



NEWSLETTER

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



SANDERSON NAMED FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

Adam Sanderson of the South Dakota Army National Guard’s 155th Engineer Company has been selected as the First Sergeant of the Year in an announcement made during the SDNG’s Senior Leaders Conference in Pierre on Feb. 7, 2025.

“1SG Adam Sanderson epitomizes what the Senior NCO at the company level should symbolize: professionalism to the core, competency in every decision, dedication to the team’s mission success, and caring for his soldiers beyond reproach,” said Senior Enlisted Leader for the SDNG Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Stacey.

The 1st Sgt. of the Year Award recipient is a testament to the exceptional leadership and teamwork that exists within the unit and serves as motivation to continue striving for excellence.

“He has a bright future in the organization as he demonstrates daily his understanding that soldiers are of the utmost importance to the organization’s continued success and their well-being should never be taken for granted,” said Stacey.

Capt. Haley Derr, commander of the 155th, nominated Sanderson for the award for his unwavering dedication to the SDNG and his soldiers.

“1st Sgt. Sanderson stood out for his exceptional leadership, commitment to his Soldiers, and tireless efforts to improve his unit's performance. He has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the Adjutant General's lines of effort, focusing on Culture, Mission, and Community. By embracing these core principles, 1SG Sanderson has made a lasting impact on his unit, and we're proud to recognize his achievements,” said Sgt. Maj. Promise Crawford, president of the selection board.

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SDNG LEADERSHIP VISITS THE TROOPS

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark Morrell and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Stacey addressed deployed Airmen with the 114th Fighter Wing during a visit to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility mid Feb. during a battlefield circulation to visit their soldiers and airmen.

They also visited several SDNG soldiers supporting the Wyoming National Guard on a mission in the Middle East and extended their gratitude for the hard work and dedication to service.



SDDVA OUTREACH EVENTS

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) continues its strong commitment to engaging with and supporting veterans across the state through outreach events. These events provide valuable updates and resources to veterans and their families, ensuring they are informed about the benefits and services available to them.

One of the first key outreach events of the year was the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Oacoma. SDDVA Deputy Secretary



Pollard attended the event, where he provided a comprehensive update on the Department's initiatives, as well as an update on the legislative activities that may impact South Dakota's veterans. The presentation was well-received by members of the American Legion, highlighting SDDVA's continued efforts to improve and expand services for veterans.



In addition to Deputy Secretary Pollard; Kevin Bowen, SDDVA Field Service Officer, was also in attendance. Kevin hosted an outreach booth at the conference, offering information and guidance on veterans' benefits and services. His presence provided attendees with an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the support available to them.

In another important outreach effort, SDDVA participated in the South Dakota National Guard Pre-Retirement Class held last week. This class, aimed at preparing service members for civilian life, is a critical event for those nearing retirement from military service. Will Huffmon, SDDVA Field Service Officer, delivered a presentation on veterans' benefits, ensuring attendees understood the wide range of resources available to them as they transition from active duty to veteran status.



SDDVA also extended its reach across the state by having staff available at several locations for this event. Representatives were on-site in Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Watertown, ensuring veterans from all corners of South Dakota had access to vital information and services.

These events are just a few examples of the SDDVA's ongoing efforts to ensure that veterans are well-informed and supported throughout their lives. By attending these conferences and workshops, the SDDVA team continues to foster connections with veterans, empowering them to make the most of the benefits they have earned through their service.

