



**Caring for
America's Heroes.**

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

2024 Annual Report

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Who we are?

- The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) is an agency of state government created for the purpose of advising, counseling, and assisting veterans and their families in receiving their rightful benefits under the vast and complex framework of federal and state regulations.
- South Dakota has a long and proud history of service to veterans which began in 1889 with the establishment of the South Dakota Soldiers and Sailors Home.
- We are extremely proud of all who have honorably served our country over the centuries; and draw on their rich history and their unique contributions to our nation for inspiration and direction.
- SDDVA operates the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery, and assists veterans and their families to obtain the benefits and services provided by South Dakota and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Providing quality and effective service and advocacy to veterans and their dependents is, and always will be, our number one mission. In doing so, we pledge to stay current and adjust quickly and carefully to new laws, be diligent in their application, and continually improve our efficiency in service to veterans and their dependents.



Secretary's Office

On behalf of the entire team at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, we are honored and privileged to assist those who served in the United States Armed Services, as well as their families. We are fortunate to attract dedicated employees who share our passion for supporting veterans.

Key partnerships for the Department include county/tribal veterans service officers, veterans service organizations, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and a number of public and private service providers.



This report highlights the outstanding accomplishments of our superb team of dedicated professionals and the unmatched support we receive from our county, tribal, state and federal partners. We all play a major role in the direct infusion of more than \$1 billion annually for veterans in South Dakota's economy through federal compensation, education, pension benefits, and VA medical services.

Working together toward a positive future for veterans and their families, we'll ensure South Dakota continues to be a veteran friendly state.

Who We Served



The VA reports there are 168 living World War II Veterans in South Dakota.

There are 31,985 living Gulf War-Era and pre-9/11 Veterans in South Dakota.

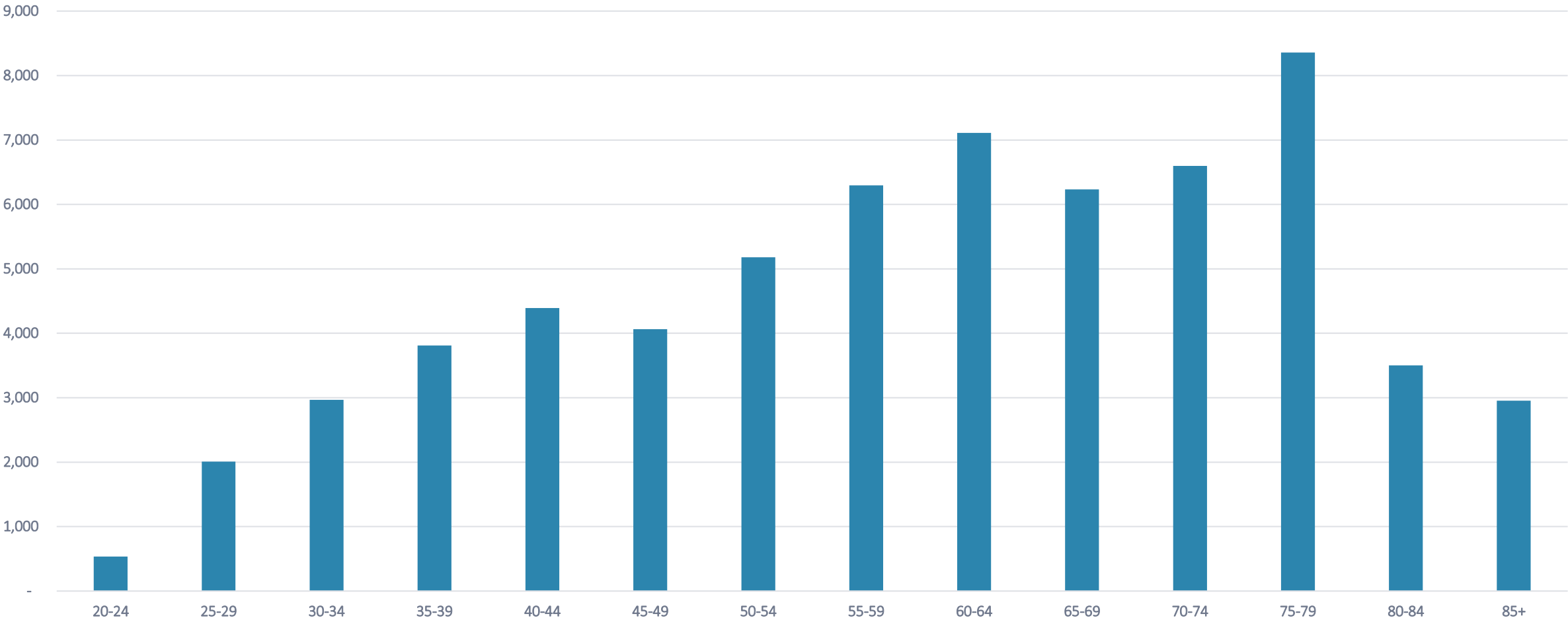
There are 1,719 living Korean War-era Veterans in South Dakota.

There are 13,321 living Peacetime Veterans in South Dakota.

