



NEWSLETTER

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



SCHNEIDER NAMED SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Today, Governor Larry Rhoden announced that Senior Chief Jeremiah Schneider will serve as the new Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs. He will assume this new position on March 6, 2025.

“Schneider is a hard-working professional with strong leadership skills,” said Governor Rhoden. “He has served his country wholeheartedly for many years, and I am confident that he will work diligently with me to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free.”

Senior Chief Schneider was born and raised in Wentworth, South Dakota. In May 1995, he enlisted in the United States Navy, turning down a baseball scholarship in favor of serving his country. Senior Chief Schneider currently serves as the Deputy Senior Enlisted Leader for Expeditionary Medical Facility Camp Pendleton and the CEO of Bethel Lutheran Home in Madison.

“I want to thank Governor Rhoden for the honor of nominating me as the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs,” said Senior Chief Jeremiah Schneider. “I will approach this position with the same determination, vigor, and love of country that I have in my naval and civilian careers. I have been and will continue to be an Advocate for the State of South Dakota, our Governor, and our Veterans.”

Senior Chief Schneider’s personnel awards include the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He is also Seabee Combat Warfare qualified.

Table of Contents

- MJFSVH Update 2
- VA ID Me Account 3
- MWHF Honor Ride 4
- Schild Memorial Ride 5
- MWHF Drive to Fly 6
- Veterans Legal Clinics 7
- Upcoming Events 8-9



THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OUR VETERANS RECEIVE

The Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home is incredibly fortunate to have strong community and state partners who go above and beyond to bring joy and smiles to our residents. This Valentine's Day, we were grateful to receive thoughtful gestures of kindness from several local organizations.

The Edgemont American Legion Auxiliary Post #172 delivered beautiful Valentine cards to our residents, spreading warmth and love during this special time. Their kindness brought smiles and reminded our veterans that they are cherished and appreciated.

Additionally, the Hot Springs American Legion Auxiliary generously delivered candy bags for Valentine's Day. The sweet treats were a delightful surprise and brightened the day for many of our residents.



Our heartfelt thanks also go to the Salvation Army, who visited with cards and fruit gummies, adding another touch of sweetness to our residents' day.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to

all the incredible organizations that continue to support our veterans. Their support and kindness makes a real difference, and we are lucky to have such wonderful partners who make every day Veterans Day at the State Veterans Home.



HELP DESK

for

ID.me Account Assistance

March 10, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. AND 1:30 p.m.

Sioux Falls VA Auditorium

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System is hosting a HELP Desk for Veterans needing assistance with the ID.me changes.

Requirements:

- Email address **NOT** used with another person's ID.me account
- **MUST** have access to the Email provided at the event
- Smart Phone
 - Must be a U.S. number NOT international, U.S. territories, or Google Voice
- 2 forms of identification (driver's license, social security card, or VA ID)



Help Desk

"RIDING TO KEEP THEM FLYING"



HONOR RIDE

MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT



Sunday, June 29, 2025 | 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.

RICH SCHILD MEMORIAL POKER RUN



EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING is WELCOME...
CARS, PICKUPS, MOTORCYCLES, BUSES, ETC., ETC., ETC.

SAT, JUNE 7TH

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT

12:00 AT THE KEG

IN TABOR - \$20 ENTRY

1PM START

ALL PROCEEDS HELP PAY FOR THE
FIREWORKS DISPLAY DURING CZECH DAYS

Like Us On 
RichSchildMEMORIALFIREWORKS

DOOR PRIZES
50/50 Split





28 MAR 2025

Registration 1:30 PM - Golf 2-5 PM

REGISTER NOW

\$100 Per Person or \$380 Per Team of 4: Feb 1 - Mar 15

midwesthonorflight.org/golf

Sponsorships Available

Great Shots



**2505 W Benson Rd
Sioux Falls, SD 57107**



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT



**MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT**

midwesthonorflight.org
605.215.1319



All sponsorships, registrations, donations, and funds raised will benefit Midwest Honor Flight

Our Mission: to transport America's Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and to fellow Veterans.



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
KNUDSON SCHOOL OF LAW



FREE LEGAL DROP-IN CLINIC

A charity event to help raise
funds for our veterans in
need of support.



