



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



DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX PROGRAM

The Nov. 1, 2016, deadline for eligible disabled veterans to apply for property tax relief is approaching.

The South Dakota Department of Revenue's Disabled Veteran's Program exempts the first \$100,000 of valuation on an eligible applicant's property. The program also applies to surviving spouses of disabled veterans if they have not remarried. Once approved, this exemption will automatically continue until the property changes ownership or is not owner occupied.

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet both of the following criteria:

- ◇ The veteran must be rated as permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability.
- ◇ The veteran or a surviving spouse, who is not remarried, must own and occupy the property.



Applicants will be required to provide proof of their eligibility to receive the exemption, which may be obtained by calling the Sioux Falls VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000.

If approved, applicants will receive their first reduction in their property taxes payable in 2018. Applications can be accessed on the Department of Revenue's website or from their county director of equalization.

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NEW LEADERSHIP ON VETERANS COMMISSION



Secretary Zimmerman thanks Chairman Ross for his service as chairman

The South Dakota Veterans Commission met this week in Pierre. Reports were provided by the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, the SFVAHCS, VABHCS, the Regional Office, Black Hills National Cemetery, and South Dakota Joining Forces.

Possible legislation topics were discussed.

Members elected Commissioner Helen Parr as chairman and Lori Vosika as vice chairman. This is the first time in the history of the Commission that the leadership roles have been filled with female veterans. Congratulations to Helen and Lori.

The next Commission meeting will be January 12, 2017, in Pierre.



Passing of the gavel from past chair Jim Ross to Helen Parr

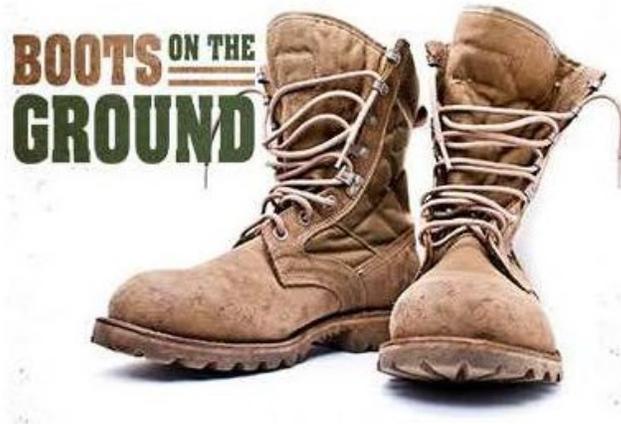


Vice Chairman Lori Vosika and Chairman Helen Parr

Boots on the Ground

Tuesday, October 25

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM



**VFW #1273 and other organizations are collecting
new and gently worn:**

Boots - snow, combat and work boots, Winter Coats, Hats, Gloves, Coveralls, Jeans, Sweatshirts/pants, Long-sleeved shirts, Thermal tops/bottoms, Socks (new only), Underwear (new only), Backpacks, Towels, Full-size toiletries including deodorant, foot powder, shampoo, body wash. Veteran's service organizations will provide literature and their contact information packets.

Tuesday October 25th, the VFW will host the "shopping day". Veterans and their caregivers will be able to come into the VFW and choose items that they may need. Each Vet will be greeted by their fellow Vets, offered coffee and treats and helped with their shopping. Most importantly, each vet will be thanked for their service, connect with their fellow Vets, and the groups or organizations that will serve them best.

Drop off items at the KOTA studio,
or at VFW #1273 420 Main Street

Questions to susan.hardina@dberadio.com

VA AND STANFORD TO PURSUE THE NATION'S FIRST HADRON CENTER

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Stanford Medicine announced that they are collaborating to establish the nation's first Hadron Center in Palo Alto, CA, for the benefit of veteran and non-veteran cancer patients who could benefit from Hadron therapy.

The VA maintains a strong academic and research affiliation with Stanford Medicine. This long-standing partnership has enabled the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) to offer an exceptional breadth of medical services to veterans. Now, the VA and Stanford University are looking to expand and enhance this affiliation through new collaborative efforts around the Hadron Center and particle beam therapy for veteran and non-veteran patients with cancer.



During his 2016 State of the Union Address, President Obama called on Vice President Biden to lead a new, national Cancer Moonshot, focused on making a decade's worth of progress in preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancer in five years – ultimately striving to end cancer as we know it. After meeting with experts across the country and the world, Vice President Biden identified areas of focus for the Cancer Moonshot – based on barriers to progress and opportunities for improving patient outcomes. Vice President Biden is releasing the final report of the Cancer Moonshot Task Force, along with his own Executive Findings, after traveling to many of the major nerve centers in the cancer community. He will also unveil a new set of Federal actions, private

sector actions, and collaborative partnerships to further advance the goals of the Cancer Moonshot Task Force, including the Hadron Center.



