



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



HORIZON HEALTHCARE FIRST SD BUSINESS TO JOIN ARMY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



An area health care provider became the first South Dakota company to join a program that connects U.S. Army service members with jobs after their service ends. Veterans, ROTC cadets, Howard community members and state officials gathered last Thursday at the Howard Hotel and Convention Center to witness the formalization of an agreement that makes Horizon Health Care the first South Dakota company to join the U.S. Army's Partnership for

Youth Success program.

Horizon Health Care believes the partnership will help them find qualified applicants with experience in their fields.

The partnership program between the Army and more than 460 partner corporations across the nation helps veterans find employment when their term of service is up. The Army will train a service member during his or her time in the military as long as the individual agrees to work for a specific partner organization when he or she is released. After a soldier is discharged, he or she will have the opportunity to interview with the organization for a specific job at a specific location.

Horizon Health Care supports 24 medical and dental clinics across the state in small communities and in Huron and Aberdeen. Of its 250 employees, 3 percent are veterans.

SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Polard and SDNG Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch attended the event.



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WATERTOWN ARMORY RECEIVES LEED “SILVER” CERTIFICATION

The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Watertown Readiness Center has received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, “Silver” certification for the building’s energy efficiency and environmentally friendly design.

Completed in September 2013, the state-of-the-art \$25 million, 85,000 square-foot training facility includes a number of environmentally responsible and resource efficient features in its design, operation and construction.

“After much effort and diligence, it’s my pleasure to announce that the Watertown Readiness Center was officially recognized for achieving a LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council,” said Col. Scott Petrik, chief of the Facilities Management Office for the SDARNG. “This announcement caps off the design and construction efforts that began many years ago.”

Developed by the non-profit USGBC, the LEED rating system evaluates the environmental performance of a building and encourages market transformation toward sustainable design. The system is credit based, allowing projects to earn points for environmentally friendly actions taken during construction and use of a building.

Petrik said obtaining the LEED certification for the facility, which is home to about 400 soldiers from three units, will save money for the SDARNG and enhance the training and productivity of its soldiers.

“Using many ‘green’ building practices results in energy and costs savings over the life of the structure,” he said. “Other advantages include better indoor air quality and plenty of daylight. Studies have shown that workers in these environments have increased labor productivity, job retention and days worked.”

Achieving the certification required many efforts by the building’s designer, contractors and project management team. This included using more regional materials during the building’s construction, as well as weighing, recycling and diverting on-site generated construction waste from the local landfill.

“To improve the air quality in the building, we used low VOC (volatile organic compounds) emitting carpets, paints, glues and woods,” said Petrik. “It also has a geothermal well field, which in effect allows the facility to be heated and cooled by the Earth.”

Other green features of the building include minimization of water runoff to improve water quality, indigenous drought-tolerant landscaping, low-flow water fixtures, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, and high-efficiency HVAC equipment, which includes an automation system

for better remote controllability and scheduling.

“This is a facility the state, the SDNG and the Watertown community can be proud of,” said Petrik. “This building stands out from the multitudes of other buildings that are built in the U.S. annually. Achieving this certification demonstrates we are committed to a sustainable design and we are serious about doing what it takes to build a greener facility that uses less energy and creates a smaller footprint with respect to the environment.”



USD SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STUDENTS HONOR FALLEN VETERANS

Several University of South Dakota students who plan to be teachers gave oral presentations last Thursday on research they did about fallen veterans for a School of Education contest called "Clay County's Fallen."

The Vermillion Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3061 sponsored the effort that is tied to Memorial Day and aims to enhance undergraduate students' research skills and to recognize veterans as an important component of the university's Inclusive Excellence.

Students researched and wrote about a fallen hero from Clay County and submitted a total of 36 research projects in March. A ROTC committee reviewed each submission and recommended 10 winners to the Vermillion VFW, which narrowed the pool to the top five who gave their oral presentation to a panel of veterans last Thursday in Delzell Education Center.

The cash prize winners: first place (\$300), Lexy Zimmerman, a junior secondary history education major from Flandreau, South Dakota; second place (\$200), Sean Bredl, a senior secondary history education major from Cedar Rapids, Iowa; third place (\$100), Delaney Mae Clark, from Fremont, Nebraska, and Matt Viereck, from Larchwood, Iowa, both seniors majoring in elementary education/special education.



"Clay County's Fallen" contestants and judges: Front row (left to right): Andy Howe, Vermillion VFW Post 3061 quartermaster; Jing An, assistant professor of social studies education; Lexy Zimmerman, of Flandreau, South Dakota; E. Lee Felder Jr., VP of Human Resources and member of Vermillion VFW. Second row (left to right): Master Sgt. Jason Clayton, senior military instructor, ROTC; Delaney Clark, of Fremont, Nebraska; Matt Viereck, of Larchwood, Iowa; William Mart, finalist; Bruce Williams, Vermillion VFW member. Back row (left to right): Arianne Aasen, finalist; Margo Hegge, finalist; Sean Bredl, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Shelby Keil, finalist.

