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South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Partners with South Dakota Chapter of Alzheimer's Association

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) and the South Dakota Chapter of Alzheimer's Association (AA) announced a partnership to better connect South Dakota's veterans with the resources for Alzheimer's and other dementias. Together they are collaborating on outreach opportunities for veterans and their families to learn more about the educational materials, care and support services offered by the Alzheimer's Association.

It is estimated that 17,000 South Dakotans are living with Alzheimer's, many of which are veterans.

"We need to ease the burden of this disease for all who are impacted," said Kathi Herreid, state director of the South Dakota Chapter of Alzheimer's Association.

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia impacts every aspect of the caregiver's daily life. As an Alzheimer's patient loses one ability after another, a caregiver faces tests of stamina, problem solving, and resiliency.

"Learning all we can about memory-related diseases is beneficial for our veterans, their families, and our staff," said Brad Richardson, superintendent of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. "Increasing awareness about the resources available will enhance the lives of our veterans and their caregivers."

Richardson's staff will have the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association by wearing "End Alzheimer's" t-shirts on Fridays and donating to the fund.

To learn more about Alzheimer's and the South Dakota Chapter of Alzheimer's Association visit <https://www.alz.org/sd>.