



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



SDDVA TO HOST WHAT'S BREWING EVENT IN SIOUX FALLS

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA), in partnership with Minnehaha County Veterans Service Officers Tyler Grotewold and Douglas Roderick, and Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer David Ekle, invites all veterans, especially those from Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties, to attend a special “Coffee and Conversation” event in Sioux Falls. This gathering is part of the Department’s “What’s Brewing” program—an outreach effort to connect directly with veterans, hear their stories, and provide updates on services and benefits available to them.

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Location: El Riad Shrine (510 S. Phillips Avenue) – Sioux Falls, SD

Time: “What’s Brewing” conversation begins at 10:00 am (CT).

“The ‘What’s Brewing’ series serves as an important platform for meaningful conversations with our veterans,” said SDDVA Secretary Jeremiah Schneider. “These gatherings not only allow us to better understand the concerns and challenges veterans are facing, but also provide a forum to share updates on benefits, services, and resources available to them. It’s our duty as advocates to stay connected to their experiences and honor the sacrifices they’ve made in service to our country.”

Secretary Schneider, members of the SDDVA team, and CVSO’s Grotewold, Roderick, and Ekle will be available to answer questions and provide information on a wide range of veterans’ benefits and services, including compensation, education, pensions, healthcare, burial benefits, the State Veterans Cemetery, and the State Veterans Home.

All veterans are encouraged to attend. For those unable to make it, the SDDVA remains just a call or click away. Reach the Department at 605.333.6869 or locate your county or tribal Veterans Service Officer at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx>.

Let’s grab a cup and connect—because every veteran’s story matters.

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SD TO DEDICATE 19 FALLEN HERO BRIDGES

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) has announced plans to host 13 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication ceremonies throughout the state this year, honoring 19 South Dakota veterans who gave their lives in service to our nation.

The bridge dedication program was launched in 2019 through a joint initiative led by Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Veterans Affairs, Military, and Transportation. Its mission is to name state bridges after South Dakotans who were killed in action or remain missing in action, ensuring that their legacies are remembered and honored.

Naming South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity of remembrance, reflection, and respect—to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. These men, so young and in such a short time, met their destiny on far-off battlefields. In return for their extraordinary gift, the most important thing we can do is to keep the memories of their shortened lives alive.

The dedication ceremonies serve as solemn reminders of the cost of freedom and the strength of the families and communities who continue to honor their loved one's service. Each ceremony is expected to include local veterans, family members, community leaders, and members of the public.

Dates and locations for the dedications are as follows:

July 12—PFC Fred Larson—Community Center (916 F. Avenue)—Pollock—2:30 pm (CT)

July 18—SP4 Thomas Zeigler—American Legion Post 169 (133 W. 3rd Street)—Winner—2:00 pm (CT)

July 26—S/SGT Ervin Rieck—Community Hall (11 W. Main Street)—Warner—2:00 pm (CT)

August 1—PFC Mark Shields—Community Center (1021 Central Circle)—Fort Thompson—1:00 pm (CT)

August 2—PFC Ronald Dexter—4-H Grounds (517 Flynn Drive)—Milbank—11:00 am (CT)

August 9—1LT Larry Barbee—American Legion Post 92—(612 Main Street)—Redfield—2:00 pm (CT)

August 14—CPL Henry Kluess—VFW Post 2118—(520 Main Avenue)—Brookings—10:00 am (CT)

August 30—SP5 Richard Miller—Silo Market—(120 Main Street)—Plankinton—1:00 pm (CT)

September 17—PVT Elmer Albertson—Harding County School—(12474 Tipperary Street)—Buffalo—2:30 pm (MT)

September 18—PFC Peter Ommen—(243 Central Main Street)—Central City—1:00 pm (MT)

September 20—PVT Frank Holcombe—American Legion Post 43—(921 Main Street)—Centerville (time to be determined)

October 3—SGT Dirk Abbas—Event Center—(1203 3rd Street)—Britton—2:00 pm (CT)

October 8—PVT Leroy Goosen—(location and time to be determined)

On November 11, SDDVA will host a regional dedication honoring the following six World War II Veterans: SGT Alvin Erpenbach, PVT Marvin Gunderson, CPL Harvey Henle, MM2 Milton Muller, PFC Leland Nielson, and PO2 Porter Rich. This dedication ceremony will be held at 2:00 pm (CT) at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls (1600 W. Russell Street).



