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### **Geri Opsal Receives 2020 SDDVA Outreach Award**

PIERRE, S.D. – Geri Opsal of Agency Village has been named the 2020 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Outreach Partner of the Year. Opsal was recognized by her peers at SDDVA’s annual benefit conference Monday, Aug. 24, in Pierre.

Geri Opsal, tribal veterans service officer for Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, was awarded the 2020 Outreach Partner of the Year award for going above and beyond in her efforts to reach out to South Dakota’s Veterans.

#### Key Achievements for Outreach:

- Ensure that veterans are aware of their benefits.
- Conduct informational meetings.
- Involved in community activities and events.
- Maintain good media relations.
- Excel in obtaining medals for veterans.

“Geri is an extremely active and visible VSO in her community,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “She is very connected in her community and works with community leaders to enhance the lives of veterans. Great leaders know the importance of connectedness. She makes it a priority to inspire, teach, support and encourage others.”

Opsal’s office serves hundreds of veterans.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and its partners assist South Dakota veterans in receiving over \$743 million in annual benefits. The Department’s mission is to provide comprehensive care to veterans and their families regarding healthcare, education, disability benefits, long-term care, and burial honors. Visit us online at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.