

# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## 2024 SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 99th Session of the South Dakota Legislature will convene at approximately 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, with Governor Kristi Noem's State of the State Address.

This year's session is scheduled for 38 legislative days, with the main run concluding March 7. March 25 is reserved for considering gubernatorial vetoes.

Legislative Research Council's website can be viewed at:

<https://sdlegislature.gov/>.

The legislative calendar can be found at:

<https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/documents/251214.pdf>.

There are 105 legislators—35 in the Senate and 70 in the House of Representatives.

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Members of the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee include: Chairman David Johnson (Rapid City), Vice Chairman Larry Zikmund (Sioux Falls) Brent Hoffman (Sioux Falls), Jim Stalzer (Sioux Falls), and Jack Kolbeck (Sioux Falls).

Members of the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee include: Chairman Tim Reisch (Howard), Vice Chairman Ken Teunissen (Sioux Falls), Stephanie Sauder (Bryant), Byron Callies (Watertown), Becky Drury (Rapid City), Fred Deutsch (Florence), Randy Gross (Elkton), Scott Moore (Ipswich), William Shorma (Dakota Dunes), James Wangsness (Miller), Julie Auch (Yankton), Aaron Aylward (Harrisburg), and Peri Pourier (Rapid City).

**99<sup>th</sup> SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR**

2024 ♦ 38 Legislative Days



Please refer to the Joint Rules, Chapter 17 for complete information.

	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
January 2024		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9 Session Opens 12 Noon(CST) (Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 7)  <i>State of the State</i>  LD 1	10 <i>State of the Judiciary</i> 11:00am  <i>State of the Tribes</i> 1:00pm  LD 2	11	12	13
	14	15 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	16 Executive orders filed (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8)  LD 5	17	18 <i>Jt. Memorial Service</i> 3:00pm  LD 7	19	20
	21	22	23 Bill and resolution draft requests due to LRC by 5:00pm (for unlimited introduction)  LD 9	24	25 Last day for unlimited bill and resolution introduction (JR 6B-3) (TWO HOURS prior to session)  LD 11	26	27
	28	29 All bill and resolution draft requests due to LRC by 5:00pm  LD 13	30 Committee bill and resolution draft requests due to LRC by 5:00pm  LD 14	31 Last day for introduction of individual bills and resolutions (TWO HOURS prior to session)  LD 15	1 Last day for introduction of committee bills and resolutions (TWO HOURS prior to session)  LD 16	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15 Last day for JCA selection of general fund revenue targets (JR 7-11.1)  LD 25	16	17
	18	19 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	20 Last day to use JR 5-17, AND Last day to move required delivery of bills or resolutions by a committee to the house of origin  LD 26	21 Last day to invoke JR 7-7 in the house of origin, AND Last day to pass bills or joint resolutions by the house of origin (Crossover Day)  LD 27	22	23 Last day for JCA to move required delivery of special appropriation bills to house of origin (JR 17-1)  LD 29	24
February 2024	25	26 Commemoration requests due to LRC by 5:00pm, AND Last day for house of origin to pass special appropriation bills referred from JCA (JR 17-1)  LD 30	27	28 JR 5-13 in effect, AND Last day for introduction of commemorations (TWO HOURS prior to session)  LD 32	29 Last day to move required delivery of bills or joint resolutions by a committee to the second house  LD 33	1	2
	3	4 Last day for a bill or joint resolution to pass both houses, and Last day to invoke JR 7-7 in the second house  LD 34	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
March 2024	24	25 Reserved for consideration of gubernatorial vetoes  LD 38	26	27	28	29	30



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

## Tips to Avoid Community Care Billing Complications

### Overview

Veterans eligible for Community Care generally have the option of choosing to receive care from a VA medical facility or community provider. Veterans who choose to receive Community Care will discuss their preferences for a community provider with a Community Care staff member. Community Care must first be authorized by VA before a Veteran may receive care in the community. Appointment(s) must fall between the authorization date and expiration date noted on the Veteran's appointment letter, which they will receive via U.S. mail service. Community care will not be paid for if the care falls outside the date ranges indicated in the appointment letter. Veterans should bring their appointment letter to their community provider visit and treat it like an insurance card for that care. Community providers cannot collect or bill VA co-pays. All VA co-pays are billed by VA. VA will also bill insurance for care that is nonservice-connected.

### Number of Visits

Appointment letters may have a specific number of authorized community appointments. If a Veteran has questions or needs further guidance, please call 605-333-6800, Option #2 to speak with a Community Care staff member.

### Unauthorized Follow Up Visits

Veterans must receive approval from VA before receiving care from a community provider, to avoid being billed for that care. If a community provider is referring a Veteran to a different provider, specialty service, or other facility for further care; it must be communicated to VA Community Care and/or their VA Primary Care Team to request an authorization for additional services. This can be done by the Veteran calling their local VA, sending a secure message, and/or requesting your community provider fax their request for services (RFS) to the Community Care Department. (*See useful information below*)

### How to communicate with VA Community Care

1. Call Community Care Call Center at 605-332-6800, Option #2 to speak with a staff member.
2. Send a My HealtheVet Secure Message [www.va.gov/health-care/secure-messaging/](http://www.va.gov/health-care/secure-messaging/)
3. Communicate with your VA Primary Care Team 605-336-3230.

