



NEWSLETTER

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



GOVERNOR LARRY RHODEN SIGNS SENATE BILL 52

Governor Larry Rhoden has officially signed Senate Bill 52 into law, a critical piece of legislation that will allow for the expansion of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. This move is designed to address a need for additional space, ensuring that the cemetery can continue to serve veterans and their families for years to come.

It's important to note that, based on current utilization trends, the need for expanding other burial areas at the cemetery is not anticipated within the next eight to ten years. This makes the expansion of columbarium space the priority, as it directly addresses the issue of space shortages for cremated remains.

The signing of SB 52 is only the first step in the expansion process. The next crucial step will be for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to apply for a grant from the National Cemetery Administration.

Governor Rhoden has been a strong advocate for South Dakota's veterans, and his signing of SB 52 underscores his continued commitment to providing the necessary resources and support to those who have served in the armed forces. By ensuring that the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery has the space it needs to accommodate future burials, Governor Rhoden is helping to guarantee that the state remains a place where veterans are honored and remembered.

"The South Dakota Veterans Cemetery will remain a vital and respected place for veterans to rest, as well as a symbol of the state's gratitude for their sacrifices," said Cemetery Director Erin Brown.

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POW/MIA DISPLAY UNVEILED AT STATE VISITORS CENTER

This week, a poignant and powerful tribute to American veterans was unveiled at the South Dakota State Capitol Lake Visitors Center in Pierre. The newly installed the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) display honors the sacrifices of those who have been lost, imprisoned, or made prisoners of war in service to the United States. The unveiling ceremony was attended by veterans, their families, state officials, and members of the public, all gathered to pay respect to those who served and remain unaccounted for.

This display, which will be a permanent feature at the Visitors Center, was made possible through the efforts of a coalition of veterans' organizations, with support from American Legion Post 15 Men's Chorus, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 959, the Military Order of the Purple Heart 5355, and the Disabled American Veterans Association (Arthur H. Muchow Chapter 1). These groups have long been advocates for honoring those who served and ensuring that their sacrifices are remembered for generations to come.

The event was organized by Senator Larry Zikmund, who played a central role in bringing the display to fruition. During the ceremony, Senator Zikmund expressed his gratitude to the state of South Dakota and the Bureau of Administration for their cooperation in allowing the veterans to have this display at the Visitor Center.

The unveiling ceremony included remarks from several key veterans' organizations, with representatives sharing their personal connections to the POW/MIA cause.

This display serves as a lasting reminder of the state's commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of its military men and women.

This event stands as a testament to the strength of South Dakota's veteran community and the importance of ensuring that all members of the military are remembered and honored. The collaboration between the veterans and state officials highlights the deep respect for the sacrifices made by veterans and the determination to preserve their legacies for future generations.



SDDVA 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) has officially released its 2024 annual report, offering a comprehensive overview of the department's activities and achievements throughout the year.

The report, a crucial resource for understanding the state's ongoing commitment to supporting veterans, is now available for the public to review on the department's official website at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>.

SDDVA has been dedicated to providing essential services to veterans and their families, ensuring that they receive the benefits and care they have earned. This report underscores the importance of partnerships with our county and tribal veterans service officers, veterans service organizations, and other state agencies to better serve the veteran population. By working together, SDDVA can ensure that no veteran is left behind in accessing crucial resources and services.

The release of the annual report serves multiple purposes. Not only does it allow veterans and their families to better understand the services available to them, but it also promotes transparency and accountability within the department. The report is an essential tool for lawmakers, veteran advocates, and the public to see how well SDDVA is fulfilling its mission to honor and serve veterans.

This report is a testament to the ongoing efforts of the Department and the state of South Dakota in honoring its veterans. SDDVA continues to strive towards enhancing services, improving outreach, and ensuring that veterans receive the care and recognition they deserve.

For further inquiries or to get involved with the department's programs; veterans and their families are encouraged to reach out through the contact information provided in the report.





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

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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](mailto:TRAVIS.HINDT@USD.EDU) | 605-658-3547 | TRAVIS.HINDT@USD.EDU



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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

**BROOKINGS CHAPTER 22
BROOKINGS UNIT 22**



3RD ANNUAL KOREAN WAR / DEFENSE VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

- **9 AM TO 2 PM**
- **JULY 29, 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**



2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 12—Pizza, Pints, and Puzzles Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—The Social—(301 S. Thompson Avenue)—Sioux Falls—5:30 pm (CT)
- 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—8th Annual 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
- Jul 19—Veterans Information Day—BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center—(1951 N. HWY 20)—Watertown—
10:00 am—2:00 pm (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—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 17—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

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