In addition to the Hadron Center, other efforts are underway to support the Cancer Moonshot Task Force: the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) made a contribution of \$50 million dollars to the VA for precision oncology research over the next five years; the

IBM Watson Million Veteran Initiative will provide 10,000 diagnostic and cancer treatment analyses over the next two years; and the VA and PCF will host a national oncology summit, "Launch Pad: Pathways to InnoVAtion," on November 29.

The Hadron Center is anticipated to be a clinical facility, designed to deliver particle radiation beam therapy for the treatment of cancer patients. Presently, the most common radiation beams used for cancer treatment are photons and electrons, which are easy to target to a tumor but can result in damage to normal tissue. Particle beam radiotherapy, on the other hand, uses beams of charged particles such as proton, helium, carbon or other ions to allow more precise targeting anywhere inside the patient's body, resulting in less damage to normal tissue. Particle beam therapy can be more effective at killing radiation-resistant tumors that are difficult to treat using conventional radiation therapy. Judicious and innovative application of particle therapy can result in improved cure rates for cancer.

This project would be the first of its kind in the nation and serves as an excellent example of public-private collaboration to further research and clinical care, using cutting-edge cancer therapy.

The Hadron Center would significantly complement VAPAHCS's mission to provide the most advanced care for veterans, by offering those with cancer access to Hadron therapy treatments and participation in clinical trials.

BOWEN TAKES POSSESSION OF TRAVELING COOK-OFF TROPHY



The Pierre offices of the South Dakota Department of the Military and the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs have a little competitiveness when it comes to cooking. This month participants had to prepare their favorite soup.

Contenders were: Steve Harding with chicken noodle soup, Ryan Fowler with hot cheeseburger soup, Kevin Bowen with cheesy cheeseburger soup and Audry Ricketts with beef cabbage soup.

Kevin Bowen was the winner and was presented the traveling trophy.

DAR CREATES DISPLAY TO HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS



The Daughters of the American Revolution have created this display near the Custer County Veterans Service Office in Custer.

The display is honoring Vietnam Veterans. The quilt behind the display was created to remember and honor Vietnam Veterans.

VETERAN TOWN HALL

October 28, 2016

American Legion Post 8
520 S Pierre St
Pierre, SD 57501



Claims Clinic from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Do you have questions about claims for compensation benefits, health care or the Veterans Choice Act? Stop in to meet with VA Black Hills Health Care System and Veterans Benefits Administration staff to have your questions addressed.

Veteran Town Hall begins at 1:00 pm

You are invited! Veterans, families, and the public are encouraged to provide feedback on ways to improve VA care and benefits.



**Black Hills
Health Care System**
Department of Veteran Affairs

NEW STATE AMERICAN LEGION ASSISTANT ADJUTANT HIRED

Jose Romeu of Watertown was approved by the American Legion Department Executive Committee to be hired for the position of department assistant adjutant. Jose served in the U.S. Army for 14 years with tours of duty in Italy, Turkey, Greece, Belgium and the Netherlands. He was a truck driver and personnel records specialist.

He was discharged from active duty as senior personnel sergeant with the grade of Sergeant First Class. Jose worked as a Department of Defense civilian and culminated with the Defense Intelligence Agency and retired in 2010 with a combined total of 33 years and three months of active duty and civilian service.

Jose is an 18 year member of the American Legion and transferred to Post 17 in Watertown from the Department of Florida. While in Florida, Jose was Post Vice and Post Commander, Post Judge Advocate, Assistant Director of the Legion Riders and held other Post positions. He also served as District Vice and District Commander, Assistant Sergeant At Arms and other positions. On the National level, Jose served on the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council in 2014-2016. He completed the American Legion Institute Course in 2011. Jose has extensive knowledge of computers and speaks English, Spanish and Italian.

Jose and wife, Shelli, reside in Watertown. Shelli is a U.S. Army veteran and a PUFL member of Post 17 in Watertown. They have three grown children and four grandchildren. Please welcome Jose & Shelli to the American Legion Family in South Dakota.

AMERICAN LEGION STATE ADJUTANT REPLACEMENT HIRED

Travise Flisrand of Castlewood, South Dakota, was approved by the American Legion Department Executive Committee to begin training to assume the position of Department Adjutant at the State Convention in Watertown, June of 2017.

Travise will begin training on November 1, 2016, and will work under State Adjutant Denny Brenden for approximately eight months.

