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Joe Leasure Receives 2019 SDDVA Employee of the Year Award

PIERRE, S.D. – Joe Leasure of Sioux Falls has been named the 2019 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Employee of the Year. Leasure was recognized by his peers at SDDVA's annual benefit conference Monday, Aug. 26, in Pierre.

Joe serves as a state veterans service officer for the Department. Joe has been with the Department for over three years.

Key Achievements of the Employee of the Year:

- Exceeding expectations regarding veteran's issues.
- Commitment to, and enthusiasm for the Department's mission statement.
- Job knowledge.
- Outstanding outreach efforts.
- Involvement and active participation with service organizations.
- Growing relationship with T/CVSOs.

"Joe is the 'go to guy' in the office," said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "His expertise, knowledge and drive assist our county and tribal veterans service officers and our staff. He has a great understanding of the federal rules and regulations guiding veterans' benefits."

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and its partners assist South Dakota veterans in receiving over \$660 million in annual benefits.. The Department's mission is to be the voice for South Dakota's veterans. Visit us online at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.