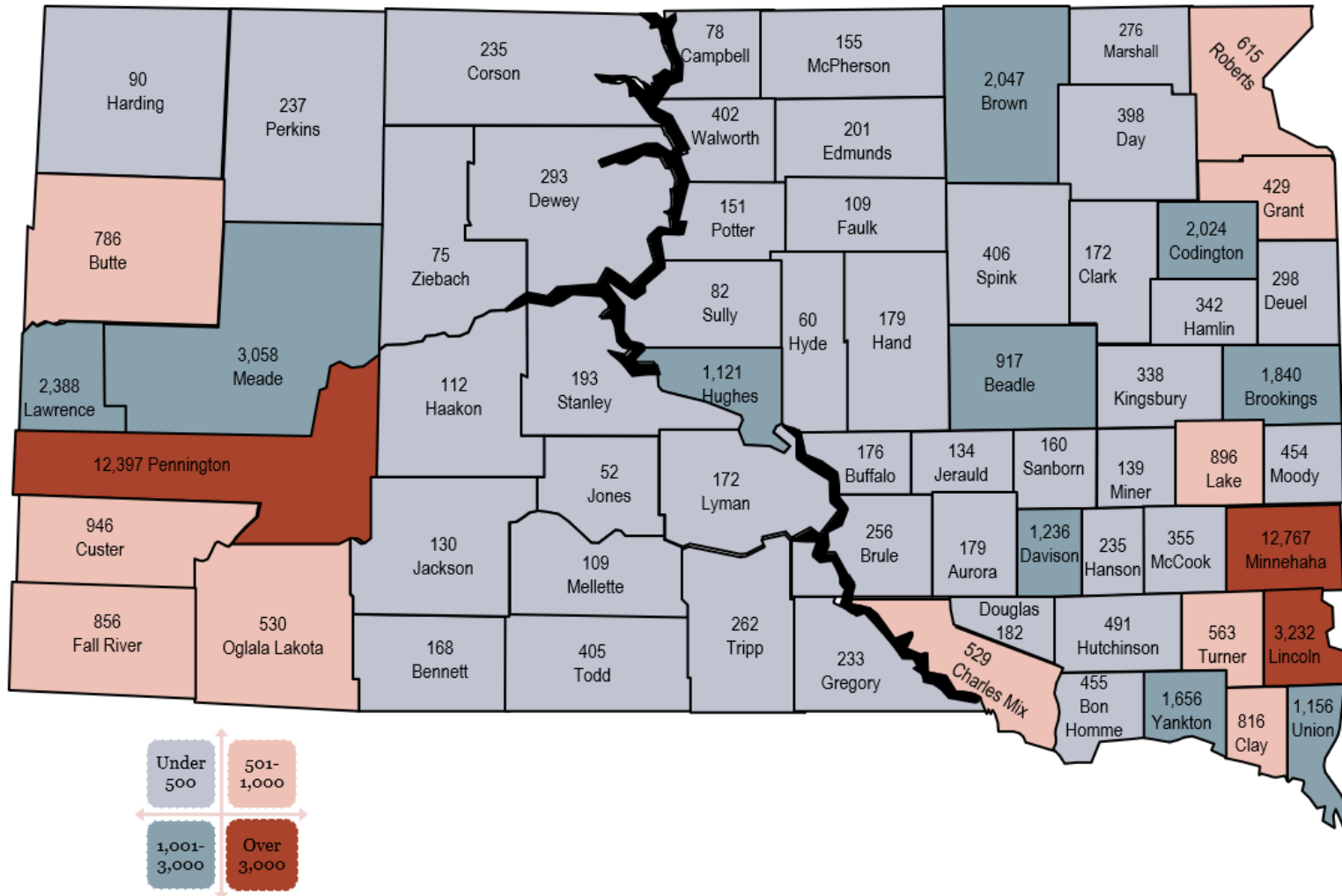
There are 19,223 living Vietnam War-era Veterans in South Dakota. SDDVA has seen an increase in disability claims filed on behalf of Vietnam Veterans due to the manifestation of acute diseases brought on by exposure to toxins and the passage of the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

Who We Served

Veterans By Age

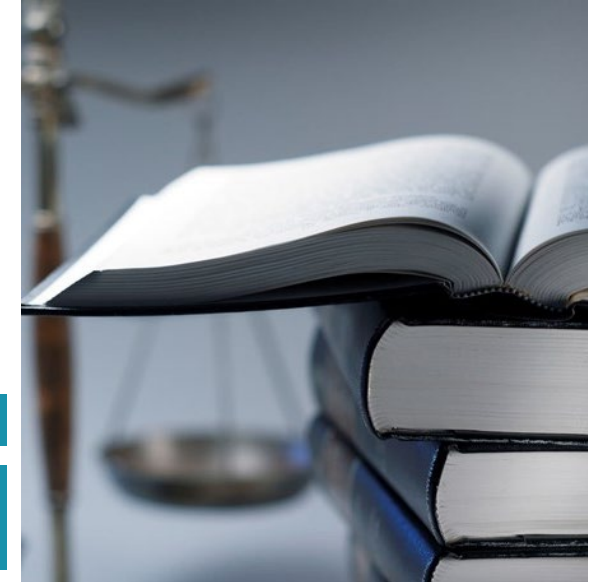


Who We Served – Veterans by County



Legislative Highlights

- Secured passage of legislation to allow eligible members of the South Dakota National Guard attending an in-state private, nonprofit post-secondary institution to receive the state tuition benefit.
- Amended the requirement to employ a county veterans' service officer.
- Modified the eligibility for admission to the state veterans' home and repeal the residency requirement.
- Designated Medal of Honor Recognition Day.
- Secured passage of legislation to allow disabled veterans to obtain a standard issue county motor vehicle or motorcycle license plate.
- Secured passage of legislation to provide a special motor vehicle license plate for recipients of the Legion of Merit award.
- Secured passage of legislation honoring the victims of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.



