



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



ZIMMERMAN RECOGNIZED BY THE MOPH

Members of the South Dakota Veterans Council met in Sioux Falls this week to hear updates on various projects, programs and services.

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman provided an update on the status of the new state veterans home, the military funeral honor stipend reimbursement, Operation Korean War Veteran Recognition and federal and state legislative issues.

The Veterans Council elected the following new officers: President: Terry Paulson (PVA), Vice President: Rollie Lambert (VVA), Secretary/Treasurer: Ken McLaughlin (DAV) and Judge Advocate: Terry "Hawk" Meyer (VVA)

Mark Williamson, Department Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, recognized SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman for his service to South Dakota's veterans. Williamson noted "Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of the Dakota's deeply appreciate your devotion in advancing the cause and interests of the men and women who were injured while serving our nation in uniform."

Chartered by Congress in 1958, The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat.

The South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America presented Secretary Zimmerman with a special commemorative 50th anniversary cap.

In the words of Secretary Zimmerman —
"Thank you and HOOAH!"



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VETERANS STORIES TO BE RECORDED AND ARCHIVED

South Dakota storyteller, Rick Lingberg, will be visiting the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home (MJFVH) on Thursday, July 23, to share his stories and to preserve some new ones.

"Real history is a compilation of people's stories and experiences. However, only a very small amount of that is ever preserved and unfortunately lost for all of time," says Lingberg. "I think it's important that we do everything we can to preserve those stories even if it's just one story at a time," he added.

Lingberg is a marketing consultant and a media producer, but primarily considers himself a storyteller. A substantial amount of his work has been with preserving the legacies of individuals, families, businesses and veterans. Says Lingberg, "I think everybody has a story worth telling and sharing one's life experiences may be the most valuable legacy a person can leave for generations to come whether it's family, business or community."

Lingberg will be speaking at 7:00 pm in the MJFVH auditorium. The title of his presentation is called "Old Guys and Their Airplanes." Lingberg, along with his film-making partner, aviation artist and historian, John Mollison, produce an online video series of the same title. They interview former combat pilots and tell their stories. "The pilots, their airplanes and combat experiences provide both an interesting historical and personal basis for our program. However, even more importantly, every pilot's story reveals an underlying message about the human condition and how these experiences have formed them from which we can all learn," says Lingberg.

The program includes Rick's remarks and video excerpts from his show. The program is open to the public.

Old Guys & Their Airplanes (OGTA) recently returned from Vietnam where they filmed a documentary that will feature former U.S. Navy pilot and ex-P.O.W. Captain Charlie Plumb. On May 19, 1967, while flying his 75th mission, with only five days before he was to return home, Plumb was shot down, captured, tortured, and imprisoned in an 8 foot x 8 foot cell. He spent the next 2,103 days as a Prisoner Of War in communist war prisons. OGTA recorded and preserved Charlie's recollections and reflections as they visited the sites of his Vietnam Prisoner of War captivity which will be seen in an episode scheduled for viewing this fall.

Lingberg will also be recording interviews with a several veterans at the MJFVH. The interviews will later be available for public viewing at his websites: www.storytellingamerica.com and www.fyi-dakota.com.



LIFE'S JOURNAL

"I promise that if you will keep your journals and records, they will indeed be a source of great inspiration to your families, to your children, your grandchildren, and others." (Spencer Kimball)

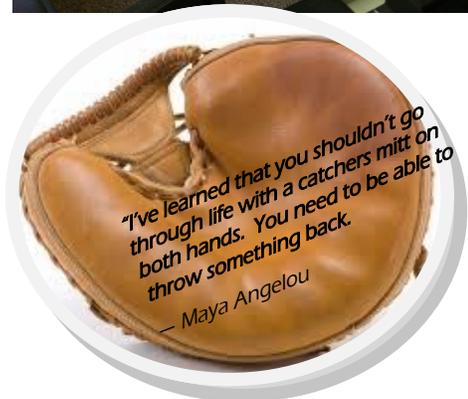
FALOR AND DAVIDSON DELIVER THE GOODS!!

Davison, Jerauld, Aurora, and Brule Counties have completed their venture to fulfill the “needs list” for the heroes at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home.

Davison County’s summer intern, Jerry Stravia, took on the "Needs Drive" as a project within the office. This was a project dear to him as he is a combat wounded veteran and just like CVSO’s Ron Falor and Jessica Davidson, as well as those who donated, he doesn’t want any veteran to feel they have been forgotten. At the end of the month-long drive they collected 242 items for the Home.



“This was a great opportunity to grow the communities knowledge about our veterans home and the benefits available to our veterans,” said Davidson. It’s been said that If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life. Thanks Ron, Jessica and Jerry for your leadership and for touching the lives of our heroes. Thank you for throwing something back!!!!



