



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



RESILIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE

Governor Larry Rhoden signed [Executive Order 2025-06](#), which establishes the Governor's Resilience and Infrastructure Task Force (GRIT).

"I am committed to keeping South Dakota strong, safe, and free for generations to come," said Governor Rhoden. "We pray that the most challenging circumstances will never arise, but we are preparing so that South Dakota can face such situations with determination, resilience, and grit."

The GRIT task force will serve as a strategic advisory body to develop policy recommendations, assess risks and vulnerabilities, and support long-term planning and investment in critical infrastructure systems across our state.

The GRIT task force will include the following members appointed by the Governor:

- Representatives from state agencies for public safety, military, cybersecurity, water and wastewater, transportation, or other agencies as designated by the Governor;
- Members from industry, utilities, the private sector, and academia; and
- Subject matter experts in cybersecurity, emergency management, and critical infrastructure.

The task force will be chaired by Lieutenant Governor Tony Venhuizen, and Adjutant General Mark Morrell will serve as vice chair.

"I am grateful for Governor Rhoden's leadership and proactive decision to strengthen our critical infrastructure systems," said Adjutant General Mark Morrell. "Protecting the people of South Dakota is of utmost importance, and due to the sensitive and secure nature of GRIT, prudent thought will be given to the details we are able to share with the public."

This task force supports [President Trump's Executive Order 14239](#), "Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness," which empowers state and local governments to play a more active role in national resilience and preparedness.

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SDDVA JOINS SIOUX FALLS VA FOR HOSPICE COTTAGE RIBBON CUTTING

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Jeremiah Schneider and members of the SDDVA team joined the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System on June 3 to celebrate the ribbon cutting of its newest facility—a state-of-the-art hospice cottage.

The 10,000-square-foot facility, located on the Sioux Falls VA campus, features 10 private beds and is designed to offer veterans and their families a high level of care in a peaceful, home-like setting.

This new hospice cottage provides a comforting environment where veterans can receive end-of-life care with dignity, surrounded by loved ones. The VA emphasized that the cottage was built with veterans' unique needs in mind, offering privacy, compassion, and support in their final days.

Secretary Schneider praised the VA for its continued dedication to honoring veterans through quality care: "This hospice cottage stands as a beautiful and respectful place for our heroes to spend their final days. It reflects the deep gratitude we all feel for their service."

The SDDVA extends its thanks and congratulations to the Sioux Falls VA team for their commitment to providing compassionate care and ensuring veterans are honored throughout every stage of life.



FILING CHAMPVA CLAIM ONLINE

If you're the spouse, widow(er) or child of an eligible Veteran who receives [Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA](#) (CHAMPVA) benefits, you can file your claim [online](#). It's quick and easy.

If your provider doesn't file for you, just ask for an itemized billing statement and explanation of benefits (EOB) if you have other health insurance. We'll take care of paying the provider directly for covered services.

If your provider doesn't accept [CHAMPVA](#) or you use an out-of-network pharmacy, you'll have to pay up front and file a claim to get reimbursed.

Remember: You have to file your claim within one year of receiving care. If you were in the hospital, make sure to file within one year of your discharge date.

Make sure you have these on hand when you're ready to file online:

- An itemized billing statement from your provider.
- A receipt or a billing statement marked "paid."
- The EOB from your other health insurance, if applicable.
- Documents related to your prescription.

Once you have all your documents, go to the [File a CHAMPVA claim](#) webpage. You will be guided through each step. We recommend signing in with a verified account. If you don't have one yet, no problem. Create a Login.gov or ID.me account, and we'll help you verify your identity. You can also submit your claim without signing in.

Prefer to send in your claim by fax or mail? Send your completed CHAMPVA claim ([VA Form 10-7959A](#)) and supporting documents to:

Fax: 303-331-7808

Mail:

VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care

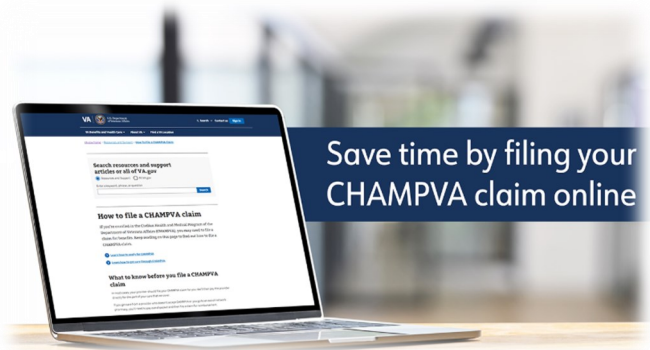
CHAMPVA Beneficiary Claims

PO Box 500

Spring City, PA 19475

If you have questions about how to file a claim:

- Call: 800-733-8387 (TTY: 711), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET.
- Online: Visit [Ask VA](#).