Travise is a retired Senior Chief of the U. S. Navy and served 26 years from September of 1989 to September of 2015. He was an aviation structural mechanic working on F-14 Tom Cats, E-2C Hawkeyes, A-4 Skyhawks and EA-6B Prowlers. He was deployed seven times on the USS John F. Kennedy, USS Theodore Roosevelt and the USS Abraham Lincoln. His tours of duty included Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Travise has a BS in Business Studies (Summa Cum Laude) from Southern New Hampshire University and also has an AS in Computer Information Systems (Summa Cum Laude) from Southern New Hampshire University. He has completed studies in Senior Leadership Training and was a financial specialist counselor.

Travise is a member of Edgar L. Herrick Post 42 of Arlington. He is married to wife, Wendy, who is also a member of Edgar L. Herrick Post 42 of Arlington. She served 10 ½ years in the U.S. Navy and was also deployed in Desert Storm. They have four children; Kyja, Eric, Alexzaria and Aryanna.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS



START OR GROW YOUR BUSINESS



Zeal Center for Entrepreneurship
2329 N. Career Avenue
Conference Room A & B
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Wednesday
November 2, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Business Workshop for the Military Community

- *Guidance for starting a business including the basics of a Business Plan*
- *Government Contracting information for business expansion*
- *SBA Guaranty Loan Programs for starting or growing a business*
- *Meet with SBA's Resource partners, the business advisors of SCORE and the Small Business Development Center, SBDC*

Who Should Attend?

- Veterans;
- Service-Disabled Veterans;
- Active Duty Military service member participating in the military's Transition Assistance Program (TAP);
- Reservists and National Guard Members; or
- Current spouse of any Veteran, Active Duty service member, or any Reservist or National Guard member; or widowed spouse of a service member who died while in service or of a service-connected disability.

Reservations for this free seminar are **required** by November 1st as seating is limited.

Contact Dave Puls at (605) 330-4243 Ext 13 or david.puls@sba.gov



SBA's participation in this activity is not an endorsement of the views opinions products or services of any cosponsor or other person or entity. All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disability will be made if a written request is received 2 weeks in advance.

HAPPENINGS AT THE HOME

Our staff at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home have been busy scheduling outings and outdoor events for the residents before the snow begins to fall!!!!!!

Recently, the residents had the opportunity to tour the Ellsworth Air Force Base, as well as partake in the Fall Festival.

They've also been busy baking up some great homemade pies! Great Job !!

Ellsworth Air Force Base



Ellsworth Air Force Base



Pie Baking Contest

Fall Festival



Fall Festival



Fall Festival



Fall Festival



Upcoming Events

- Oct. 28—VABHHCS Veteran Stand Down—American Legion Post 8—Pierre (520 S. Pierre St) - 1:00 pm (CT)
 Nov. 1—Operation Engage America—Sioux City, IA
 Nov. 2—Veterans Business Workshop—ZEAL Center for Entrepreneurship Building at 2329 N. Career Avenue, in Conference Rooms A & B in Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
 Nov. 7-8—SDDVA Refresher Training for CTVSOs—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)
 Nov. 10—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—Rapid City—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
 Nov. 11—Veterans Day
 Nov. 12—Tribute to the Troops—SD Air and Space Museum Ellsworth AFB—9:00 am (MT)
 Nov. 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
 Dec. 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—Hot Springs (Lower Level Conference Room)—10:00 am—3:00 pm (MT)
 Dec. 6—Governor's Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)
 Dec. 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre—10:00 am—3:00 pm—(CT)
 Dec. 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—VFW (209 Cedar Street) Yankton—10:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
 Dec. 12—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony—Flaming Fountain—Capitol Lake—Pierre—11:00 am (CT)
 Dec. 14—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Sioux Falls DAV—12:00 noon (CT)
 Dec. 15—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Watertown American legion—12:00 noon (CT)
 Dec. 17—SD Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Rapid City VFW—10:00 am (MT)

2017

- Jan. 10 - Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
 Jan. 11—SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Reception—5:00 pm—8:00 pm (CT)
 Jan. 12—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—Pierre—9:00 am (CT)
 Jan. 30—VFW Legislative Reception—AmericInn—Fort Pierre
 Feb. 1—American Legion Legislative Reception—American Legion Post 8 Cabin—Pierre (520 S. Pierre Street) - 5:30 pm (CT)
 Feb. 4—Valentines for Veterans Concert—Sioux Falls Washington Pavilion—3:00 pm (CT)
 Feb 10-12—SD American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
 Jun 15-18—SD American Legion State Conference—Watertown

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