A close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, focusing on the white stars on a dark blue field and the red and white stripes. The flag is positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

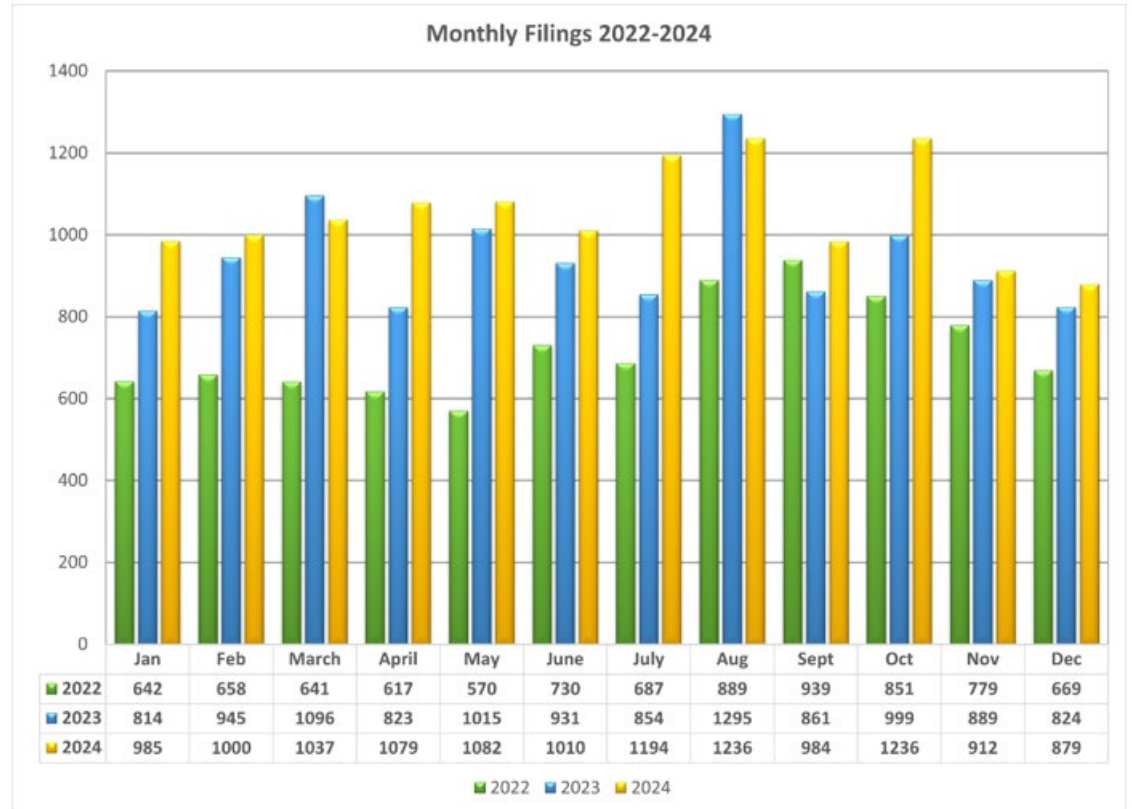
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SDDVA Benefits Division

Benefits Division

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) benefits division assists veterans and their families in obtaining VA benefits. Our claims office team consists of a program manager, an appeals manager, six state veterans service officers (VSO), a training VSO, and three claims examiners. In addition to helping veterans and their family members file claims and navigate VA processes, the claims office assists our county and tribal VSO partners in completing, filing, tracking, and appealing claims for disability compensation, nonservice-connected pension, survivor benefits, education, and healthcare. The claims office works directly with the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Office staff to expedite claims and advocate to ensure South Dakota veteran's claims are processed correctly and quickly.

Since the passage of the "Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022", the SDDVA has experienced a steady increase in the volume of benefit filings (see chart to the right). Veterans who have served in a designated Agent Orange or Burn Pit location within a specific time period may be eligible for service connection if they have been diagnosed with a medical condition that the VA recognizes as a "presumptive condition" linked to their service. The VA continues to add additional medical conditions and/or locations to the list so it is anticipated that the number of benefit filings will continue to increase or at the very least, remain steady. Our staff assisted 2,232 veterans/family members at the SDDVA claims office, located in the VA Regional Benefits Office in Sioux Falls, in 2024.



Benefits Division

In addition to filing claims, our team takes an active role in the training of SDDVA staff as well as county and tribal veterans service officers on the ever-changing federal rules, regulations, and programs. With the addition of a full-time training VSO, a formal training program for new VSOs was implemented.

A state VSO receives four weeks of intensive training in the claims process prior to meeting with veterans or family members. This initial training is reinforced through additional on-line classes provided by the VFW and The American Legion. Training is extended to the Tribal and County VSOs through annual educational events consisting of daylong mini conferences instructed by SDDVA staff, an annual multi-day conference with instruction largely provided by VA staff and veteran support groups, monthly virtual trainings throughout the year, and updates as needed.

Economic Impact

Through the efforts of our employees, county and tribal veterans service officers, and other partners; the Department saw a significant increase in the monetary and healthcare benefits our veterans and family members receive. This year, monetary awards in the form of retroactive and monthly payments brought into South Dakota, through the organizations under which our VSOs are accredited (SDDVA, VFW, and The American Legion) totaled \$448 Million (see graph to the right). This represents an increase of \$70 Million over 2023 and an overall increase of \$171 Million over the last five years!

Economic studies indicate these monies turn over between three to seven times in a community. Additionally, South Dakota veterans also take advantage of the VA Home Loan Guaranty program and VA educational benefits which contributes hundreds of millions of dollars annually to our local economy.



Benefits Division



Field Division

Our team of five Field Veteran Service Officers (FVSOs) are assigned throughout the state and are responsible for individually training and assisting the VSOs in 66 counties and nine tribal lands to ensure those VSOs are familiar with laws, policies, and procedures. Each FVSO is assigned to a specific area and works with their respective tribal and County VSOs in filing for benefits and resolving special issues. The FVSOs report to the Appeals and Training Manager and work closely with the claims office to stay up to date on policies and procedures so they can pass this information on to their respective county and tribal VSOs.

