

NEWSLETTER

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



SDNG MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

Brigadier General Deb Bartunek recognized three outstanding members of the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) with the prestigious Honorable Order of Saint Martin in a ceremony at Camp Rapid. Master Sgt. Barb Boyer, Sgt. Bob Tesch, and Sgt. 1st Class (RET) Dave Murtha were honored for their exceptional service to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps, both past and present.

The Honorable Order of Saint Martin is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, shown remarkable professional competence, and served the Quartermaster Corps with selflessness. Recipients must also have made significant contributions to promoting the Quartermaster Corps, earning the respect and admiration of their seniors, subordinates, and peers.

Col. Derek Oakley, Commander of Ellsworth Air Force Base, attended the ceremony in support of Mr. Murtha, a civilian employee at Ellsworth, celebrating his remarkable achievement.

This honor recognizes the dedication and exceptional service of those who have gone above and beyond in supporting the mission of the Quartermaster Corps and exemplifying its core values.

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RECIPIENTS OF THE SAMUEL SHARP AWARD HONORED AT CAMP RAPID

Recently, a small but significant ceremony was held at Camp Rapid to honor the recipients of the prestigious Samuel Sharp Award in recognition of their outstanding service in the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG). Chief Warrant Officer 5 (RET) Jay Schreurs and First Sgt. (RET) Greg Brower were awarded the esteemed medal.

The Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe, presented by the United States Army Ordnance Corps Association (USAOCA), is a highly respected accolade recognizing individuals who have demonstrated exceptional integrity, moral character, and professional competence, alongside selfless contributions to the Corps. Established in May 1994, the award is named in honor of Samuel Sharpe, the first Master Gunner of Ordnance in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Schreurs and Brower were celebrated for their commitment and invaluable service to the SDNG, marking their retirement with a well-deserved recognition. Their dedication and contributions to the Corps embody the values and legacy of Samuel Sharpe, making them deserving recipients of this distinguished honor.

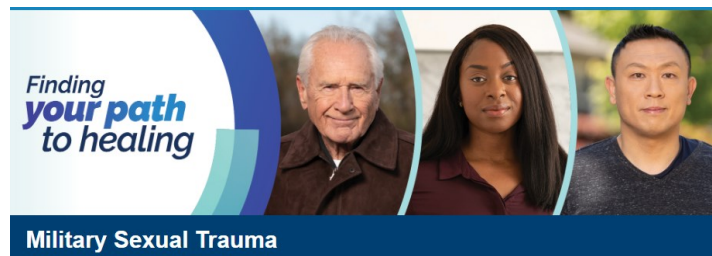


VA SUPPORTS MST SURVIVORS IN FINDING THEIR HEALING PATH

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month — an important time to reach out to veterans and other former service members and share that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides free services for military sexual trauma survivors whenever they are ready, at any time of year.

Military sexual trauma, or MST, is the term the VA uses to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. People of all sexes, ages, sexual orientations, racial, and ethnic backgrounds and branches of service have experienced MST. For some MST survivors, the experience affects their physical and mental health, work, relationships, and everyday life, even many years later.

Healing after MST can take time, and the VA understands that every survivor heals at their own pace and in their own way. That's why the VA offers free MST-related services that are tailored to each individual. The VA stands ready to help survivors on their path to heal-



ing, no matter how long it's been since they experienced MST or how it's affecting them now. There are more VA resources available for survivors of MST than ever before.

Every VA health care facility has an MST Coordinator — a professional who can assist MST survivors in accessing care. The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System's MST Coordinator is Dr. Desiree Poppens. She can be reached at 605-373-4080. The Sioux Falls VA offers free counseling and treatment to veterans and former service members for any mental or physical health condition related to their experience of MST. The VA offers flexible treatment options tailored to meet MST survivors' needs and preferences.

Community-based Vet Centers provide free MST-related outpatient counseling and referral services in a nonmedical setting. [Beyond MST](#) is a free, secure, self-help mobile app created specifically to support MST survivors' health and well-being. [MentalHealth.va.gov/MST](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/MST) provides educational and coping resources about MST for survivors, family members, friends, and health care providers.

Want to help spread awareness? Visit the [Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month page](#) of the MST website for sharable video, social media posts, and e-billboards.

Eligibility for MST-related care at the VA is expansive, and no documentation of the MST experience is required to receive this care. Survivors do not need to have reported the MST experience at the time it occurred or to have sought care within a certain time frame. The VA believes MST survivors and is ready to help them heal.



**COME SPEAK WITH THE VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER & GET
UPDATED ON VETERAN INFO - ALL ARE INVITED
706 MAIN ST LEOLA SD 57456 - ON THE MAIN FLOOR -
HAVE ?'S CALL/TEXT SAM 605-282-9227**



**COME SEE THE NEW VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE & GET
UPDATED ON VETERAN INFO - ALL ARE INVITED**

**613 7TH ST EUREKA SD 57437 - LOOK FOR THE VSO SIGN -
HAVE ?'S CALL/TEXT SAM 605-282-9227**

DAV Information Fair

May 17, 2025

Rapid City

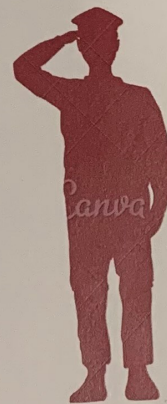
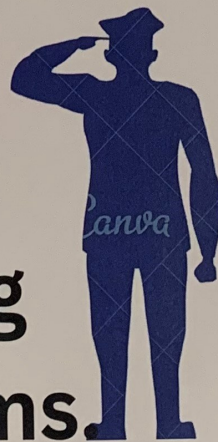
American Legion

818 E. St. Patrick Street

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

40 vendors will be present

CSOs will be
available to
assist with filing
FREE VA claims.



