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### **Governor Rhoden Proclaims May as Military Appreciation Month**

**SIoux FALLS, SD** – Governor Larry Rhoden, in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA), has officially proclaimed May as **“Military Appreciation Month”**- a time dedicated to honoring, remembering, and expressing gratitude to the courageous men and women who served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces, along with their families.

National Military Appreciation Month includes a series of commemorative observances:

- Loyalty Day – May 1
- Victory in Europe Day – May 8
- Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May 8
- Armed Forces Day – May 16
- Memorial Day – May 25

May is also recognized as Gold Star Awareness Month, offering an opportunity to pay tribute to the families of America’s fallen heroes whose sacrifices remain forever woven into the fabric of our nation.

“This month isn’t just about remembrance, it’s about connection,” said SDDVA Secretary Jeremiah Schneider. “Across South Dakota, we can all take part in honoring the military community, whether by thanking a veteran, supporting a military spouse, or extending comfort to a Gold Star family”. “Each small act of gratitude carries great meaning.”

The SDDVA encourages citizens, communities, and organizations to participate in local observances, proudly display the American flag, and find ways to express appreciation for those who have worn and continue to wear our nation's uniform.