



# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## MEMORIAL DAY THANK YOU

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs extends heartfelt gratitude to all the veterans service organizations and community leaders across the state who dedicated time and effort to organize Memorial Day events and programs honoring our fallen heroes.

Your commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices of our deceased veterans are remembered and respected is deeply appreciated. These ceremonies not only pay tribute to those who gave all but also strengthen the bonds within our communities by uniting us in remembrance and gratitude.

A special thank you to the SDDVA staff for their exemplary programs at the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery and the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. These solemn and dignified ceremonies served as powerful reminders of the cost of freedom and the importance of honoring those who served.

Together, we continue to uphold the legacy of our veterans with respect, reverence, and gratitude.



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# JUNE PROCLAIMED PTSI AWARENESS MONTH

In recognition of the invisible wounds carried by many of our veterans, service members, first responders, and survivors of trauma, South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden has officially proclaimed the month of June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month (PTSIA).

The proclamation emphasizes the importance of acknowledging and addressing the lasting effects of trauma, and aims to foster a culture of compassion, understanding, and healing. By shifting the conversation from “disorder” to “injury,” the state seeks to help reduce stigma and remind individuals that healing is not only possible—but encouraged and supported.

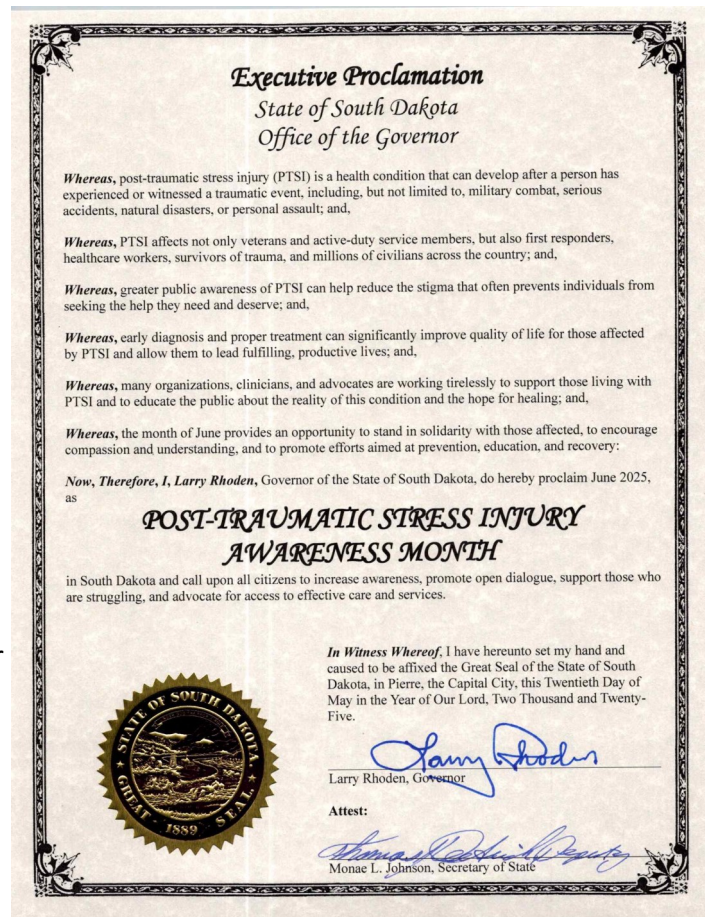
“This proclamation is more than a symbolic gesture—it’s a call to action,” said Governor Rhoden. “Post-traumatic stress injury can affect anyone, and we must ensure that every South Dakotan who has experienced trauma knows they are not alone. Together, we stand with our veterans, first responders, and all those on the path to recovery.”

The term “Post-Traumatic Stress Injury” has been increasingly embraced by veterans' groups and mental health professionals as a way to emphasize that the effects of trauma are injuries to the brain and soul—not signs of weakness or personal failure. Jeremiah Schneider, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, echoed the Governor’s message, urging all citizens to play a role in raising awareness and supporting healing.

“PTSI is treatable, and recovery is real,” Secretary Schneider stated. “By fostering open dialogue, supporting access to care, and honoring the courage it takes to seek help, we can build a stronger, more resilient community for those who have sacrificed so much.”

Residents are encouraged to wear teal or black ribbons, symbols of PTSI awareness, and to check in with friends, loved ones, and colleagues who may be carrying invisible burdens.

For more information, resources, or to connect with support services, contact your local veterans service officer.





# WAGON RIDE ADVENTURES

The staff at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home recently treated residents to a special outing that captured the spirit of spring in the Black Hills — a scenic wagon ride through the surrounding countryside. With the help of a local team and a sturdy wagon, veterans were able to relax and take in the breathtaking landscapes that make South Dakota so unique.

The ride offered more than just fresh air and sunshine — it was a chance for camaraderie, storytelling, and reflection. For many, it stirred fond memories of rural life and time spent outdoors. The staff made sure every detail was in place to ensure comfort and safety for all who joined the journey.

Events like this underscore MJFSVH's commitment to enriching the lives of our veterans. Whether through scenic rides, community gatherings, or simple moments of joy, the staff continue to go above and beyond to honor those who have served.



# BOOTS TO BUSINESS

The Small Business Administration will be hosting a "Boots to Business Reboot" entrepreneurial training program Thursday, June 12, 2025, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (CT), and is open to veterans of all eras, service members and their spouses. The training program will be held at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street) in Sioux Falls.

The B2B Reboot curriculum starts with the "Introduction to Entrepreneurship" course that provides you with an overview of the opportunities and challenges of business ownership. The class will provide business fundamentals and techniques for evaluating the feasibility of your business concepts.