GOVERNOR RHODEN VISITS MICHAEL J. FITZMAURICE STATE VETERANS HOME

Governor Larry Rhoden visited the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs this week, taking time to visit with residents and thank the dedicated staff who care for South Dakota's heroes.

During his tour, Governor Rhoden walked through the facility, exchanging stories and handshakes with the veterans who call the Home their own. He expressed his appreciation for the compassionate and professional



care

provided by the team at the Home and acknowledged the important role it plays in honoring the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

The Governor was also given a firsthand look at the historic Soldier's Home building (Building 2), which stands as a reminder of the facility's proud legacy. He was shown one of the staff housing units currently being renovated into a modern two-bedroom apartment—a testament to ongoing efforts to improve accommodations and support for employees.

The visit concluded with a reflective stop at the

cemetery, where Governor Rhoden spent time paying his respects to those who have served and passed on.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is grateful for Governor Rhoden's continued support and his commitment to ensuring that South Dakota's veterans receive the honor, dignity, and care they deserve.



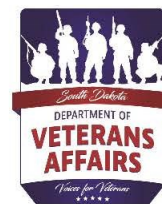
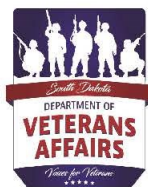


**Veterans,
See
What's
Brewing!**



**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.**

**Wednesday—July 9, 2025
10:00 am (CT)
El Riad Shrine
(520 S. Phillips Avenue—Sioux Falls, SD)**



"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

1 PM START

**ALL PROCEEDS HELP PAY FOR THE
FIREWORKS DISPLAY DURING CZECH DAYS**

Like Us On 
RichSchildMemorialFireworks

**DOOR PRIZES
50/50 Split**





Chick-fil-A EMPIRE PLACE (SD)

Day of Sweetness

.....

Join us for a sweet fundraiser to support

Midwest Honor Flight

June 10th | 6:30AM - 10PM
Chick-fil-A Empire Place



VETERANS HONOR PARK DEDICATION

June 14, 2025 | 1:00 p.m.
744 S Washington Avenue | Madison, SD

Confirmed Speakers and Honored Guests

Mike Rounds, U.S. Senator for South Dakota
Dusty Johnson, U.S. Representative for South Dakota
Michael Fitzmaurice, Medal of Honor Recipient

Invited Guests

U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune
South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden

Please park at Ace Hardware, Lewis Drug,
Montgomery's and Washington Plaza.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 6—Pine Ridge Veterans Stand Down—Pine Ridge Pow Wow Grounds—10:00 am (MT)
Jun 7—Rich Schild Memorial Poker Run—The Keg—Tabor—12:00 noon (CT)
Jun 7—Derr Foundation Fundraiser—Black Hills Cross Fit—(1848 Fountain Plaza Drive)—Rapid City—
10:00 am (MT)
Jun 10—MWHF Day of Sweetness—Chick-Fil-A—(4005 W. 41st Street)—Sioux Falls—6:30 am—10:00 pm (CT)
Jun 13—SDDVA What's Brewing—BHSU Joy Center (1351 S. Joe Street)—Spearfish—1:00 pm (MT)
Jun 14—8th Annual MWHF Pars and Pubs—Downtown Sioux Falls—11:00 am—4:00 pm (CT)
Jun 17—SDDVA What's Brewing—Community Center (701-709 Main Street)—Timber Lake—1:00 pm (MT)
Jun 19—State Offices Closed—Juneteenth Day
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 11—SDDVA What's Brewing—Harding County Courthouse (408 Ransland Street)—Buffalo—10:00 am (MT)
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 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 28—SDDVA What's Brewing—The Ward's Store (127 Calumet Avenue SE)—De Smet—10:00 am (CT)
Aug 4-5—Your Journey Matters 2025 Behavioral Health Conference—Sioux Falls Sheraton Convention Center
Aug 7—Purple Heart Day
Aug 9-13—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 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

(continued)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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)
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
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 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 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—South Dakota 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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South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
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