VA WOMEN’S HEALTH CLINIC OEPN HOUSES

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System will be hosting two open houses for their new Women’s Health Clinic.

On Tuesday, August 18, the SFVAHC will host an open house from 3:30 pm—6:30 pm exclusively for women veterans.

On Wednesday, August 26, the SFVAHC will host an open house and ribbon cutting from 3:30 pm—6:30 pm.

Attendees are invited to meet the staff and tour the clinic.

Margaret Devick, MD and Lindsey Mayer, NP will be the providers for this clinic. In addition, Shelley Morrison, MD, gynecologist will join the staff in October.

If you need more information, please contact Charlotte McGrath, Women Veteran Program Manager, at Ext. 7747.



VETERANS DAY AT THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

The theme for this year's State Fair is "Sew it, Grow it, Show it!" And South Dakota can be proud that we have grown some of the greatest heroes in the country!!!!

Thursday, September 3, at Veterans Day at the State Fair is a great opportunity to honor all the HEROES we have grown! The official program starts at 10:00 am.

The South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banners will be on display during the Fair.

Representatives from the Veterans Service Organizations, the MJF Veterans Home and the county and tribal veterans service officers will have an informational booth in the Veterans Building on Flag Avenue. This booth will be staffed throughout the span of the fair and will give veterans an opportunity to talk to experts about benefits and programs available to them as well.



AMERICAN LEGION HOMECOMINGS

Newly elected Department Commander Terry Hanson has announced his Homecoming Celebration will be held Saturday, July 25, 2015, in Arlington. This is also the annual celebration of Arlington Days.

The schedule of events are as follows; Parade at 1:30 p.m. (line up at 12:45 p.m. at the Fire Hall Parking Lot), Program at 3:00 p.m. in city park and meal at 4:00 p.m. in the park. The Legion Riders will lead the parade followed by Post Color Guards. City Park is located on the east side of the swimming pool. Bring your lawn chairs. For further information on events in the community check out Arlington Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page.

Newly elected Auxiliary President Jane Benzel has announced her Homecoming Celebration will be held Saturday August 1, 2015 in Hot Springs. The schedule of events are as follows: Parade at 1:30 (starting at State Veterans Home), Social at 2:00 p.m., Program 3:00 p.m. and meal at 4:00 p.m. All events will be held at Hot Springs Post 71.



Everyone is invited and encouraged to support the 2015-2016 State Commander and American Legion Auxiliary President.

ROUNDS SELECTED FOR KEY DEFENSE COMMITTEE ROLE

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has been appointed as a conferee to the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Conference Committee.

The NDAA is the major defense legislation considered by Congress each year. The Conference Committee is tasked with reconciling differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Last month [the NDAA passed the Senate](#) with broad bipartisan support and included a number of Rounds' provisions.

"I'm pleased to be a member of the NDAA Conference Committee," said Rounds. "Enactment of the NDAA is essential to give our troops the resources they need. As a member of the Conference Committee, I will work with my colleagues to provide our Armed Forces with the tools necessary to accomplish their demanding and dangerous missions at a time of rising threats around the world."

Other Senate conferees include Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.), the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Jack Reed (D-R.I.), the ranking Democratic member of the Armed Services Committee, James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.).

AIR NATIONAL GUARD BAND TO PERFORM IN HOT SPRINGS



THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BAND OF
THE MIDWEST
IS COMING TO HOT SPRINGS!

Thursday, July 30, 2015 - 7:00PM
Mueller Civic Center Theatre

DAV 76TH CONVENTION

The DAV 76th Department Convention was held at the Holiday Inn Civic Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Delegates elected the following officers to lead the DAV Department of South Dakota for FY 2015-2016:

Commander—Ritch Wilson of Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Sr. Vice Commander—Rodney Parks of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3

1st Jr. Vice Commander—Robert Hill of DAV Brookings Chapter No.22

2nd Jr. Vice Commander—Joseph H. Rice of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3

Treasurer—Gene Murphy of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Judge Advocate/Inspector—Larry W. Bouska of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Trustees—H.G. Krosschell and Earl Jefferson of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3

Commander Elect – Ritch Wilson made the following Commander Appointments:

Adjutant—Ken Laughlin of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Chaplain—Charles Walker of DAV Pierre Chapter No. 18

Committee reports and congressional updates were presented, and Veterans Town Hall participants gave briefings on issues relating to veterans and responded to questions from the membership.

Delegates at the convention contributed \$885 for the Department Service Foundation program, \$520 for Bulletin advertisements and \$3,320 for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network. The Department, with the help of members, Chapters, Auxiliary Units, and friends were able to raise \$5,524 for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network.

The delegates approved 58 resolutions to improve benefits and services to disabled veterans and their families. Fifty-two (52) of the resolutions were forwarded to DAV National Headquarters for the upcoming National Convention in Denver, CO.