VETERANS GET FREE PASS AT HOWARD WOOD DAKOTA RELAYS

Track Fans — Howard Wood Dakota Relays are offering a free pass for veterans!!!!

The Howard Wood Dakota Relays will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 6-7, at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls. Events will start at 11:00 am on Friday and 9:00 am Saturday.



91st Annual Howard Wood Dakota Relays

May 6-7, 2016

Sioux Falls, SD

They are inviting all veterans and their immediate family to be their guests on that weekend. There will be a VETERANS GATE for veterans, and all the veteran needs to do is identify themselves as a veteran for free admittance. No ID card is required. At some time during the program, all veterans will be recognized.

Win/Win – Great opportunity to support our youth and our veterans!!!!!! Here is a link for the complete schedule.

<http://www.dakotarelays.com/schedule/>

SENATOR ROUNDS MEETS WITH CTVSO'S

Last Friday, Sen. Mike Rounds stopped in and visited the VSOs that were participating in the executive committee meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Service Officers Association. Terry Cousins, Tripp County VSO, had the opportunity to visit with Senator Rounds on issues relating to his veterans.

Most of the discussion focused on Veterans Choice and the VA programs and benefits.

SDDVA's appreciates the time Senator Rounds takes to meet with these individuals that work with our veterans on a daily basis.



Legislation Connected to Breakthrough Priorities

Veteran touchpoints

- 1 Improve the Veterans Experience
- 2 Increase Access to Health Care
- 3 Improve Community Care

VA Provider Agreement Legislation: VA draft bill of 5/1/15. S. 2000, S. 2179, S. 425 approved by SVAC on 12/9/15 sections 461 and 462 (S. 425 version inadequate because of limited scope and two year sunset). Part of S.2546 (Burr-Tester) addressed on 3/15/16. H.R. 4591 marked on 2/25/16. Part of draft OMNIBUS bill discussions.

Consolidation Plan Legislation: described in detail in 10/30/15 plan. S.2546 addressed on 3/15/2016. Technical Assist continues. Part of draft OMNIBUS bill discussions.

FY2015 and FY2016 Construction and Leasing: Part of draft OMNIBUS bill discussions. (Priority 1 and 2)

- 7 Develop a Simplified Appeals Process

Strawman submitted with FY2017 Budget. Next meeting with stakeholders is 3/30/16. Legislation will be drafted and submitted on agreed to proposals. Goal is include in OMNIBUS bill.

Veteran touchpoints

- 8 Continue to Reduce Veteran Homelessness

West LA Master Plan Enabling Legislation: EUL authority in VA construction draft sent to HVAC and SVAC on 4/14/2015. H.R. 3484 and S. 2013. Part of draft OMNIBUS bill discussions.

VA internal facing

- 10 Staff Critical Positions

80-hour workweek flexibility: FY2016 Budget submission. S. 1450, hearing held, approved by SVAC on 12/9/15 as section 412 of S. 425. HVAC addressed on 3/16/16. Part of draft OMNIBUS bill discussions.

More competitive pay for VAMC and VISN Directors: FY2016 Budget submission. Section 302 of S. 1676, hearing held, approved by SVAC on 12/9/15 as section 415 of S. 425. HVAC addressed on 3/16/16. Part of draft OMNIBUS bill discussions.

Title 38: VA draft bill of 3/23/16. Part of draft OMNIBUS bill discussions.

NOTE: In the 2017 Budget, VA is proposing new budget flexibility to allow the Secretary to transfer discretionary funds among accounts. Not included in HAC MILCON/VA mark on 3/23/16.

SOUTH DAKOTA CONTINUES TO HONOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS



Turner County VSO Tom Sparrow holds ceremony to honor Korean War Veterans.

During the State's January ceremony honoring South Dakota's Korean War Veterans, over four hundred veterans received the Korean Ambassador Peace Medal.

County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers continue to recognize these heroes and are in the process of presenting another 420 medals.

Recently, Butte, Turner and Hughes Counties hosted events for their heroes. SDDVA staff participated in the events in Hughes and Butte Counties.



Hughes County VSO Assistant Sheila Carpenter hosted an event to honor Korean Veterans

Sheila Carpenter, Veterans Service Claims Assistant for Hughes, Stanley and Sully Counties, surprised Mrs. Roger Perrett by also presenting her the Purple Heart her husband earned. Army Assistant Adjutant General - Brig. Gen. Kevin R. Griese presented the Purple Heart to

her.

Again, our special thanks to all the CTVSOs who are continuing to honor our heroes in these special programs.



