



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



## SPEARFISH UNVEILS VETERANS MEMORIAL

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman joined veterans and community leaders in Spearfish last weekend for the unveiling of the new veterans memorial.

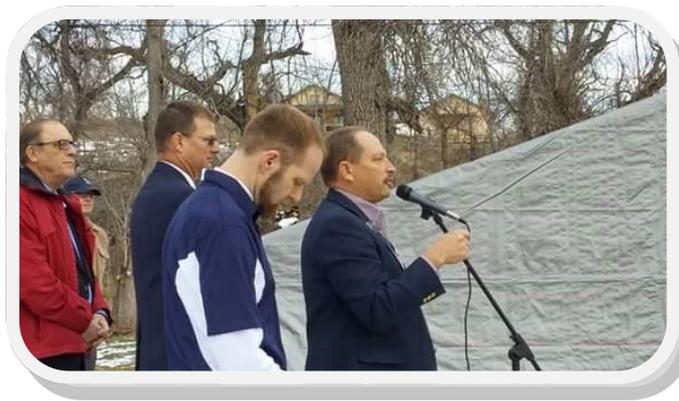
The monument honors veterans from Spearfish who have served honorably, dating back to the Spanish-American War. Today, more than 900 names are etched on the first wall. There eventually will be five walls, symbolizing the five branches of the military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

The monument's cost is estimated at about \$250,000.

Secretary Zimmerman commended the community for their commitment to see this project through and for their unending support of our veterans.

"Communities in South Dakota have done an outstanding job of erecting monuments dedicated to those individuals who went off to war and never came back, to those that came back in part, and to all who gave even the smallest effort to protect and serve mankind," said Zimmerman.

The Spearfish Veterans Monument organization was conceived and developed as a joint effort of members of both the American Legion Post 164 and the Queen City VFW Post 5860. The joint committee envisioned a method by which Spearfish veterans of the Armed Forces of the US might be honored in perpetuity. With input from city planners, other veterans, construction and architectural professionals, they designed a "living" monument to honor all men and women who have lived in Spearfish (57783 for at least one year) and have completed their term of service (or have been honorably discharged).



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## GOVERNOR NAMES WITH HORN TO THE VETERANS COMMISSION



Governor Dugaard has appointed Kella With Horn to the South Dakota Veterans Commission. With Horn replaces John Noyes who has served on the Commission since 2009.

Kella served in the United States Army from 1986-1994. She graduated from California State University Northridge with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration in 2000, and later earned her Masters of Management from the University of Phoenix.

Kella is a member of the Lakota Women Warriors color guard.

Kella and her husband Scott love time with their family and live in Aberdeen.

"We are honored to have Kella join the Commission and look forward to working with her," said SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUTS CIVIL WAR VETERAN RECORDS ON LINE

The South Dakota State Historical Society's Archives has put an index on its website listing information about dead Civil War veterans who were members of a fraternal veterans' organization in the state.

The historical society announced Wednesday that it had put information from the South Dakota Grand Army of the Republic's annual journals online.

The organization would list the known deaths of its members during annual meetings. The historical society says nearly 1,300 Civil War veterans were recorded in the journals between 1884 and 1937.

Historical society volunteers put the information in the database. State Archivist Chelle Somsen says the archive is grateful for the help volunteers provide for the benefit of the public.



## SD GUARD PROMOTES CROYMANS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

The South Dakota Army National Guard promoted Thomas Croymans, of Aberdeen, to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid, Dec 5.

Croymans serves as the director of the joint staff and oversees joint strategic planning and training to enhance the readiness of the Army and Air Guard.

"To achieve the rank of brigadier general is truly an honor," said Croymans, during the ceremony. "This is a great accomplishment and I'm thankful for all of those who have helped me throughout the years."

Guest speaker Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general for the SDNG, expressed his confidence in Croymans to maintain the relationships and readiness for South Dakota.

"People get promoted for their potential, not their performance. You get paid for your performance - you get promoted for the potential that we see in you," said Reisch.