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY PROGRAM EVENT

HOSTED BY



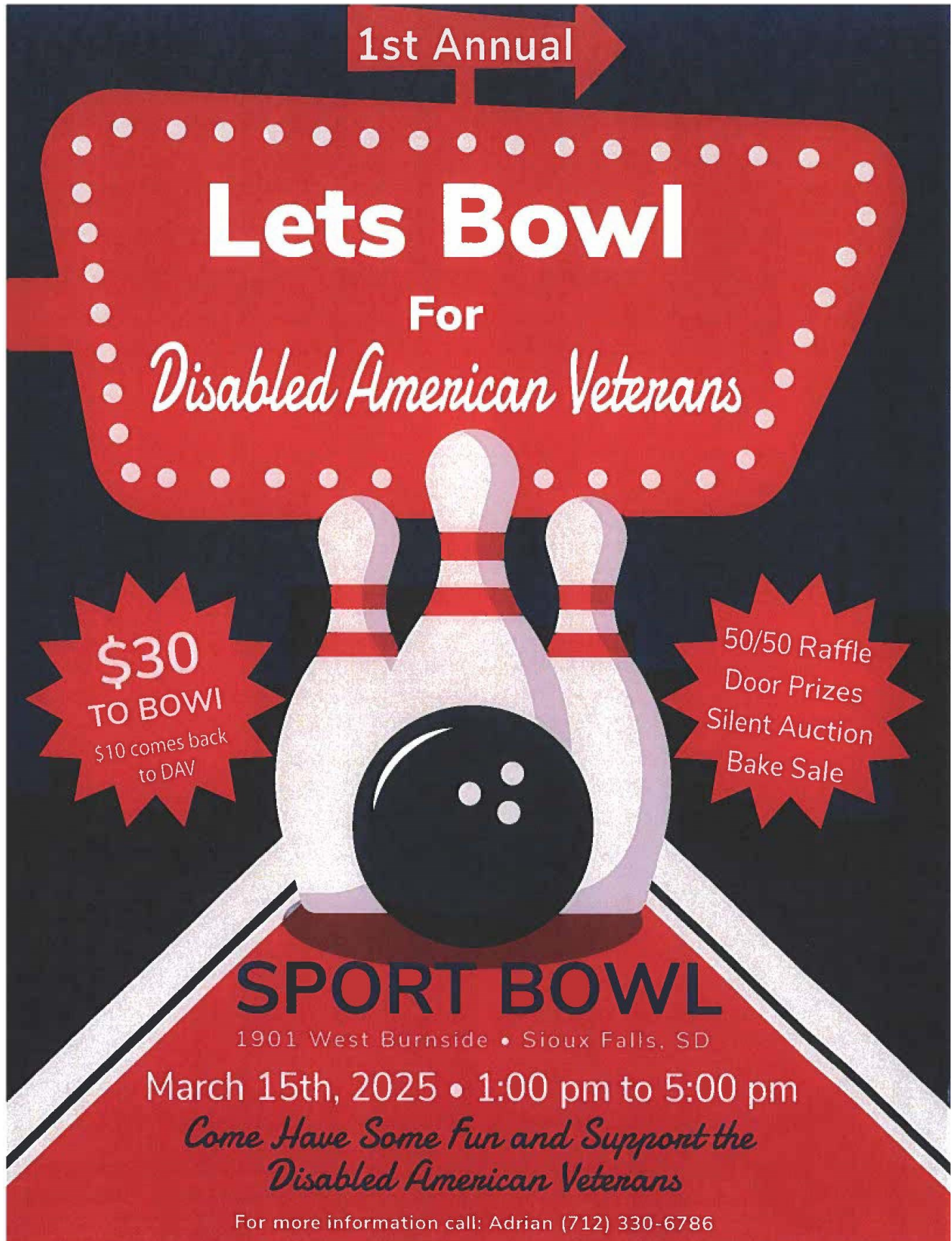
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WHEN: 10:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
WHERE: DAV HEADQUARTERS
1519 W. 51ST STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD

- 10:30 A.M.** KICKOFF FOR NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS EVENTS BEGINS
- 11:00-11:50 A.M.** UPDATE ON VA HEALTHCARE
- 11:50 – NOON** VETERANS HONOR INTERNMENT SPEAKER
BURIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LIMITED INCOME VETS
- NOON - 1:00 P.M.** LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
- 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.** UPDATE ON VBA BENEFITS FOR VIETNAM VETS

Veterans are welcome to bring their spouse/guest, and are encouraged to bring any service-related memorabilia to display at the event.

ALL ARE WELCOME



1st Annual

Lets Bowl

For
Disabled American Veterans

\$30 TO BOWL
\$10 comes back to DAV

50/50 Raffle
Door Prizes
Silent Auction
Bake Sale

SPORT BOWL

1901 West Burnside • Sioux Falls, SD

March 15th, 2025 • 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

*Come Have Some Fun and Support the
Disabled American Veterans*

For more information call: Adrian (712) 330-6786



28 MAR 2025

Registration 1:30 PM - Golf 2-5 PM


REGISTER NOW

\$75 Per Person or \$280 Per Team of 4: Until Jan 31
\$100 Per Person or \$380 Per Team of 4: Feb 1 - Mar 15

midwesthonorflight.org/golf

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



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT



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HONOR FLIGHT**

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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 6—DAV Persian Gulf War Recognition Day—DAV Headquarters—(1519 W. 51st Street—Sioux Falls—10:30 am (CT)
- Mar 15—DAV Bowling Fundraiser—Sport Bowl—(1901 W. Burnside)—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)
- 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 28—Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day—DAV Headquarters—(1519 W. 51st Street)—Sioux Falls—10:30 am (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 29—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)

(continued)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- 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>

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