



## Custer, Custer County Recognize Centennial Year of the American Legion



Above: Custer County Commission Chairman Jim Lintz presenting a resolution proclaiming 2019 as "The American Legion Centennial Year" throughout Custer County, SD. Pictured left to right are Battle Creek #303 (Hermosa) Post Commander Grant Serna, Commission Chairman Jim Lintz, and Custer Post #46 Post Commander Don Hone. Photo courtesy of Mark A. Mills.

The Centennial of the American Legion is a great reason to celebrate, and the posts of Custer County have started the party in an impressive manner.

In November, Custer Post #46 held a community movie night at the Custer Jr/Sr High School, in which 50 people braved cold weather to enjoy "Sgt Stubby: An American Hero," an animated film based on the famous WWI Army mascot. Two dog teams from Custer County Search & Rescue, along with the bomb detection dog team from the South Dakota Highway Patrol, joined in the celebration by giving demonstrations for the crowd. Additionally, participants were treated to a display of Custer County WWI artifacts, loaned out by the 1881 Courthouse Museum and Custer Post #46.

To kick off 2019, the City of Custer made formal recognition of the American Legion's 100th year

by presenting Custer Post #46 with a proclamation declaring 2019 as the Custer Post #46, American Legion, Centennial Year. In the January 7th proclamation, Mayor Corbin Herman (who happens to be a Post #46 member himself) highlights the many activities the Legion is so well known for, to include Honor Guard, Americanism programs, community service and much more. The post will officially turn 100 on July 28th, 2019.

On January 9th, the Custer County Commission acknowledged the work of both Custer County American Legion Posts—Custer and Hermosa—for their work within the county.

With more Centennial plans in the works, the Custer County posts are making the 100th year memorable. By including their communities, they're also doing their part to get the American Legion message out.

## 2019 MidWinter Conference

February 8-10, 2019

Holiday Inn Spearfish-Convention Center Spearfish, SD

### Friday, February 8, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Department Finance Commission Meeting—WILLOW/ASPEN
- 12:00 p.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting — WILLOW/ASPEN
- 4:30 p.m. Membership Council Meeting—WILLOW/ASPEN
- 6:00 p.m. Go-Getter Reception—HERITAGE CENTER
- 7:00 p.m. Go-Getter Smorgasbord—HERITAGE CENTER

### Saturday, February 9, 2019

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Desk Opens – Pre-Function Area
- 8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session - Conference Center State Commander Denny Brenden / Auxiliary President Jeanine Loesch and SAL Detachment Commander Kerry Jorgenson Remarks
- 8:25 a.m. James Sweet, National Vice Commander Remarks
- 8:45 a.m. Auxiliary VA&R 9:00 a.m. Auxiliary Children & Youth
- 9:15 a.m. SD Department of Veterans Affairs
- 9:35 a.m. Paul Dillard, Candidate for 2020-2021 National Commander
- 10:10 a.m. Recess Joint Session – Legion/Auxiliary/SAL to separate meetings
- 10:20 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSION:
  - MyLegion (Membership processing)— WILLOW
  - Media techniques for Posts (Social) – ASPEN
  - Post Service Officer Training—ASPEN
  - VA&R Commission Meeting— SPRUCE
  - Legion Riders—76 ROOM
- 12:00 p.m. Noon Lunch Break
- 1:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION:
  - Post Activities and Development discussion
  - Small Posts—WILLOW
  - Medium Posts—ASPEN
  - Large Posts—SPRUCE

- 2:55 p.m. All assemble in Conference Hall
- 3:00 p.m. NEC Jim Huls Remarks
- 3:15 p.m. PDC Rod Martens, Department Legislative Chairman
- 3:30 p.m. Doug Harris and Matt Lagerstrom, 2018 National American Legion College
- 3:45 p.m. Gene Opbroek – Department Membership Chairman Membership Report/ Awards/Turn-In
- 4:15 p.m. VAVS member, Popcorn Fund Turn-In
- 4:20 p.m. Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
- 4:30 p.m. SD American Legion Foundation Meeting-76 ROOM
- 6:00 p.m. No-Host Cocktails – Pre-Function Area, Conference Center
- 7:00 p.m. Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet
- 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Rooms, Holiday Inn Hotel rooms

### Sunday, February 19, 2019

- 8:30 a.m. Non-Denominational Service
- 10:30 a.m. SD American Legion – State Finals – High School Oratorical Contest

**2019 MidWinter Conference agenda and times are subject to change**



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**State Service Officer** — Courtney VanZanten, Chester

**State Chaplain** — Larry Klumb, Ethan

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5—Matt Lagerstrom, White

2—Eugene Iron Shell, Jr., Rosebud

6—Doug Feltman, Chamberlain

3—LeRoy Madsen, Pierre

7—Roger Klos, Sioux Falls

4—Perry Schmidt, Redfield

8—Gregory Geiman, Scotland

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## Congressional Contact Information

