



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Soldiers and Sailors Building  
425 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-773-8242  
<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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**For more information, contact:** Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)  
(South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

### **SDDVA to Lay Christmas Wreaths in Honor of Our Veterans**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA), in partnership with Midwest Honor Flight and Wreaths Across America, will host a wreath-laying ceremony on Saturday, December 14. The event will take place at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery Committal Shelter, located at 25965 477th Avenue, Sioux Falls, starting at 11:00 AM CT.

Midwest Honor Flight and its partners are generously providing the wreaths to honor our heroes.

Following the 30-minute program, attendees will have the opportunity to assist in placing wreaths at the graves of our veterans.

The tradition of laying wreaths in remembrance of veterans during the holiday season began in 1992, when Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreath Company (Harrington, Maine) donated 5,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. This gesture sparked a national movement, leading to the formation of Wreaths Across America in 2007. Today, more than 2,500 locations participate in this meaningful act of remembrance.

“During this holiday season, we look forward to paying tribute to our veterans and their families by participating in Wreaths Across America. This year, we will be laying over 450 wreaths,” said Erin Brown, Director of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. “The generous support of Midwest Honor Flight and their partners ensures that we can fulfill our mission of remembrance for these brave men and women laid to rest in South Dakota.”

The public is invited to join us in honoring our heroes and participating in this heartfelt tribute.