The FVSOs also meet with those veterans/families who are unable to travel to county/tribal offices, as well as the residents of the South Dakota State Veterans Home to assist them in filing claims. FVSOs frequently attend outreach events such as Veterans Day programs, Congressional forums, State Fair, Memorial Day programs, VA sponsored events, and community events to provide information on benefits.

Appeals

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is an administrative tribunal within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Under the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA), the veteran may choose from one of three board appeal options:

- Have a BVA judge review the file as it stands and render a decision, which is the fastest option, or
- Submit new evidence for the judge to consider, or
- Representation at an in-person hearing before the BVA judge.

Hearings are completed remotely. Veterans can either come to the claims office or participate from their home. Our SDDVA appeals manager prepares the cases for hearings and represents the veteran to the presiding Judge.

Under the AMA, the SDDVA claims office is averaging 90 pending cases per month. As of the end of 2024, there were 22 cases awaiting a hearing date, three hearings scheduled, and 73 cases pending a decision by the board. Last year, our Department conducted 11 hearings. The decline of hearings over the previous year was due to the board putting more time into getting pending decisions finalized

nationwide. BVA cases overall are also down due to increased training in interpreting the reasons for denials. Many cases can receive a quicker and more favorable grant by other filing options.

Of the BVA decisions returned in 2024:

- 42 cases received favorable grants
- 24 cases were denied
- 26 cases were remanded back to the Regional Office for further development
- 8 cases were dismissed

Due to the high number of cases across the country, the current wait time on an appeal from initial filing to a decision is lengthy and a veteran may wait up to three years before resolution of their appeal. The BVA has added more Judges to the program, so that time will hopefully improve.



Education and Employment Programs

Education looks different for everyone. Our team is poised to help veterans and their families obtain earned education and training benefits. The opportunities include: college degree, and certificate programs, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, flight training, and correspondence courses.

We support the success of veterans, current military members, and their families that are using benefits at South Dakota colleges and universities. We provide comprehensive oversight and information about education benefits and resources, as well as work closely with college and university staff to ensure all veterans or family members using benefits are getting the most of their benefits. We assist in administering various federal and state education benefits to veterans and their families.

In 2024, there were a total of 382 approved On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship programs. A total of 145 veterans used their GI Bill® for employment with 48 active firms and 56 active programs. In schools, there were 1,241 students using their GI Bill® for education benefits.

Veterans can choose to use their GI Bill® from 33 institutes of higher learning (colleges and universities), 25 non-college degree institutions (high schools, welding schools, and trade schools), and one flight training school.

Our Department serves as the state approving agency (SAA). As such, we promote and safeguard quality education and training for veterans, ensure greater educational and training opportunities to meet the changing needs of veterans, and protect the GI Bill® resources available for those programs by assisting the VA in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the administration of the GI Bill®.



Bonus Program

South Dakota is among a small group of states that offer bonus payments for certain active duty servicemembers and veterans.

In Calendar Year 2024, 89 bonus checks were sent out by the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to program applicants for a total of \$35,350.

The current bonus program disburses payments for service after August 2, 1990. \$500 is the maximum payment made for qualifying service between August 2, 1990, and December 31, 1992. Those with service after January 1, 1993, through a date to be determined who meet certain guidelines can also qualify for up to \$500.

County and tribal veterans service officers and transition assistance advisors with the South Dakota National Guard assist the SDDVA in getting the word out on the program and in making sure that those who are eligible for a bonus complete an application.

Servicemembers who are currently active duty and veterans that have been discharged who question whether they are eligible for a bonus can read more about the program on the SDDVA website at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/>. The bonus application and other information is found in the “State” category under the “Benefits” tab.

Veterans can also contact the department’s Pierre office if they believe they may have applied before and want to verify whether they have already been awarded a bonus.



State Burial Benefits

HEADSTONE ETCHING REIMBURSEMENT:

The newest burial benefit offered by the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs was approved by the 2023 South Dakota Legislature.

If the name, rank, branch of service and dates of birth and death of a veteran are professionally etched into the back of a privately purchased headstone or marker, SDDVA will pay \$100 toward the cost incurred for that etching.

In 2024, SDDVA did not pay any etching reimbursement stipends. Two applications were denied because they did not meet the etching program specifications.



HEADSTONE SETTING REIMBURSEMENT:

A federal government headstone or marker is provided for the grave of veterans whose service qualifies for the memorial. The loved ones of veterans and servicemembers can choose from marble/granite flat markers and upright headstones or flat bronze markers.

Among other information displayed, each stone/bronze marker includes the name, branch of service and year of birth and death of the veteran or servicemember.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs pays a stipend of \$200 toward the costs incurred for permanently setting the government marker/headstone. Applicants have one year from the date the headstone was permanently set to present the reimbursement claim to SDDVA.

The stipend amount was previously \$100 until state lawmakers approved an increase in the reimbursement during the 2023 South Dakota Legislative Session. That new payment became effective with settings done after July 1, 2023.

In 2024, SDDVA paid \$46,700 to 247 applicants. 220 of the payments were for \$200 and 27 applicants whose settings were done before July 1 of 2023 received \$100.

VETERANS BURIAL ALLOWANCE:

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs offers a Veterans Burial Allowance stipend. SDCL 33A-5-2 dictates that SDDVA will pay \$100 toward the expenses of a veteran or veteran's spouse if their family cannot pay because the decedent's estate is not sufficient to cover the costs.