The DAV Department of South Dakota has ordered three Ford Flex AWD seven-passenger), (one Ford Flex 4X2 7-passenger), and (one Ford Transit 12-passenger) The new vehicles will be for Aberdeen, Ft Meade, Mitchell, Mobridge, and Yankton and were delivered in June. The total cost of the vehicles was \$143,988; with Ms. Marian Gunderson providing \$16,000, AL Parker-Browder Post #4 providing \$16,000, Mitchell Chapter #7 providing \$13,800, Aberdeen providing \$16,000, Pierre Chapter #18 providing \$31,466, and the DAV Columbia Trust providing a grant of \$50,721. Since 1987 the statistics are: 339,878 veterans transported, 633,391 volunteer hours, and 14,597,579 miles driven.



Commander Ritch Wilson



Sr. V. Comm. Parks



Jr. V. Commanders Hill and Rice

POLLARDS TAKE IT TO THE COOKER!

For most of us Saturday and Sunday are our days off — time to relax, do some baking, clean the house, do some laundry, mow the lawn, etc.

For SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard and his family it's about commitment to community and supporting our veterans. Deputy Secretary Pollard, his wife Tracy, and sons Cullen and Aidan, assisted with the Wheelchair Lacrosse in Sioux Falls last weekend.

Wheelchair Lacrosse, hosted by the North Central Paralyzed Veterans of America, was a two-day camp/clinic that provided training and wheels on the ground experience. Saturday's clinic covered everything about the game – from rules to equipment to style of play and strategy. Sunday's session featured a full scrimmage between two teams.



The sport has been described by its practitioners as physical and fast-paced, and could be a perfect fit for local wounded veterans seeking competition and an active lifestyle.

"We're trying to introduce new sporting activities for our members," said Terry Paulsen, the North Central Chapter's government relations director. "With lacrosse being a new venue that's offered through our national office – and working with WLUSA as well – we're trying to get it established in the Sioux Falls area."

Deputy Secretary Pollard assisted with training and hit the floor with his son Aidan during the scrimmage. Pollard's son Cullen and wife Tracy assisted with equipment needs. Tracy also shared her love of photography and was on the front lines taking action shots.



Kudos to the Pollard family for giving their weekend time to assist our veterans!!!!!!



AUGUST 2, 2015 – 10 AM

SD State Veterans Home - Hot Springs, SD

**Fall River
Freedom Ride
Poker Run**

**8:30 to 10:00 am - Registration
(\$15 a hand or 2 hands for \$20)
S.D. State Veterans Home
2500 Minnekahta Ave.
Come and show your
support for the Veterans**

**5:00 pm Dinner & Auction
6:00 pm Winners Announced
(CASH PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE)
BASED ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES
American Legion Post 71
1045 Jennings Ave.**

