDE

All proceeds from this event go directly towards future Honor Flights and more importantly, our local Veterans.

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SDDVA UPDATE

There have been some new players added to the team at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Office in Sioux Falls. New to the claims examiner division are Amanda Lemme and Therenia Struck.

Both are anxious to share their skills and assist our veterans and our network partners.

Next week, the Department will be adding two new state veterans services officers—Chad Rydberg and Jethel Curry.

In other news, SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock provided the American Legion membership with a Department update during their annual conference held in Pierre last weekend. SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Swanson hosted an outreach booth at the conferences for the department.



Amanda Lemme



Therenia Struck

The Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home residents and staff are truly blessed by all the partners in the state that visit and provide gifts. A big "THANK YOU" to the Moose Foundation for delivering some great snacks for our veterans!

New officers elected to the State American Legion include:

- Kevin Morello, Commander from Piedmont Post 311
- Brian Dean, Vice Commander West River from Spearfish Post 164
- Kevin Hempel, Vice Commander East River from Chester Post 136
- Greg Geiman, Department Sergeant at Arms from Wagner Post 11
- Fred Nelson, National Executive Committeeman, from Spearfish Post 164
- Doug Feltman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman from Chamberlain Post 3
- Hugh Holmes, endorsed for National Vice Commander From Mitchell Post 18.



SD TO DEDICATE BRIDGE HONORING T5 HARALD HARALDSEN

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army Technician Fifth Class Harald Haraldsen.

The ceremony will be Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. (MT) at the Lions Civic Center in Buffalo (210 State Route 20).

The US 85 Bridge over South Fork Grand River, just south of Buffalo, will be dedicated to T/5 Haraldsen.

Haraldsen was assigned to the 743rd Tank Battalion. This Tank Battalion was part of the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944. It supported the 116th Infantry Combat Support Team and the 28th Infantry Division on Omaha Beach. Haraldsen's unit fought through France to the Siegfried Line near Aachen, Germany. He was wounded and died on October 7, 1944.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity for re-

membrance, reflection, and respect. It helps us to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life."

"We can never underestimate or over appreciate the costs they bore for us," said Whitlock.

"We must never forget that our fallen sacrificed their future and their dreams. Their memories can only live through the accomplishments to present and future generations."

A graphic with a blue background and a white wooden plank texture. On the left is a partial American flag. The text reads: "SOUTH DAKOTA FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATION", "State of South Dakota to dedicate state bridge honoring U.S. Army T/5 Harald Haraldsen", "Wednesday - July 10 at 2:00 pm (MT)", "Lions Civic Center - Buffalo, SD (210 State Route 20)". At the bottom are logos for the State of South Dakota, Veterans Affairs, and SD DOT.

SOUTH DAKOTA FALLEN HERO
BRIDGE DEDICATION

State of South Dakota to
dedicate state bridge honoring
U.S. Army T/5 Harald Haraldsen

Wednesday - July 10 at 2:00 pm (MT)
Lions Civic Center - Buffalo, SD
(210 State Route 20)

SD DOT

SDHC TO SPONSOR VETERANS WRITING WORKSHOPS

The South Dakota Humanities Council will offer a series of writing workshops for veterans in Brookings and Rapid City.

The goals of the workshops are listed below.

- To connect veterans with others who have shared or have similar life experiences;
- To provide a welcoming and comfortable place for veterans to “tell their stories;”
- To create a collection of stories that can be shared with a broader audience;
- To provide a platform for veterans to engage in lifelong learning through writing.

SDHC Scholar Amber Jensen will facilitate the Brookings workshops. Jensen teaches in the School of English and Interdisciplinary Studies at South Dakota State University. She teaches writing with an emphasis on the genres of creative nonfiction and poetry. Her memoir, "The Smoke of You: A Memoir of Love During & After Deployment," focuses on how her husband’s military service has influenced her family. She has worked with military families to encourage the sharing of experiences to better understand the significant impacts of war in our culture.

SDHC Scholar Molly Barari will facilitate the Rapid City workshops. Barari holds a Doctorate in Adult Education from the University of South Dakota and an MFA in Creative Writing from Wilkes University. She has extensive experience teaching writing, including the Heirlooms: Creative Life Writing Workshop, in which she provides writing prompts that encourage participants to record life memories through sensory detail. This type of writing allows participants to process and make meaning of past events and connects them with others through sharing and listening protocols.

Below is the complete workshop schedule.

Registration closes on July 1 at 5 pm CT/4 pm MT. To register, visit:

<https://sdhumanities.wufoo.com/forms/xoroj2l1xx13ej/>.

Brookings Public Library (Session #1) Cooper Room B Monday, July 1 5:30 – 7 pm Amber Jensen, Facilitator	Brookings Public Library (Session #2) Cooper Room B Thursday, August 22 5:30 – 7 pm Amber Jensen, Facilitator	Brookings Public Library (Session #3) Cooper Room B Tuesday, September 17 5:30 – 7 pm Amber Jensen, Facilitator
Rapid City Public Library (Session #1) Hoyt Room Saturday, July 13 10:30 am – 12 pm Molly Barari, Facilitator	Rapid City Public Library (Session #2) Hoyt Room Saturday, August 24 10:30 am – 12 pm Molly Barari, Facilitator	Rapid City Public Library (Session #3) Hoyt Room Saturday, September 14 10:30 am – 12 pm Molly Barari, Facilitator



6th Annual Golf Event
Arrowhead Country Club | Rapid City, SD

Tee It Up for the Troops

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, July 15th, 2024

Opening Ceremonies: 845am

The local proceeds from this event will benefit veterans of all branches through:



We encourage you to “step up to the tee” to help us honor, remember, respect, and support our Veterans by becoming an event sponsor, volunteer, or donor of our event.

