



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](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us) (South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs)

### **Dan Cullen Named Outstanding Veterans Service Officer of the Year**

PIERRE, S.D. – Dan Cullen of Hot Springs has been named the 2021 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs “Outstanding Veterans Service Officer of the Year.” Cullen was recognized by his peers at SDDVA’s annual benefit conference Monday, Aug. 16, in Pierre.

Dan Cullen, veterans service officer for Fall River County, was acknowledged for his success in winning appeals for veterans, his advocacy for veterans, his ability to build relationships with partners within the veteran network, and his willingness to mentor new members of the team.

“Dan has grit and is a marathoner,” said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “He faces challenges with determination and strives to achieve the best outcome for veterans.

Cullen’s office serves over 800 veterans in Fall River County, as well as numerous veterans visiting the VA Black Hills Health Care System.

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.