Applicants for the program must work through county or tribal veterans service officers to submit the forms. SDDVA did not receive any requests for burial allowance stipends in 2024.

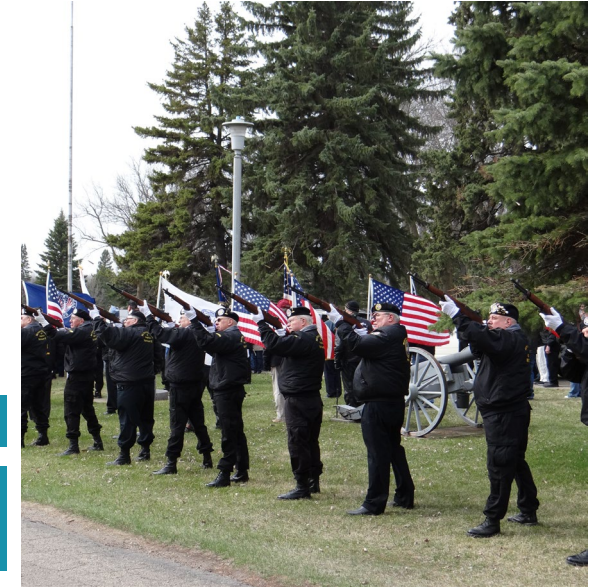
Military Funeral Honors

Military honors are one of the funeral and burial benefits available for most servicemembers and veterans.

These services conducted by honor guards are a fitting way to show gratitude and respect to the heroes who have defended our country.

In 2024, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs received 968 funeral honors forms requesting the \$100 stipend available for South Dakota veterans service organizations. More than 75 posts applied. 958 payments were approved for a total disbursement of \$95,800.

Since 2015, when the program was first started, SDDVA has allocated more than \$516,000 in funeral honors payments and more than 135 different veterans service organizations have applied for the benefit over the years.



The top right corner of the image features a close-up of the American flag, showing the white stars on a dark blue field and the red and white stripes. The rest of the background is a solid dark blue.

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SDDVA Public Affairs

Public Affairs

PUBLIC AFFAIRS



The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Communications team strives to help the agency build relationships and improve communications with strategic audiences; informing and promoting veteran-related initiatives that support and further our goals.

A key objective is strengthening relationships and increasing engagement with stakeholders and improving awareness of and participation in SDDVA services. Whether it is printed literature, social media, website, or electronic newsletters, SDDVA is continuously sharing information to help veterans feel connected to SDDVA and our partners.

The Department's website (vetaffairs.sd.gov) is designed to offer veterans a centralized clearinghouse of valuable resources accessible from anywhere in the world. The Department has a mobile website, making it easier for veterans to access information from their smartphones or tablets.

The Department disseminates a weekly newsletter electronically to entities within our veteran network. This newsletter and job postings can be found at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/News%20Updates.aspx>.

In addition to our press releases, the Department distributes a monthly column to the media on issues relating to veterans.

The Department maintains a statewide web calendar at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/publicaffairs/upcomingevents.aspx>.

The public affairs office also actively participates in the legislative process by tracking all veteran-related bills introduced, along with committee hearings, during each legislative session; updating department staff daily and partners weekly.

We offer a variety of publications and materials to keep media, veterans, and the general public up-to-date on veteran's issues around the state and nation - from legislative reports, to media contacts, newsletters, press releases, photos, annual reports and more.

Fallen Hero Bridge Dedications

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with Governor Kristi Noem, the Department of Military, and the Department of Transportation, launched the South Dakota Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program in 2019. To date, 53 bridges have been dedicated honoring 59 veterans. This program affords South Dakota the opportunity to dedicate state bridges to South Dakotans who died while in active service or who are missing in action.

In 2024, 12 bridges were dedicated in the following counties: Butte, Charles Mix, Day, Douglas, Hamlin, Hand, Harding, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Pennington, Sanborn, and Union.

We have honored 11 Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans, 22 Vietnam War Veterans, eight Korean War Veterans, 17 World War II Veterans, and one World War I Veteran.

Bridges have been dedicated in the following counties: Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brule, Butte, Charles Mix, Codington, Corson, Day, Dewey, Douglas, Edmunds, Fall River, Gregory, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Harding, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jones, Lincoln, Lyman, McCook, Mellette, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Perkins, Roberts, Sanborn, Tripp, Turner, Union, Walworth, Yankton, and Ziebach.

Naming South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity of remembrance, reflection, and respect—to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation.

The Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Committee meets in April and selects South Dakotans to honor each year. Dedication of the bridges are held May through November.