Reisch recognized Croymans' 14 years of enlisted experience as a strength in his leadership knowledge and abilities.

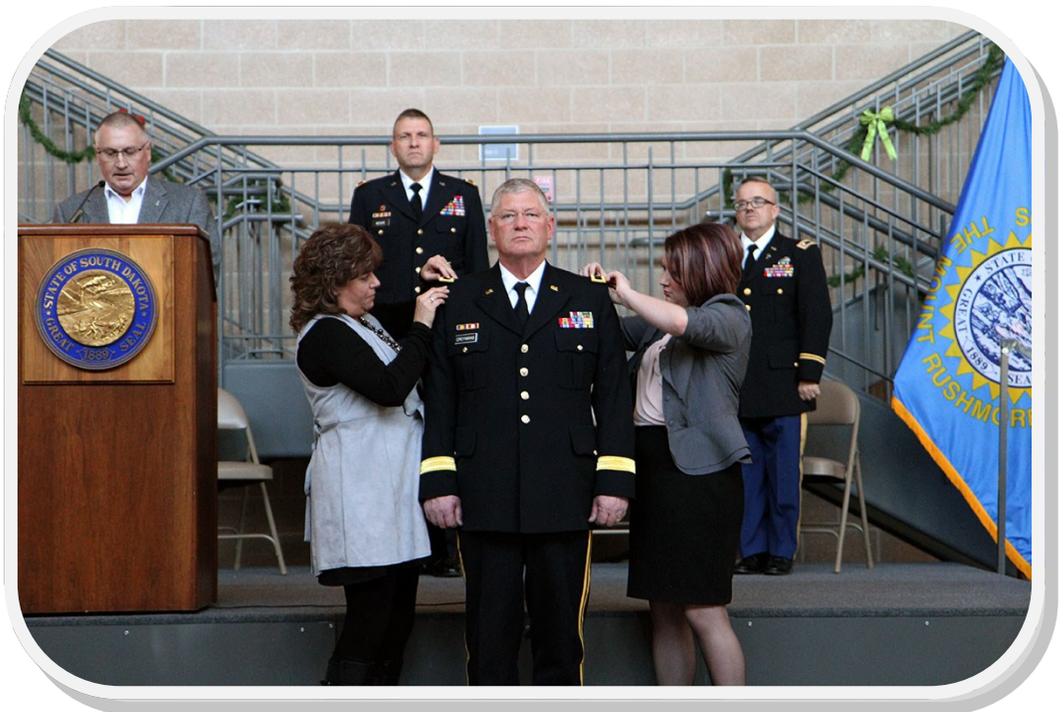
"Tom is unique that he spent time as an enlisted soldier and it shows," said Reisch. "Enlisted time gives you an opportunity to walk in the boots of those you are leading. He's worked his way up and performed extremely well at every level."

A few of the leadership responsibilities Croymans has held throughout his career include commander of the 1742nd Transportation Company, 88th Troop Command, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, 109th Regional Support Group, and chief of staff for the SDARNG.

Croymans spoke of his priorities and goals in his new role as brigadier general.

"With this rank comes high expectations and increased responsibilities," said Croymans. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to effect change and contribute to the success of this organization. I want to ensure the organization maintains a high level of readiness and make sure our soldiers and airmen are resourced with the best equipment and leadership we can provide."

In his civilian career, Croymans is the regional roads engineer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Region.



## HONORING OUR FALLEN

State officials, veterans service organization leaders, veterans and others attended the annual wreath-laying ceremony to honor fallen veterans this week.

This is the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association's 9th year of participating in the wreath-laying ceremony. Featured speakers included Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard.

SDDVA's John Fette provided the invocation for the ceremony.



# Upcoming Events

2016

- Jan. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
- Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre—1:00 pm
- Jan. 12—Awarding of the Korean Ambassador Peace Medals—Capitol Rotunda—Pierre—2:30 pm (CT)
- Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre
- Jan. 27-28—State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre
- Feb. 12-14—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Huron Crossroads
- Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
- April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City—Adoba
- Jun. 16-19—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota—Watertown
- 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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