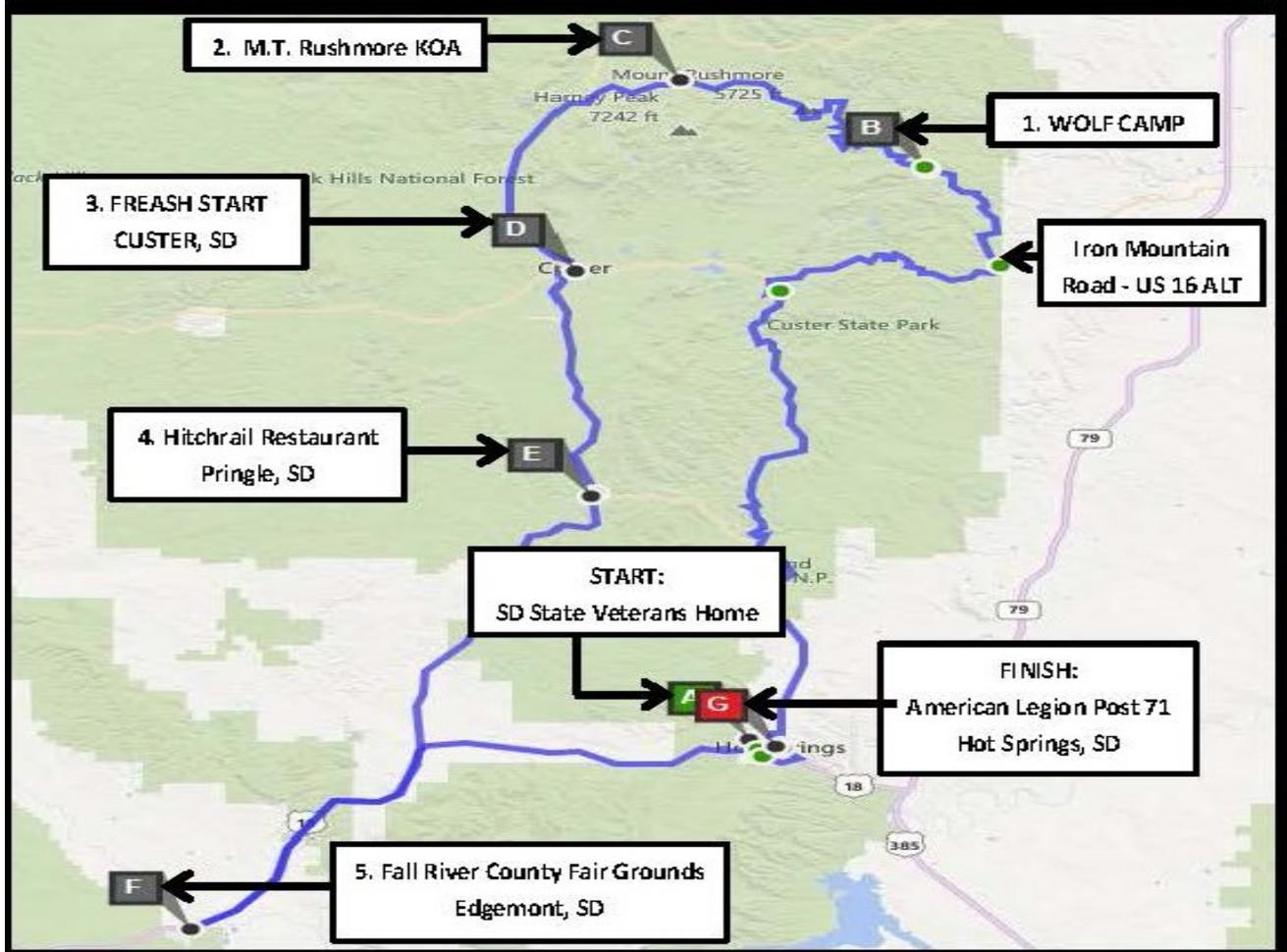
**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS BATTLE MOUNTAIN
POST 71 HOT SPRINGS SD**

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Fall River Freedom Ride Poker Run Map & Directions (Start – SD State Veterans Home)

1. Head North on US-385/SD-87 for 13 miles. Turn right on SD-87 North for 18 miles. Keep straight onto US-16 ALT for 10 miles. Turn left onto US-16 ALT / Iron Mountain Road for 10 miles and **WOLF CAMP** is on your right. (Stop 1 - 11:30 am to 1:30 pm)
2. Turn right on US-16A Iron Mountain Rd for 10 miles. Turn left onto SD-244 for 7 miles and **KOA-MT. Rushmore campground** is on your right. (Stop 2 – 12:30 pm to 2:30 p.m.)
3. Turn right on SD-244 for 3 miles – Turn left onto US-16 / US-385 to Custer, SD for 11 miles. **Fresh Start Gas Station** is on your right. (Stop 3 – 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm)
4. Turn right on US-385/US16 for one block. Turn right at traffic light onto US-385/16 for 1 mile at 2nd traffic light turn left onto US-385/SD 89 for 11 miles to Pringle, SD turn right at Rail way St and **Hitchrail Bar & Restaurant** is on your right. (Stop 4 – 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
5. Turn right on SD-89 for 15 miles. Then turn right onto US-18 for 12 miles to Edgemont, SD. Turn left on 10th Street and go 1 ½ blocks and turn left into the **Fall River County Fair Grounds**. Drive straight to the Main Concession Stand. (Stop 5 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
6. Turn right on 10th St. Turn right on US-18 to Hot Springs, SD for 24 miles – Turn left onto North River St for 1 block – Turn left onto Jennings Ave. **Total trip is about 150 miles**
(Finish American Legion Post 71 – 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 pm)



Upcoming Events

Aug. 2—Fall River Freedom Ride Poker Run—Hot Springs— 8:30—10:00 am Registration
 Aug. 5-9—AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Comes to Sioux Falls (Sanford Pentagon Sports Complex)
 Aug. 18—SFVAHCS Women’s Health Clinic Open House (exclusively for women veterans) 3:30 pm
 Aug. 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota—Pierre
 Aug. 26—SFVAHCS Women’s Health Clinic Open House and Ribbon Cutting 3:30 pm
 Sept. 3—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
 Sept. 5—727th DAV Poker Run—Brookings National Guard Armory
 Sept. 11 — Stand Down—Wagner—National Guard Armory—9:00 am—1:00 pm
 Sept. 12—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon
 Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls
 Sept. 18—Ellsworth AFB Retiree Appreciation Day— Exhibits 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MDT)—Luncheon 11:00 am—1:00 pm (MDT) - EAFB
 Oct. 5—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls
 Nov. 7—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon
 Dec. 8— Governor’s Budget Address—Pierre

2016

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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