



South Dakota Department of the Military
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL



The Vietnam War Memorial has been a Washington, D.C., landmark since its inception in 1982.

This past weekend, South Dakotans had the opportunity to visit a replica of the wall as it traveled through Sioux Falls.

A highlight of the event was the reading of the names of the 192 South Dakota residents who were killed while serving in the Vietnam War.

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BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY TO HOST WORLD WAR II 70TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

As part of the Spirit of '45 World War II 70th Anniversary, the Black Hills National Cemetery will host two public wreath laying ceremonies to honor members of the Greatest Generation interred at the Cemetery

The ceremonies will be held on Sunday, August 16, at 10:00 am (MT). In Hot Springs the ceremony will be held by the flag pole and in Fort Meade the ceremony will be held at the Committal Shelter.

"Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive" is an initiative that recognizes the achievements of the men and women who endured the Great Depression, fought and won World War II and then laid the foundations for a better world. Aug. 14, 1945 is recognized as the official end of WWII.



TURNER COUNTY TO THANK AND WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

Turner County will be hosting a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration," during their upcoming County Fair.

The "Welcome Home" celebration will run from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the Turner County Fair Grounds - Freedom Stage - Heritage Park in Parker on Tuesday, August 18th.



You're invited to the
2nd Annual Waterfowl Hunt

*Langford, South Dakota
November 5th thru 8th, 2015*



2nd Annual Waterfowl Hunt

November 5th thru 8th, 2015
Langford, South Dakota

Interested in attending

Must purchase your own hunting license
Some gear can be provided, if needed
Lodging, food, fuel and guides are no charge to our veterans



Please respond to Ken Katter and register for the hunt:
kkatter@injuredsoldiers.org

Ken Katter

OIS Hunting Coordinator

kkatter@injuredsoldiers.org

Cell: 910-224-3178

DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY HELD FOR 155TH ENGINEER CO. SOLDIERS

A deployment ceremony was held for 161 soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company in Rapid City, Wednesday, Aug. 12.

More than a thousand family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center's Barnett Arena to support their loved ones as the Rapid City and Wagner-based unit deploys to Kuwait for one year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Spartan Shield.

"The soldiers of the 155th represent the best of South Dakota, and I am proud to be a part of this South Dakota National Guard unit," said Capt. David Dodson, 155th commander. "We've trained hard. We've learned to do whatever it takes to make us successful and we are prepared."

The 155th is a vertical engineer company capable of providing engineer support in the construction of base camps

and facilities. The unit's mission will be to provide construction, repair and maintenance of vertical infrastructures and facilities on a base in Kuwait.

Speakers for the ceremony included Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Senators John Thune and Michael Rounds, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

"I am thankful for the sacrifice our National Guard Soldiers are making," said Gov. Daugaard,

while addressing the audience. "National Guard Soldiers in South Dakota are the most capable, dependable, adaptable, courageous and determined people you will ever meet. They are the kind of people you want at your back, when you need someone at your back. I am grateful for your willingness to serve."

"I couldn't be prouder of this unit. I know how hard you trained to get yourselves ready," said Maj. Gen. Reisch, during the ceremony. "There is no doubt in my mind you are going to go over there and perform extremely well in the coming year. I look forward to the day next year when we welcome you back to South Dakota." (continued)



DEPLOYMENT FOR 155TH CONTINUED)

As a construction company, 155th has a wide variety of occupational specialties including carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry - services the unit has performed in a deployed environment before.

This is the second mobilization for the 155th, which deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Noble Eagle in 2002-2003.

The 155th was the first SDNG unit to deploy after 9/11 in support of the Global War on Terror, where they helped to build up base infrastructure in Kuwait in the lead up to the Iraq war.

While deployed, it's not only the Soldiers that make sacrifices - the families share the burden as well.

"As soldiers, we volunteered and are proud to wear the uniform. But we don't wear it alone. Parents, spouses, brothers, sisters, children and relatives ... your support for us is invaluable," said Dodson, while addressing the families. "What we experience, you experience and we thank you."

"The world is a dangerous place - full of rogue nations, rouge terrorists and evil things who do not like America," said Daugaard. "Our National Guard is part of the vanguard that defends us, and as Senator Thune put it - keeps the wolves from our door."



"We've trained as a team, we will fight as a team, we will build as a team and we will come home as a team," said Dodson. "We are ready. Let's go."

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 14– Davison County Veterans Benefits Update—Davison County Fair Grounds—9:00 am —4:30 pm (CT)
 Aug. 18—SFVAHCS Women’s Health Clinic Open House (exclusively for women veterans) 3:30 pm
 Aug. 18—Turner County “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” Program—Turner County Fairgrounds—Freedom Stage—Heritage Park—Parker—5:00—7:00 pm (CT)
 Aug. 19 – 14th Annual SFVAHCS Show & Shine (front parking lot) 5:30 – 8:00 pm (CT)
 Aug. 21—Miss SD Send Off Celebration—American Legion Post 71—Hot Springs—6:00 pm (MT)
 Aug. 23—Miss SD Send Off Celebration—American Legion Post 15—Sioux Falls—3:00 pm (CT)
 Aug. 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota—Pierre
 Aug. 26—SFVAHCS Women’s Health Clinic Open House and Ribbon Cutting 3:30 pm (CT)
 Sept. 3—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
 Sept. 5—727th DAV Poker Run—Brookings National Guard Armory
 Sept. 10—VABHHCS Welcome Home—Main Street Square—Rapid City—6:00 pm—9:00 pm (MT)
 Sept. 11 – Veterans Stand Down—Wagner—National Guard Armory—9:00 am—1:00 pm (CT)
 Sept. 12—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon (CT)
 Sept. 16—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
 Sept. 16—Veterans Town Hall Meeting—Fairgrounds—Mitchell—5:00 pm (CT)
 Sept. 17—Veterans Appreciation Day—Watertown
 Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park—6:30 pm (CT)
 Sept. 18—Ellsworth AFB Retiree Appreciation Day— Exhibits 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MDT)—Luncheon 11:00 am—1:00 pm (MDT) - EAFB
 Sept. 19—Agent Orange Town Hall Forum—VFW Post 1273 (420 Main Street) - Rapid City—Two Sessions (one from 9:00 am—noon and one from noon—3:00 pm (MDT))
 Sept. 25—Veterans Stand Down—VFW—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) - 9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
 Sept. 25-27—NCPVA Veterans Trapshoot—Crooks
 Oct. 5—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Oct. 9—Women Veterans Conference
 Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls
 Nov. 7—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon (CT)
 Dec. 8– Governor’s Budget Address—Pierre

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- Jan. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre
 Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre
 Jan. 27-28-State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre
 Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City
 Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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