### How to resolve VA Community Care billing complications from a community provider

1. Reach out to the community provider and ensure they have the correct authorization number and date range noted on the appointment letter.
2. Call VA Community Care Contact Center at 877-881-7618, Option #1, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. EST.
3. Bring the bill to the Patient Advocate office located in the Sioux Falls VA medical center for assistance.

### Useful Information

- Community Care National Website: [www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/](http://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/)
- SFVAHCS Community Care Call Center: 605-332-6800, Option #2
- VA Community Care Contact Center: 877-881-7618, Option #1, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. EST for billing concerns.
- My HealtheVet Secure Messaging Help Desk: 877-327-0022
- SFVAHCS Primary Care Team: 605-336-3230
- Community Care Fax for RFS (request for services): 612-725-1283
- SFVAHCS Patient Advocate Office: 605-336-3230, Ext. 5966

# BARREL HOUSE TO HOST TWO FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR VETERANS

The Barrel House, located at 4701 E. 54th Street in Sioux Falls, will be hosting two great fundraisers in 2024 to benefit our veterans.

The first event will be held on Monday, August 26, and is teed up as the Barrel House Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight.

On Monday, November 18, the Barrel House will be supporting our veterans by hosting the Barrel House Day of Giving for South Dakota Veterans Cemetery Wreaths Across America wreath laying program.

The Barrel House will donate 10% from the day's sales to each respective event.



# 4TH ANNUAL MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT HONOR RIDE

Midwest Honor Flight's 4th Annual Honor Ride will be held on Sunday, June 30, 2024, in Sioux Falls. Registration begins at 1:00 pm (CT) at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street) and will close at 2:00 pm.

The ride includes a slow salute past the Sioux Falls VA Hospital before an escort to the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

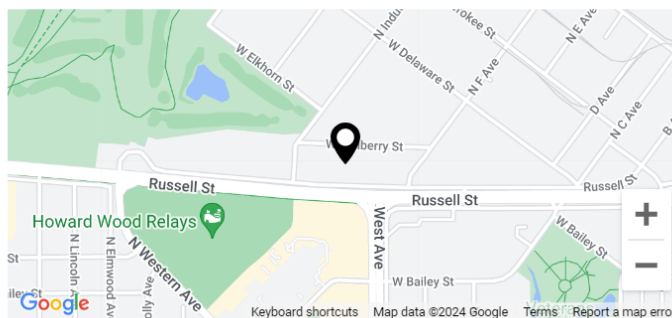
Registration fees are \$30 for each bike and rider (which covers a veteran's lunch and dinner on a Midwest Honor Flight), or \$45 for a bike, rider, and a passenger (which covers a veteran's breakfast, lunch, and dinner on a Midwest Honor Flight).

Each participant will receive a MWHF rocker patch for this ride, a raffle ticket, and a meal ticket for after the ride.

Ride Schedule:

- 1:00 PM - Registration at The Alliance Begins, closes at 2:00 PM
- 2:15 PM - Ride Meeting, Raffles Drawn
- 2:30 PM - Ride Begins
- 2:45 PM - ETA at Sioux Falls VA Health Care System
- 3:15 PM - ETA Arrive at SD Veterans Cemetery
- 3:30 PM - Ceremony at Cemetery
- 4:00 PM - Ceremony Ends, Ride Complete, Meal back at Alliance

## *Start & End Location*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 6—7—Yellow Ribbon Post Mob for 109th RSG—Rapid City
- Jan 9—Governor's State of the State Address—State Capitol—1:00 pm
- Jan 10—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—Pierre—2:00 pm (CT)
- Jan 10—SDDVA and South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Reception—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—Pierre—5:30 pm (CT)
- Jan 13—Rapid City RUSH Chuck-a-Puck for Tee it up for the Troops Midwest Honor Flight Fund-raiser—Rapid City
- Feb 3—4—Yellow Ribbon Post Mob for 1/112th Aviation—Rapid City
- Feb 16—18—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Deadwood
- Mar 25—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—Drive to Fly @ Great Shots—(2505 W. Benson Road)—Sioux Falls—2:00—5:00 pm (CT)
- Apr 5—Melissa Stockwell Program—South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Apr 26-27—DAV State Convention—Deadwood Lodge
- May 27—SDDVA Memorial Day Program—SD Veterans Cemetery—12:00 noon (CT)
- Jun 7—8—VFW State Conference—Holiday Inn—Spearfish
- Jun 20—23—American Legion State Conference—Pierre
- Jun 30—Midwest Honor Flight Honor Ride—South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—Registration—1:00 pm/Ride Begins at 2:30 pm (CT)
- Jul 15—6th Annual Tee it up for the Troops Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—Arrowhead Country Club—(3675 Sheridan Lake Road)—Rapid City—7:15 am (MT)
- Aug 1—2—South Dakota Suicide Prevention Conference—Sioux Falls Convention Center
- Aug 26—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—The Barrel House—(4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—8:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 29—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair—Northwest Energy Freedom Stage—Huron
- Aug 29—Sep 2—SD State Fair—Huron
- Sep 3—5—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Oct 12—Midwest Honor Flight Third Annual Elvis Night—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Nov 9—Fifth Annual Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair We've Got Your Six—Sturgis
- Nov 18—Wreaths Across America Fundraiser—The Barrel House—(4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am—8:00 pm (CT)
- Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2025 Events

Feb 14—16—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Oacoma

Jun 12—15—VFW State Convention—Ramkota—Pierre

Jun 19—22—American Legion State Conference—Huron

Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer  
South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>  
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>  
Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-773-8242  
E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