Butte County VSO Bob Wagner holds ceremony to honor Korean War Veterans and their families





Town Hall and Ceremony to Honor Vietnam Veterans on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

VFW Post 1273
420 Main St, Rapid City

May 23, 2016
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Claims Clinic
5:00 pm Vietnam Veteran Ceremony
5:30 pm Veteran Town Hall

VA leadership will provide updates, answer questions, and hear feedback from Veterans and their families.

Sponsored by
Department of Veteran Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Veterans Benefits Administration
National Cemetery Administration

Please Join Us

Claims Clinic 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Before the Town Hall stop by the benefits claims clinic to meet with VA staff to discuss your claims for compensation and health care benefits.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

BROOKINGS VFW POST

520 Main Ave
Brookings, SD



ARMED FORCES DAY

Military items from
The 1950's will
Be on display

Army
Navy
Marines
Air Force
Coast Guard
Merchant Marines

Saturday, May 14, 2016

10:00 am to 4:00 pm



America's Military - Guardians of Freedom

Point of Contact is Bob Hill, 605-690-5041



FREE and Open to the Public!!!

GOVERNOR SIGNS PROCLAMATION HONORING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIETNAM WAR

The South Dakota Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution were in Pierre this week to witness the signing of the Governor's proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The Society has become a commemorative partner with the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam Era Veterans Commemorative Committee.

Each commemorative partner within the state will be hosting events honoring and thanking our Vietnam Veterans. Additional information on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War can be found at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>.

SDDVA's John Fette, a Vietnam Veteran and a Marine with the 3rd Division, represented the Department in this signing event.



ROTC LEADERS RECOGNIZED

Yesterday, leaders gathered in Brookings to honor Air Force and Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps students. Governor Dugaard was the keynote speaker and praised these young men and women for their outstanding leadership.

SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard presented the Vietnam Veterans of America Scholarships to Nicholas Westphalen and Emma Thordson.



There were over 19 awards and scholarships presented to these ROTC members. Although the program was titled Governor's Day, it truly was a day to honor the outstanding accomplishments of these young men and women.





The Harney Peak and Black Hills Chapters, NSDAR
VFW and American Legion Posts of Custer and Hot Springs
Present the

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War
Exhibit Dedication

Thursday May 5th, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. MT

1881 Custer County Courthouse Museum,
411 Mt. Rushmore Road, Custer, SD

Program Participants:

Quasi Al-Haj, West River Regional Director for Senator John Thune
Will Huffman, Western South Dakota Field Officer, Veterans Affairs

Christine Bestgen, President – SD Gold Star Mothers

For further information please contact Robin Fansler – rdfansler@gmail.com or (605) 216-1670



MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

MAY 21st at 7:00 PM

Storm vs. Green Bay Blizzard

All military personnel active/retired

Receive a **FREE** ticket

Cyclone or Updraft Level

AND

can purchase unlimited

\$5 tickets for family & friends



Must present ID to Premier Center Box Office

Box Office is open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm

Upcoming Events

- Apr. 23—Boots to Business Reboot Program—SD Technology Business Center—Sioux Falls (8:30—4:00)
- May 5—Vietnam War Memorial Exhibit Dedication—Custer County Court House Museum (411 W. Mount Rushmore Road) - Custer—10:00 am (MT)
- May 10—SDDVA Mini Conference—Rapid City—TREA—1981 Centre Street
- May 11—SDDVA Mini Conference Pierre—American Legion Post 8—520 S. Pierre Street
- May 12—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings—City/County Building—520 3rd Street—Suite 300
- May 13—Improving Combat Veteran Care Conference—University Center—Sioux Falls—8:00 am (CT)
- May 14—South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America Meeting/Election—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre (election at 11:00 am (CT) and meeting at 1:00 pm (CT))
- May 14—2nd Annual PVA Poker Run and Concert—Sanford Pentagon—Sioux Falls
- May 14—Armed Forces Day—Brookings VFW Post (520 Main Avenue) 10:00 am—4:00 pm (CT)
- May 17—WWII Veterans Luncheon—TREA (1981 Centre Street—Rapid City) 11:00 am (MT)
- May 18-19—SDCMF Symposium—Black Hills State University Center—Rapid City
- May 23—Town Hall and Ceremony to Honor Vietnam Veterans—Rapid City VFW (420 Main St) 4:00 pm (MT)
- Jun. 9-12—VFW State Convention—The Lodge at Deadwood
- Jun. 14—Vietnam War Veterans Recognition—Custer Jr/Sr. High School (1645 Wildcat Lane) - 9:30 am (MT)
- Jun. 14—Vietnam War Veterans Recognition—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home (2500 Minnekahta Avenue) - Hot Springs - 1:30 pm (MT)
- Jun. 16-19—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota—Watertown
- Jul. 1—Buffalo Chip Annual Flag Raising Ceremony—West Gate Entrance off Ft. Meade Way—6:00 pm (MT)
- Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
- Jul. 23-24—Sioux Falls Air Show
- Aug. 22-25—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre Ramkota
- Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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