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### **Jerry Lemme Receives 2021 SDDVA Outstanding Department Staffer of the Year Award**

PIERRE, S.D. – Jerry Lemme of Dell Rapids has been named the 2021 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Outstanding Department Staffer of the Year. Lemme was recognized by his peers at SDDVA’s annual benefit conference Monday, Aug. 16, in Pierre.

Lemme joined the SDDVA team in 2015 and serves as a state veterans service officer in the SDDVA Claims Office in Sioux Falls.

“Jerry is very genuine when he interacts with veterans and their families, staff, and county and tribal veterans service officers,” said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “He is a great problem solver, mentor, and subject matter expert on pension, policies, and procedures. He stays informed on all of the ever-changing federal rules and regulations and shares his knowledge with all partners within the Department. He exemplifies integrity, knowledge and motivation; a work ethic that is highly desirable and appreciated in our network.”

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and its partners assist South Dakota veterans in receiving over \$842 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 the Department online at: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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(Photos available upon request.)