



Department of Veterans Affairs

Michael J. Fitzmaurice
South Dakota Veterans Home
2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone 605.745.5127

December 16, 2021

Dear Resident and Resident Representatives,

Many of you have seen or heard about the story "Locked Down and Lonely at the State Veterans Home" that aired yesterday on Keloland Investigates.

The story, as reported, focused on policies/procedures we implemented during the pandemic.

Throughout this pandemic, our team at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home followed, and will continue to follow, guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the South Dakota Department of Health. Our goal is to provide our residents with quality care while protecting them.

We did not allow the pandemic to deter us from taking care of our residents. We did a great job of providing care and developing new ways to address the challenges that we faced while providing a safe environment. We achieved a five-star rating from CMS; and both the VA and the DOH conducted on-site surveys of our facilities and protocols and found minor issues for us to address. All of which have been resolved.

Please know, my door is always open, and I encourage you to visit with me, or members of the administrative team in person, or by phone. Communication, feedback, and discussions help initiate new ideas and ensure we are successful in carrying out our mission.

We truly are honored to be a part of our great family at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and strive daily to ensure their needs are being taken care of.

Sincerely,

Brad Richardson, Superintendent
Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home