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### **Kathy Schlecht Receives 2020 SDDVA Partner of the Year Award**

PIERRE, S.D. – Kathy Schlecht, of Aberdeen has been named the 2020 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Partner of the Year. Schlecht was recognized by her peers at SDDVA's annual benefit conference Monday, Aug. 24, in Pierre.

Kathy Schlecht, assistant veterans service officer for Brown County, was awarded the 2020 Partner of the Year award for her compassion, commitment, knowledge and professionalism when assisting South Dakota's veterans.

#### Key Achievements of the Partner of the Year:

- Best overall service provided by support staff of a County or Tribal Veteran Service Officer.
- Outstanding customer service in assisting veterans and their families.
- Great office management.
- Utilizing new technologies that benefit our network.

“Kathy Schlecht is excellent in her role as assistant veterans service officer,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “She accomplishes her immediate tasks but is always thinking three steps ahead.”

Schlecht's office serves over 2,400 veterans in Brown and neighboring counties.

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.