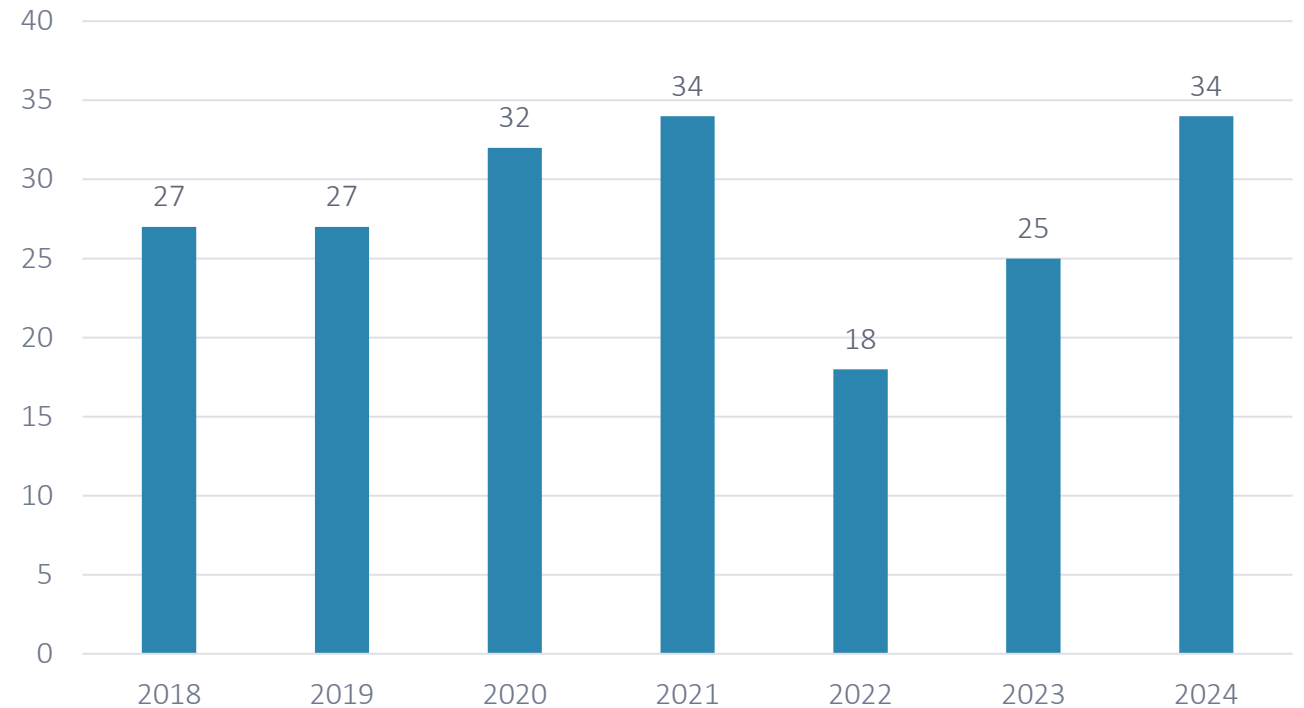
SDDVA currently has 108 pending applications on file (five OEF/OIF Veterans, 46 Vietnam War Veterans, nine Korean War Veterans, 47 World War II Veterans and one World War I Veteran).

South Dakota has more than 3,000 veterans that paid the ultimate sacrifice. Although these heroes are no longer with us, their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life.



Veterans Suicide Awareness

South Dakota Veteran Suicide Rates



Since 2019, South Dakota’s Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health, Social Services, Tribal Relations, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board have worked together to develop objectives and strategies that center around prevention, intervention, and postvention with the main goal to reduce suicide deaths in South Dakota.

The SD Suicide Prevention website (<https://sdsuicideprevention.org/>), serves as the main source of information. To help with consistent and aligned messaging, an interagency communication plan was developed. The plan includes messages, social media posts, posters, toolkit items, and outreach promotional materials.

SDDVA challenges everyone to do their “buddy checks” to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don’t know where to go or who to ask. Buddy checks can be done by a personal visit, a phone call, or an email. South Dakota veterans in acute suicidal crisis are now able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system.

The Veterans Crisis Line’s new number—Dial 988 then Press 1—gives Veterans in crisis a shorter, easier-to-remember way to get support as quickly as possible.

Special Outreach Programs

HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS:

The South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium is a statewide organization made up of service providers, individuals, city/county governments and state government agencies and works to address homelessness in the state. SDDVA is a member of the Consortium and is focused on the issue of homelessness among the veteran population. South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium is a statewide organization consisting of service providers, individuals, city/county governments, faith-based organizations and state government all working together to address homelessness in the state.

Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs include:

- Supportive Housing Program
- Provides housing, including housing units and group quarters, that has a supportive environment and includes a planned service component
- Shelter Plus Care Program
- Provides grants for rental assistance for homeless persons with disabilities through four components: tenant, sponsor, project, and single room occupancy rental assistance.
- Single Room Occupancy Program provides rental assistance on behalf of homeless individuals in connection with moderate rehabilitation of SRO dwellings.

VSO SALARY SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM:

SDCL 33A-1-30 and 33A-1-31 establishes a reimbursement program for SDDVA to provide financial assistance to counties and tribes in paying the salaries of their veterans' service officers.

In 2024, 56 counties and three tribes made application for and were deemed eligible for a total reimbursement of \$186,656.

CALLING ALL RETURNING SERVICE MEMBERS:

Calling All Returning Service Members (CARS) is a program that the SDDVA uses to reach out to South Dakota residents returning from Active Duty.

This is an opportunity for us to provide them with a heartfelt welcome home, contact information to their local county or tribal veterans service officers or our state staff, and answer any questions they may have on their transition back to civilian life.

In 2024 staff contacted 423 veterans via CARS.

What's Brewing

In 2022, the Department introduced a new program called “What’s Brewing.” This program has been a great opportunity for our department to visit with veterans and hear first-hand about the issues they are experiencing, as well as allow us an opportunity to brief them on new benefits and services. As the advocate for South Dakota veterans, we need to know what challenges our veterans and their families are facing.

During these “brewing” events our team addressed questions about veteran’s benefits; including compensation, education, pension, healthcare, burial, state veterans cemetery, state veterans home, and the Pact Act of 2022.

This year’s 2024 events were held in Chamberlain, Eureka, Gregory, McIntosh, Webster, and Yankton.





Caring for America's Heroes.

South Dakota

Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home

Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home

Every day is Veterans Day at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. Our goal is to serve veterans and their families through quality health care in an environment and community of trust, dignity, and sharing.

We not only consider it our duty to provide the highest level of care to those who answered our nation's call, we believe it is an honor. We continually develop and deliver a safe, dignified and compassionate health care system; and provide a nurturing and engaging home environment for veterans.

