



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
Fax: 605-773-5380
<http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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For more information, contact: Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242 or audry.ricketts@state.sd.us (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

VETERANS DAY AT THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

PIERRE, S.D. – At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Kristi Noem has proclaimed Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, as Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair, calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who fought bravely for our freedoms.

At 10:30 a.m. on September 3, the South Dakota State Fair will host a “Salute to Veterans” program in the Grandstand. South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg will serve as the keynote speaker. A combat veteran, Ravnsborg deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom to Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He currently serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves with nearly 24 years of service. He has had four company commands and also served as a battalion commander overseeing over 600 soldiers in South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Missouri. He is currently assigned to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

“Whether in peace or at war, the important role of our veterans cannot be denied. They are men and women from all walks of life that have one thing in common – a love for this great country,” said Secretary Greg Whitlock. “No matter where or when veterans have served, they’ve always served with distinction and their service to this country is a bridge that was built on courage, dedication and patriotism.”

Representatives from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will have an informational booth (Booth #50) in the Expo Building throughout the week. Veterans are encouraged to stop by the booth and learn more about benefits and programs available to them as well.

Whitlock especially encourages Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans to stop by and visit with SDDVA staff about disability benefits.

To show appreciation for their service, the Fair will give all veterans and active military personnel free gate admission on Sept 3.