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

BROOKINGS CHAPTER 22

BROOKINGS UNIT 22



3RD ANNUAL KOREAN WAR / DEFENSE VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

- **9 AM TO 2 PM**
- **JULY 26, 2025**
- **BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA**
- **BROOKINGS COUNTY OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER**
 - **2810 22ND AVE S, BROOKINGS, SD 57006**

**DID YOU SERVE IN SOUTH KOREA ANYTIME
BETWEEN 1945 AND PRESENT DAY?**

**WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE YOUR SERVICE; AND LET YOU KNOW
THAT "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN".**

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.
A DISPLAY OF KOREAN MILITARY SERVICE WILL BE SET UP.**



**CONTACT: BOB HILL
605-690-5041
M37ARMY@YAHOO.COM**





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Rural Engagement

Join the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Rural Engagement (VA ORE) as we host a collaborative event with our partners to present information beneficial to Veterans, service members, their families, and the public about VA benefits, programs and services.

This collaborative event is open to Veterans and their families, and our partners aimed at improving the lives of Veterans and military families.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Rural Engagement (VA ORE)

in collaboration with

VA's Veterans Transportation Program (VTP)

will host the event

VA Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG) Overview

on

Tuesday June 24, 2025

2:00 pm EST to 3:00 pm EST

You can join us online using your computer, phone audio, or the Webex Mobile App.

To join us, please register by click on the following link:

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/webappng/sites/veteransaffairs/meeting/register/227aa0179ef6482a999f3161f50>

Do you have comments, questions or require special accommodations?

Please contact:

Alexander Hightower
Alexander.hightower@va.gov

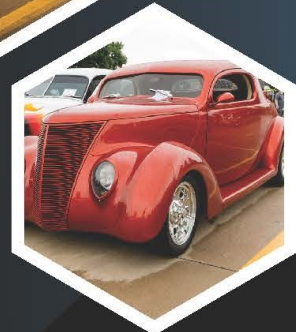
Michael Billings
Michael.billings@va.gov

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

23RD ANNUAL **SHOW & SHINE** **CAR SHOW**

August 13, 2025
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sioux Falls VA
2501 W. 22nd St.
Sioux Falls, SD



For more details, reach us at vhasuxvoluntary@va.gov or 605-333-6806.

"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.

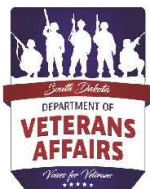


**Veterans,
See
What's
Brewing!**



**We invite all veterans to join us for a
“Veterans Coffee and Networking.”
Free coffee and treats while you chat with new and old friends
alike and learn more about veterans benefits from the South
Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.**

**Thursday—June 26, 2025
1:00 pm (CT)
FEM Electric
(800 5th Avenue—Ipswich)**





WHAT'S BREWING?



Presented by the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Join us for coffee, camaraderie, and conversation!

-  Connect with fellow Veterans
-  Ask questions about benefits and services
-  Learn about local support and resources
-  Share your story and voice your concerns

 Wednesday, July 9, 2025

 10:00 A.M.

 El Riad Shrine, 510 S Phillips Ave,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Complimentary coffee and refreshments provided
Open to all Veterans and family members