We provide person-centered care designed and delivered according to the individual needs of each resident. We operate 24/7 and provide a combination of skilled nursing care, special care units for dementia and Alzheimer's, domiciliary care, rehabilitation services, recreational therapy, and work therapy programs.

Additionally, the Home is supported by dedicated volunteers from surrounding communities, veterans service organizations and fraternal organizations who provide many additional supporting services and activities which enhance the lives of our residents. We are indebted to our volunteers and offer our appreciation.

The Home is subject to the regulatory standards of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the South Dakota Department of Health and undergoes annual licensure inspections by both agencies in areas of resident care, quality, and safety.

We focus on health of the whole person – intellectual, social, occupational, spiritual, emotional, and physical wellness.



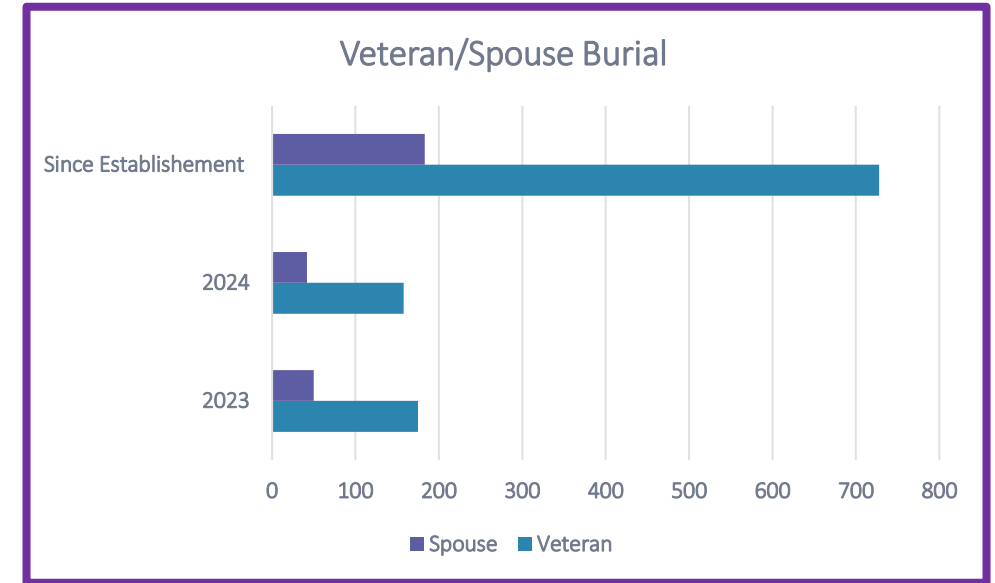
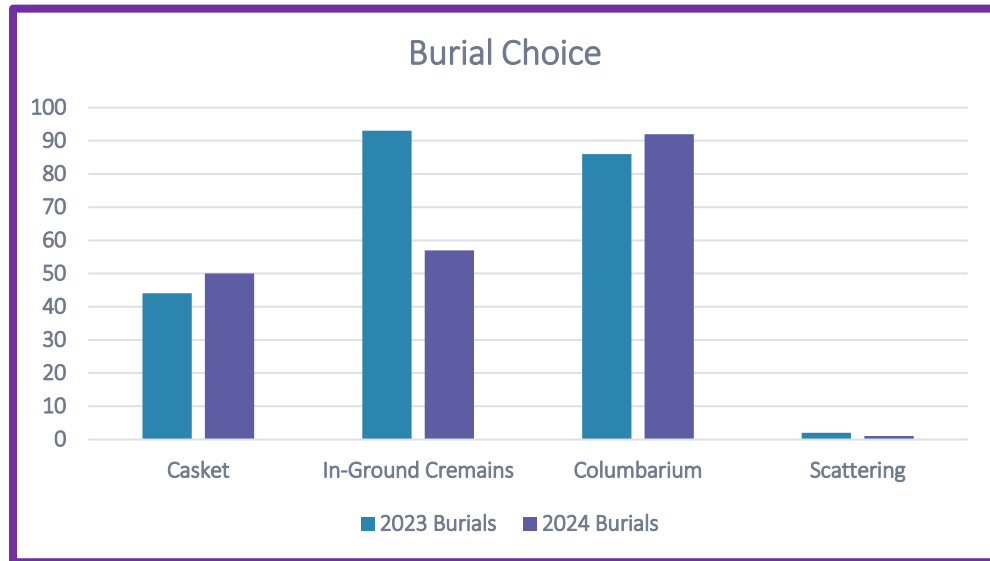


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South Dakota Veterans Cemetery

The South Dakota Veterans Cemetery has been operational since June 2021 and has laid to rest over a total of 908 veterans and their dependents. In 2024, 201 burials were conducted, landscaping and irrigation projects completed and there were over 40 opportunities to speak with partners and groups through outreach events about the cemetery.

Burial options include casket burial, cremation in-ground, cremation columbarium, and scattering garden. All burial options are of no charge to the veterans and \$978 for an eligible dependent.



National Cemetery Administration (NCA) conducts a yearly state and tribal satisfaction survey.

Respondents from 2024 for the South Dakotas Veterans Cemetery are as follows:

- 100% agree or strongly agree the overall appearance of cemetery is excellent.
- 100% were satisfied or very satisfied with the committal service performed at the cemetery.
- 98.8% agree or strongly agree that cemetery staff is excellent.
- 100% agree or strongly agree that the upkeep of headstone, markers, or niches is excellent.