**Divots can be replaced.
Freedom cannot!™**

**For more information, please contact:
Tom Vallette-BlackHills@teeitupforthetroops.org**



**BROOKINGS DAV CHAPTER 22
BROOKINGS DAV UNIT 22
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
SOUTH DAKOTA EAST RIVER CHAPTER 194**

**2ND ANNUAL
KOREAN WAR / DEFENSE
VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY**

MILITARY DISPLAY FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM

**JULY 27, 2024
BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA
BROOKINGS COUNTY OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER
2810 22ND AVE S, BROOKINGS, SD 57006**

**THE PROGRAM STARTS AT NOON.
THE TOPIC WILL BE:
BROOKINGS COUNTY MIA SOLDIER FROM THE KOREAN WAR,
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FLOYD SCHULTZ**

**GUEST SPEAKER IS:
COLONEL (R) MARTY PENNOCK
CHAIRMAN OF THE DAV NATIONAL INTERIM POW/MIA
COMMITTEE**

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun 29—LT Donald R. and SGT Fred H. Harms Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—American Legion Post 142—(102 S. Main Street)—Tripp— 2:00 pm (CT)
- Jun 30—Midwest Honor Flight Honor Ride—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell St)—Sioux Falls—Registration—1:00 pm/Ride Begins at 2:30 pm (CT)
- Jul 3—SGT Lelund M. Kahler Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Rec Center—(1111 National Street)—Belle Fourche—2:00 pm (MT)
- Jul 10—T/5 Harald Haraldsen Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Lions Civic Center—(210 State Road 20)—Buffalo—2:00 pm (MT)
- Jul 15—6th Annual Tee it up for the Troops Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—Arrowhead Country Club—(3675 Sheridan Lake Road)—Rapid City—7:15 am (MT)
- Jul 17—SD Veterans Council Meeting—VFW Post 17—(802 S. Main St)—Aberdeen
- Jul 19—CPL Russell N. Ferdig Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—United Parish—(2102 E. Main Street)—Elk Point—2:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 24—CPL John C. McDowell Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Travel Plaza—(HWY 281 and Main Street)—Corsica—11:00 am (CT)
- Jul 27—2nd Annual Korean War/Defense Veterans Appreciation Day—Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center—(2810 22nd Avenue S)—Brookings—12:00 noon
- Aug 1—2—South Dakota Suicide Prevention Conference—Convention Center—(1201 N. West Ave)—Sioux Falls
- Aug 2—PFC John Tuin Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—American Legion Post 184—(222 Main Street)—Estelline—1:30 pm (CT)
- Aug 5—RM2 Eugene L., RM2 Ordien F., and LT LeRoy M. Herr Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—High School Gym—(500 S. 3rd Street) Bristol— 1:30 pm (CT)
- Aug 10—SGT Terry G. Rada Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Multi Purpose Center—(409 Michigan Avenue)—Geddes—12:00 noon (CT)
- Aug 17—SGT Dennis D. Lawver Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—American Legion Post—(402 S. Broadway Avenue)—Miller—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 18—PFC Gunnar D. Becker Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Sanborn County 4-H Building—(23237 405th Avenue)—Forestburg—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 21—SD Veterans Council Meeting—VFW Post 791—(209 S. Cedar)—Yankton
- Aug 21—1LT Daniel J. Kirchgessler Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Security First Bank Court of Champions located in St Thomas More High School—(300 Fairmont Blvd)—Rapid City—2:00 pm (MT)
- Aug 26—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—The Barrel House—(4701 E. 54th St)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—8:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 28—Sep 2—SD State Fair—Huron
- Aug 29—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair—Northwest Energy Freedom Stage—Huron
- Sep 3—5—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell St)—Sioux Falls
- Sep 18—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Rapid City
- Sep 25—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 21—Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center—(1201 N. West Ave)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (CT)

(Continued)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 8—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 22—Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center—(1201 N. West Ave)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (CT)
- Oct 12—Midwest Honor Flight “Shake Rattle and Roll” fundraiser—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell St)—Sioux Falls
- Oct 15—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 23—Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center—(1201 N. West Ave)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (CT)
- Oct 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post—(1229 Western Ave)—Brookings
- Nov 9—Fifth Annual Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair We’ve Got Your Six—Sturgis Community Center—(1401 Lazelle Street)—Sturgis—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
- Nov 9—Third Annual Day County Veterans Banquet—Webster Armory—5:00 pm (CT)
- Nov 11—1LT Josef Thorne Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Beresford High School Gym—(301 W. Maple Street) —Beresford—1:30 pm (CT)
- Nov 18—Wreaths Across America Fundraiser—The Barrel House—(4701 E. 54th St)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—8:00 pm (CT)
- Nov 20—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV—(1519 W. 51st St)—Sioux Falls
- Nov 20—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Sioux Falls
- Nov 21—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Watertown
- Nov 22—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Rapid City
- Nov 23—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Pierre
- Dec 3—Governor’s Budget Address—1:00 pm
- Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

2025 Events

- Jan 14—Governor’s State of the State Address—1:00 pm
- Jan 14—Legislative Session starts
- Jan 15—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Pierre
- Feb 14—16—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Oacoma
- Jun 12—15—VFW State Convention—Ramkota—Pierre
- Jun 19—22—American Legion State Conference—Huron
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

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