Contact Info:

Christine Speirs - 605-787-2645

6TH ANNUAL CAREGIVER SUPPORT SUMMIT

MAY 7, 2025

8:30AM-12:00PM (CT)

3 SOUTH DAKOTA
SOCIAL WORK CEUS

VIRTUAL
EVENT

FREE



8:40a.m.- 9:00 a.m. VA CAREGIVER SUPPORT

A brief overview of the VA Caregiver Support Program.



CARING FOR SELF IN ORDER TO CARE FOR OTHERS

An overview of the personal health inventory (PHI) and ways to practice self compassion.



CHAPLAIN SERVICE

An overview of Chaplain Services and how chaplains assess the spiritual needs of caregivers, especially at the veteran's end of life.



ADAPTIVE SPORTS

An overview of recreational therapy and adaptive sports. Information on how these programs help veterans refresh and renew their overall well-being.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System



TO REGISTER CALL
605-336-3230 EXT 5080



Sioux Falls Area Veterans 4man Best Ball Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Hidden Valley Golf Course

(1/2 mile South & 1/2 mile East of I90 Brandon Exit)

Open to the first 26 four-person teams to register

Sign up at 10:30 with noon tee off

\$200 per team includes:

Green Fees

Golf Cart

Awards & Prizes

Lunch

All proceeds to assist local veterans

Sponsored by Sioux Falls Rolling Thunder

For Registration or information contact Henry Dean, 605-261-7455



PLEASE REGISTER OUR TEAM FOR THE SIOUX FALLS AREA VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Team Name (or Company Representing) _____

Print Name _____ Phone# _____

Print Name _____ Phone# _____

Print Name _____ Phone# _____

Print Name _____ Phone# _____

Email _____

Cost: \$200 per team includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch & prizes

For more information call 605-261-7455

Mail registration to: Sioux Falls Rolling Thunder, PO Box 152 | Brandon, SD 57005



DINE TO DONATE

⇒ *Support* ⇐

MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

3:30PM-10PM



10%

DONATION NIGHT

for **Midwest Honor Flight**.

Present this flyer at the Sioux-Falls location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **Midwest Honor Flight!**

605-362-5784
4307 W. EMPIRE PLACE
SIOUX FALLS, SD



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](mailto:TRAVIS.HINDT@USD.EDU)

4th Annual **STAND UP FOR WOMEN VETERANS RETREAT**

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



CONNECTION, EMPOWERMENT, AND COMMUNITY.

GRAB YOUR FAVORITE BATTLE BUDDY AND
EMBARK ON THIS UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE
TOGETHER!



GUEST REGISTRATION



SCAN ME TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT!

\$10 A TICKET

29 MARCH 2025 | 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

LOCATION: OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA, WEST 33RD STREET,
SIOUX FALLS, SD

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

SILVER SPONSORS



Daughters of the American Revolution

Mary Chilton Chapter, NSDAR and the
Mary Chilton DAR Foundation, Sioux Falls, SD

BRONZE SPONSORS





\$10,000 IN PRIZES

PRIZE MONEY BASED ON 40 TEAMS—ACTUAL PAYOFF BASED ON NUMBER OF TEAMS ENTERED.

MAY 16-17, 2025

LAKE THOMPSON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Tournament Payout

- 1st Prize: \$5,000
- 2nd Prize: \$2,500
- 3rd Prize: \$1,200
- 4th Prize: \$800
- 5th Prize: \$500

Rules and Regulations

ELIGIBILITY:

All participants **MUST** have a valid fishing license to participate in the tournament. The total entry fee is \$300 per team or \$250 per team with a Veteran crew member. Contestants **MUST** check in on Friday, May 16, 2025, starting at 5:30 PM and ending at 7:30pm. LOCATION: Half Pint Steaks & Spirits; 104 3rd St SW, De Smet, SD.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Both artificial and live bait are permitted. Each team may use up to four rods.

FISHING AREA:

The designated fishing area is Lake Thompson. Launching site is the North Ramp.

SCORING:

Prizes will be based on pounds and ounces most weighted during the tournament day. Each boat will be permitted to catch eight walleyes. Six walleyes of at least 15 inches will be weighed, with only two over 20 inches.

TEAMS:

Contestants can enter as two, three, or four person teams. Tournament payouts will be awarded to the top five teams. Each team is encouraged to include Veterans as part of their crew.



← **SCAN HERE TO REGISTER**

URL: <https://shorturl.at/E7190>

**A fundraiser for
Community Action for
Veterans**



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 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 7—BHNC Military Honors Ceremony for Unaccompanied Veterans—BHNC Committal Shelter—(20901 Pleasant Valley Drive)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
- 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 18-21—State Offices Closed
- 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)

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)
- 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)
- 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

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer (audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)
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