**Voices for Veterans —
Because Your Story Matters**

For more info, contact;
Dave Denson-(605) 940-9622
dave.denson@state.sd.us



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 19-22—VFW State Convention—Ramkota—Pierre
Jun 19-22—American Legion State Conference—Huron
Jun 26—SDDVA What's Brewing—FEM Electric (800 5th Avenue)—Ipswich—1:00 pm (CT)
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 9—SDDVA What's Brewing—El Riad Shrine (510 S. Phillips Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Jul 11—SDDVA What's Brewing—Harding County Courthouse (408 Ransland Street)—Buffalo—10:00 am (MT)
Jul 12—FHBD—PFC Fred Larson—Community Center (916 F. Avenue)—Pollock—2:30 pm (CT)
Jul 13—SDNG SAPR 5K—Memorial Park—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Jul 14—Black Hills Tee it up for the Troops Tournament—Arrowhead Country Club—Rapid City
Jul 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Mitchell VFW Post—(215 N. Main Street)—Mitchell—1:00 pm (CT)
Jul 18—FHBD—SP4 Thomas Zeigler—American Legion Post 169 (133 W. 3rd Street)—Winner—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 19—Veterans Information Day—BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center—(1951 N. HWY 20)—Watertown—
10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 24—Rosebud Sioux Tribe Veterans Stand Down—Sinte Gleska Multipurpose Building—Antelope—
10:00am (CT)
Jul 26—3rd Annual Korean War Veterans Appreciation Day—Brookings Outdoor Adventure Center—(2810 22nd
Avenue S)—Brookings—9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 26—FHBD—S/SGT Ervin Rieck—Community Hall—(11 W. Main Street)—Warner—2:00 pm (CT)
Jul 28—SDDVA What's Brewing—The Ward's Store—(127 Calumet Avenue SE)—De Smet—10:00 am (CT)
Jul 29—SDDVA What's Brewing—VFW Post 791—(209 Cedar Street)—Yankton—10:00 am (CT)
Jul 30—SDDVA What's Brewing—Jerauld County Court House Day Room—(205 Wallace Avenue S)—Wessington
Springs—10:00 am (CT)
Aug 1—FHBD—PFC Mark Shields—Community Center—(1021 Central Circle)—Fort Thompson—1:00 pm (CT)
Aug 2—FHBD—PFC Ronald Dexter—4-H Grounds (517 Flynn Drive)—Milbank—11:00 am (CT)
Aug 4-5—Your Journey Matters 2025 Behavioral Health Conference—Sioux Falls Sheraton Convention Center
Aug 7—Purple Heart Day
Aug 9—FHBD—1LT Larry Barbee—American Legion Post 92—(612 Main Street)—Redfield—2:00 pm (CT)
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
Aug 13—DAV Golf Tournament—Prairie Green Golf Course—Sioux Falls
Aug 13—Sioux Falls VA Show and Shine Car Show—Sioux Falls VA—(2501 W. 22nd Street)—5:00—8:00 pm (CT)
Aug 14—CPL Henry Kluess—VFW Post 2118—(520 Main Avenue)—Brookings—10:00 am (CT)
Aug 20—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Virtual—1:00 pm (CT)
Aug 21—Cheyenne River Veterans Stand Down—Eagle Butte Vet Center Building—Eagle Butte—10:00 am (MT)
Aug 27-Sep 1—South Dakota State Fair
Aug 28—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
Aug 30—FHBD—SP5 Richard Miller—Silo Market—(120 Main Street)—Plankinton—1:00 pm (CT)
Sep 1—State Offices Closed—Labor Day
Sep 9-12—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School
Sep 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Yankton VFW Post—(209 S. Cedar Street)—Yankton—1:00 pm (CT)

(continued)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 17—FHBD—PVT Elmer Albertson—Harding County School—(12474 Tipperary Street)—Buffalo—2:30 pm (MT)
Sep 18—FHBD—PFC Peter Ommen—(243 Central Main Street)—Central City—1:00 pm (MT)
Sep 19—POW/MIA Day
Sep 20—FHBD—PVT Frank Holcombe—American Legion Post 43—(921 Main Street)—Centerville
Sep 21-25—NVS Accredited Representative Skill Training—Annapolis, MD
Sep 21-26—NVS Basic for New Accredited Representatives—Annapolis, MD
Sep 25—Rapid City Veterans Stand Down—DoubleTree by Hilton Rapid City Downtown Convention Center—
(505 N. 5th Street)—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Oct 3—FHBD—SGT Dirk Abbas—Event Center—(1203 3rd Street)—Britton—2:00 pm (CT)
Oct 8—FHBD—PVT Leroy Goosen—(location and time to be determined)
Oct 13—State Offices Closed—Native American Day
Oct 15—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Virtual—1:00 pm (CT)
Oct 18—Derr Gala—Monument Lacroix Fall—Rapid City—5:00 pm (MT)
Oct 18—4th Annual Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell
Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)
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 11—Regional FHBD—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—2:00 pm (CT)
Nov 19—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters (1519 W. 51st Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
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 2—Governor's Budget Address—SD State Capitol—1:00 pm (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

2026

Jan 13—South Dakota Legislative Session Opens
Jan 13—Governor's State of the State Address—SD State Capitol—1:00 pm (CT)
Jan 14—SD Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—Pierre—2:00 pm (CT)
Jan 14—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Reception—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—
Pierre—5:30 pm—7:30 pm (CT)
July 18-19—Sioux Falls Air Show
Sep 15-18—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School

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