State Veterans Cemetery



Laid to Rest as of 2024

201

Laid to Rest to Date

908

New Applications Received in 2024

384



Burial Choice

Casket – 50

In-Ground Cremains – 57

Columbarium – 92

Scattering Garden - 1

Phone Calls and Walk Ins

Phone calls – 2,120

Walk Ins – 1,720



A close-up, high-angle view of the American flag, focusing on the field of white stars on a dark blue background. The stars are arranged in a grid pattern, and the bottom edge shows the red and white stripes. The lighting creates a slight shadow, giving the flag a three-dimensional appearance.

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America's Heroes.**

Partners

South Dakota County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers

Aurora – Audrey Chapman
Beadle – Taylor Jans
Bennett – Don Larson
Bon Homme – Eric Elsberry
Brookings – Matt Pillar
Brookings – Rusty Brandsrud
Brown – Aaron Walberg
Brown – Jesse Milbrandt
Brule – Tim Thomas
Buffalo – Tim Thomas
Butte – Jasen Saivong
Campbell – Lester Goehring
Charles Mix – Jerry Seiner
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe – Robert Dunsmore
Clark – Darin Lewis
Clay – Drew Gunderson
Codington – Todd Rose
Codington – Jay Roberts
Corson – Kevin Dyda
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe – Vacant
Custer – Todd Fish
Davison – TJ Thomas
Davison – Courtney Ditter
Davison – Tim Storly
Day – Jeff Nelson
Deuel – Dennis Evenson
Dewey – Marshall Totton
Douglas – Jay Vanden Hoek
Edmunds – Barb Schaefer
Fall River – Dan Cullen
Faulk – David Huss
Grant – Scott Malimanek
Gregory – Dale Reber

Haakon – Terry Deuter
Hamlin – Todd Rose
Hamlin – Jay Roberts
Hand – David Sivertsen
Hanson – TJ Thomas
Hanson – Courtney Ditter
Hanson – Tim Storly
Harding – James Pickett
Hughes – Mike Mullen
Hutchinson – Rachel Sandau
Hyde – David Sivertsen
Jackson – Terry Deuter
Jerauld – TJ Thomas
Jerauld – Courtney Ditter
Jerauld – Tim Storly
Jones – Tim Thomas
Kingsbury – Gary Schumacher
Lake – John Anderson
Lawrence – Jesse Ketzer
Lincoln – David Ekle
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe - Vacant
Lyman – Tim Thomas
Marshall – David Daberkow
McCook – Brian Havard
McPherson – Samantha Barrett
Meade – Sean Henderson
Mellette – Clinton Rasmusson
Miner – Timothy Reisch
Minnehaha – Tyler Grotewold
Minnehaha – Douglas Roderick
Moody – Jerrick Charles
Oglala Lakota – Jerlene Arredondo
Oglala Sioux Tribe – Shawnee Keith

Pennington – Thomas Vallette
Pennington – Robert Borries
Pennington – Heather Funk
Pennington – Chris Dieball
Perkins – Bridget Keller
Potter – Isaac Full
Roberts – Tanya McCarlson
Rosebud Sioux Tribe – Orlando Morrison
Rosebud Sioux Tribe – Nellie Menard
Sanborn – TJ Thomas
Sanborn – Courtney Ditter
Sanborn – Tim Storly
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate – Geri Opsal
Spink – Steve Wollman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – Claudette Walking Elk
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe – Ohiyesa Locke
Stanley – Mike Mullen
Sully – Mike Mullen
Todd – Vacant
Tripp – Milton Douglas
Turner – Craig VanderZee
Union – Lisa Schenzel
Walworth – Peter Weinzirl
Yankton – Robert Stickney
Yankton Sioux Tribe – Dennis Rucker
Ziebach – Gary Cudmore

The primary source of contact for benefits are the county and tribal veterans service officers. They are located in each of South Dakota's 66 counties and eight of South Dakota's reservations.

South Dakota County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers Association

The South Dakota County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers Association (SDVSOA) is an organization consisting of county and tribal veterans service officers across the state.

The primary purpose of the SDVSOA is to promote and further the work of all county and tribal veterans service officers in the State of South Dakota and to ensure that all of the state's veterans and/or their families are reached and receive the care and benefits to which they are entitled. Current board members are as follows:

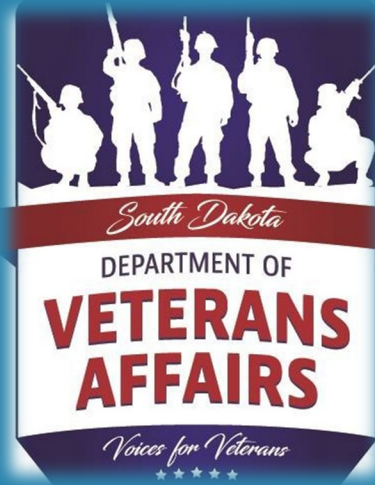
President—Aaron Walberg (Brown County)
Vice President—Dan Cullen (Fall River County)
Secretary-Treasurer—Sam Barrett (McPherson County)
Judge Advocate—Dennis Evenson (Deuel County)



The primary source of contact for benefits are the county and tribal veterans service officers. They are located in each of South Dakota's 66 counties and eight of South Dakota's reservations.

Contact Us

- South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

Pierre Administrative Office:
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
425 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-3100
605.773.3269

Sioux Falls Administrative Office:
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
SD Military Heritage Alliance Bldg.
Suites 406 and 407
1600 W. Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1330
605.360.4173

Sioux Falls Claims Office:
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
c/o VA Regional Office
2501 W. 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1305
605.333.6869
605.333.5386 (fax)

State Veterans Cemetery:
SD Veterans Cemetery
25965 477th Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6519
605.277.8094

State Veterans Home:
Michael J. Fitzmaurice SVH
2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747-1129
605.745.5127