There is no charge for this training program. Visit this link to register:  
<https://sdceo.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019074>



## BOOTS to BUSINESS | REBOOT

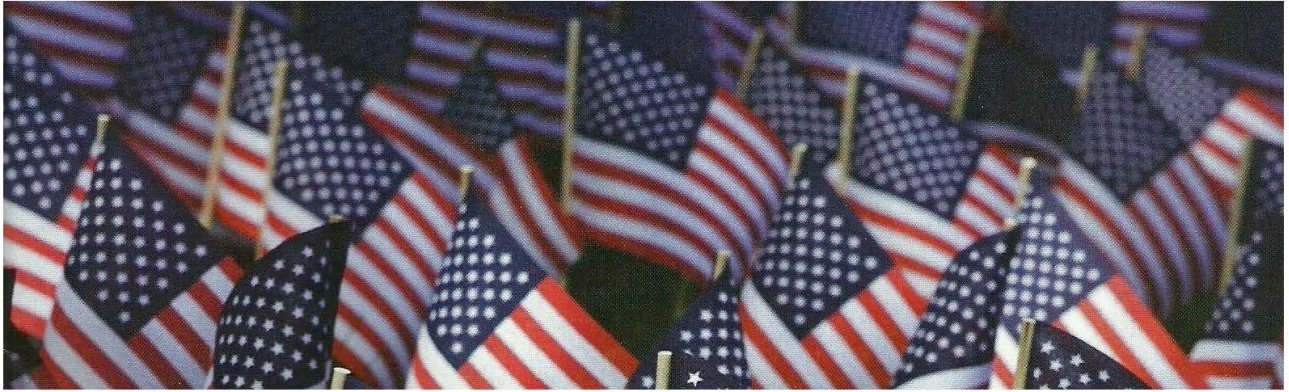
### with the U.S. Small Business Administration

7:30 – 8:00 am	REGISTRATION & NETWORKING OBJECTIVE: Provide time to sign-in for the training, network with other attendees, and visit vendor booths.
8:00 – 8:30 am	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OBJECTIVE: Provide an overview of the Boots to Business program, the 2-day workshop, and Introduction to Feasibility Analysis.
8:30 – 9:05 am	TRAINING MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS OWNERSHIP OBJECTIVE: Provide an overview of the entrepreneurial process, what it means to be an entrepreneur, the opportunities and challenges and military skills and attributes that transfer over to entrepreneurship.
9:05 – 9:10 am	BREAK
9:10 – 9:55 am	TRAINING MODULE 2: THE RIGHT IDEA? BASICS OF OPPORTUNITY RECOGNITION OBJECTIVE: Describe the process and activities related to understanding the 'business case' for turning an idea into a sustainable business concept.
9:55 – 10:05 am	BREAK

(continued on next page)

10:05 – 10:50 am	TRAINING MODULE 3: UNDERSTANDING MARKETS & YOUR COMPETITIVE SPACE <b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Understand how to conduct market research, the importance of market research, and the basics of competitive strategy/analysis.
10:50 – 11:00 am	<b>BREAK</b>
11:00 – 11:45 am	TRAINING MODULE 4: THE ECONOMICS OF SMALL BUSINESS START-UP <b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Understand the foundation for the cost, price, volume relationship, as it informs profit potential and sustainability for the planned venture.
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	<b>LUNCH – Women Veteran Recognition Day Speaker</b>
12:30 – 1:15 pm	MODULE 5: LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES <b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Understand the various legal forms of a business; opportunities and challenges associated with each; offer an overview of other legal considerations impacting veteran-owned business; government contracting.
1:15 – 1:20 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
1:20 – 2:05 pm	MODULE 6: FINANCING YOUR VENTURE <b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Understand what types of financing are available for your business; understand the difference between debt & equity financing; and explore what lenders and investors look for when deciding whether to finance your small business.
2:05 – 2:10 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
2:10 – 2:55 pm	MODULE 7: INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS PLANNING <b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Understand the concepts and value of business planning and utilize SBA Resource Partners and tools to develop a viable business plan.
2:55 – 3:05 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
3:05 – 3:40 pm	MODULE 8: RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS <b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Understand the resources available through the SBA, VA, and other resource partners positioned to provide future training and support of the participant’s efforts to launch and grow a sustainable business venture.
3:40 – 4:00 pm	GROUP QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION/CLOSING REMARKS/ GIVEAWAYS
4:00 – 6:00 pm	SOCIAL & TOURS <b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Network with other attendees, visit vendor booths, and tour the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance.





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

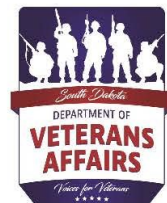
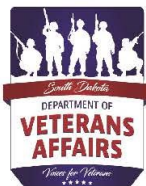


**We invite all veterans to join us for a  
“Veterans Coffee and Networking.”  
Free coffee and treats while you chat with new and old friends  
alike and learn more about veterans benefits from the South  
Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.**

**Friday—June 13, 2025**

**1:00 pm (MT)**

**Black Hills State University Joy Center  
(1351 St. Joe Street—Spearfish)**







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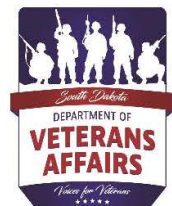
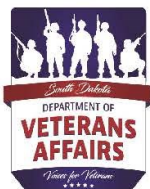


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**Tuesday—June 17, 2025**

**1:00 pm (MT)**

**Timber Lake Community Center  
(701-709 Main Street—Timber Lake)**





# *"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

D E D I C A T I O N

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 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 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 Pans 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 pm (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)

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

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer ([audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto: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