LEGAL PROFESSIONALS, ALONG WITH
LAW STUDENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO
ADDRESS AND SUPPORT THE MILITARY
COMMUNITY (AND THEIR FAMILIES)
WITH INITIAL LEGAL QUESTIONS AND
NEEDS



FRIDAY

SATURDAY

MARCH 28

MARCH 29

9AM-4PM

9AM-4PM

THE MILITARY HERITAGE ALLIANCE

VFW POST 2750

1600 W. Russell St
SIOUX FALLS, SD

215 N. MAIN ST
MITCHELL, SD



If you would like to reserve a time slot:

CALL: 605-658-3547

EMAIL: VLEG@USD.EDU OR

TRAVIS.HINDT@USD.EDU



EVENT CONTACT: TRAVIS HINDT | 605-658-3547 | TRAVIS.HINDT@USD.EDU

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 28—USD Law School Veterans Legal Drop in Clinic—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—4:00 pm (CT).
- Mar 29—USD Law School Veterans Legal Drop in Clinic—VFW Post 2750—(215 N. Main Street)—Mitchell—9:00 am—4:00 pm (CT).
- Mar 29—Stand Up for Women Veterans Retreat—Our Savior's Lutheran Church ELCA—(West 33rd Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
- Mar 30—Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
- Apr 15—Dine to Donate for Midwest Honor Flight—Texas Roadhouse—(4307 W. Empire Place)—Sioux Falls—3:30 pm—10:00 pm (CT)
- Apr 16—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—(2500 Minnekahta Avenue)—Hot Springs—9:00 am (MT)
- Apr 25-26—State DAV Convention—AmericInn—Aberdeen
- Apr 27-30—VFW Proficiency Training Conference—Annapolis, MD
- May 1—Loyalty Day
- May 6—Mission 24 Midwest Honor Flight Operation Welcome Home—Sioux Falls Arena—(1201 N. West Avenue)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (Doors open at 7:30 pm) (CT)
- May 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pennington County Conference Room—(312 Kansas City St)—Rapid City—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
- May 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Post 8 American Legion—(520 S. Pierre St)—Pierre—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
- May 8—Victory in Europe Day
- May 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell St—Heritage Room)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
- May 9—Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 17—Armed Forces Day
- May 20—Mission 25 Midwest Honor Flight Operation Welcome Home—Sioux Falls Arena—(1201 N. West Avenue)—Sioux Falls—9:30 pm (Doors open at 7:30 pm) (CT)
- May 26—State Offices Closed—Memorial Day
- May 26—SDDVA Memorial Day Program at State Veterans Cemetery—12:00 noon (CT)
- Jun 3—Mission 26 Midwest Honor Flight Operation Welcome Home—Hawthorne Aviation—(5815 Mitchell Street #1207)—Sioux City, IA —9:30 pm (Doors open at 7:30 pm) (CT)
- Jun 7—Rich Schild Memorial Poker Run—The Keg—Tabor—12:00 noon (CT)
- Jun 10—MWHF Day of Sweetness—Chick-Fil-A—(4005 W. 41st Street)—Sioux Falls—6:30 am—10:00 pm (CT)
- Jun 14—MWHF Pars and Pubs—Downtown Sioux Falls—11:00 am—4:00 pm (CT)
- Jun 19—State Offices Closed—Juneteenth Day
- Jun 19-22—VFW State Convention—Ramkota—Pierre
- Jun 19-22—American Legion State Conference—Huron
- Jun 29—MWHF Honor Ride—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 4—State Offices Closed—Fourth of July
- Jul 14—Black Hills Tee it up for the Troops Tournament—Arrowhead Country Club—Rapid City
- Jul 16—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Mitchell VFW Post—(215 N. Main Street)—Mitchell

(continued)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 4-5—Your Journey Matters 2025 Behavioral Health Conference—Sioux Falls Sheraton Convention Center
- Aug 7—Purple Heart Day
- Aug 9-13—National VFW Convention—Columbus, OH
- Aug 11—Barrel House Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight—(4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—Midnight (CT)
- Aug 20—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Virtual
- Aug 27-Sep 1—South Dakota State Fair
- Aug 28—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
- Sep 1—State Offices Closed—Labor Day
- Sep 9-12—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School
- Sep 16—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Yankton VFW Post—(209 S. Cedar Street)—Yankton
- Sep 19—POW/MIA Day
- Sep 21-25—NVS Accredited Representative Skill Training—Annapolis, MD
- Sep 21-26—NVS Basic for New Accredited Representatives—Annapolis, MD
- Oct 13—State Offices Closed—Native American Day
- Oct 15—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Virtual
- Oct 18—4th Annual Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm
- Nov 7—MWHF Bingo—Severance Brewing—(701 N. Phillips Avenue)—Sioux Falls—7:00-9:00 pm (CT)
- Nov 8—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—(1401 Lazelle Street—(Sturgis) - 11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
- Nov 10—Barrel House Day of Giving for the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery WAA—(4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—Midnight (CT)
- Nov 11—State Offices Closed—Veterans Day
- Nov 19—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters (1519 W. 51st Street)—Sioux Falls
- Nov 27—State Offices Closed—Thanksgiving
- Nov 29—Side by Side MWHF Poker Run—Pilot Mikes Roadhouse—(4901 N. Ellis Road)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
- Dec 25—State Offices Closed—Christmas Day

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-8242

E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