**Senator John Thune (R-SD)**, 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Phone: 202-224-2321, Fax: 202-228-5429, Toll Free: 1-866-850-3855, Web site: <http://www.thune.senate.gov>

**Senator Michael Rounds (R-SD)**, Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone: 202-224-5842, Fax: 202-224-7482, Toll-Free: 202-875-5268, Website: <http://www.rounds.senate.gov>

**Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD)**, 1508 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515; Phone: (202) 225-2801; Web site: <https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/>

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and news materials to:  
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[dave@sdlegion.org](mailto:dave@sdlegion.org)

## “Leave No Veteran Behind”

Denny Brenden  
State Commander



Legionnaires,

I hope everyone one had a Merry Christmas and a beginning of a Happy New Year. As of writing this article, National has our membership at 16,325. Our target of 20,001 is getting nearer every day. Now is when we need to visit our Guard Units, gun shows, farm & home shows or whatever event comes up in your community. Always remember if you need assistance at any events contact the State Adjutant or myself and we'll make sure you have additional people. We are all working together for the same goal.

I've been at recruiting events and noticed the response from veterans when asked to join the American Legion. Over 50% of the new members signed up will respond “I didn't know I was eligible” or “Nobody has ever asked me”. I have asked all Department leaders to sign up 3 new members this year. Many have signed up 3 members and some have kept on going. We have leaders that have signed up 60, 36, 22, 10 and many with over 3.

I asked all Posts to come in one member over goal. Many have achieved this and my hope is that all Posts come in at 100%. I urge all Posts to contact all members on their roster and renew them back in The American Legion. If you have went through your roster and are still short, contact the State Adjutant and he will give you a list of members in your area that haven't renewed in the last two years. Many of these veterans will renew if they are contacted. Please have your Post in at 100% by Mid-winter if possible.

March 15-17, 1919, is when The American Legion was founded by Theodore Roosevelt Jr. and twenty of his officers. This year is going to have many celebrations celebrating our first 100 years. I would ask all Posts to have someone present at our State Convention in Sioux Falls this year. We have presentations to make to all Posts. Please put it on your agenda. If you are scheduling an event at your Post and would like me to be there, please send me the date and I'll make every effort to come and help your Post celebrate.

I truly enjoy learning about the History of The American Legion. Last year our National Convention was in Minneapolis. With Minneapolis hosting the first convention it was only fitting they host the 100<sup>th</sup>. At the Convention we were given a book that reviewed events that took place at the first convention. They talked of the enthusiasm that was shown by the delegates, guests and interested parties. The Minneapolis Tribune on November 9, 1919, wrote “They will gather in Minneapolis tomorrow to launch the greatest organization of veterans in world history”. Another article wrote “We are passing through dark and turbulent time just now and it is a wonderful comfort and reassurance to find this representative body of young men thinking clearly and speaking bravely and forcefully to support the essential principle of our government. The American Legion is the hope of the country”.

The American Legion is still the hope of the country. Be proud to be a Legionnaire. For over 100 years we have been taking care of our communities, children and our nation. Let's bring all veterans into our family. Thank you.

Denny Brenden  
State Commander

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

The South Dakota Legion News is published six times a year to serve its members and interested parties by informing them about Department activities and other relevant issues concerning the veterans of South Dakota. The news and opinions expressed in this publication does not necessarily reflect the views of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, its officers, members, or the Editor. The Editor has the right to edit all articles.

## 2019 Eagle Scout of the Year

The American Legion annually honors The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year at its National Convention. The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up are each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship.

Forms for nominating Boys Scouts for The American Legion 2018 Eagle Scout of the Year award are now available from State Headquarters. State Headquarters must receive nominations no later than March 2, 2019. A panel will select the Department Eagle Scout of the Year.

Nomination forms may also be downloaded from the internet on The Department American Legion webpage at:

[www.sdlegion.org/program/scouting/](http://www.sdlegion.org/program/scouting/)

## District Oratorical Winners Announced

The 2019 District contests for The American Legion High School Oratorical “Constitutional Speech Contest” have been held at seven of the eight South Dakota American Legion Districts. Below are the 2019 District Oratorical Winners.

#### District 1 Winner:

Morgan Roberts of Spearfish, SD.

#### District 2 Winner:

Erica Houser of Rapid City, SD.

#### District 3 Winner:

Jaslee Kerner of Gregory, SD.

#### District 4 Winner:

Keilly Gunther of Aberdeen, SD.

#### District 5 Winner:

Elise Heesch of New Effington, SD.

#### District 6 Winner:

Shaina Determan of Alexandria, SD.

#### District 7 Winner:

Julia Ebbinga of Hartford, SD.

#### District 8 Winner:

No Contestant.

Congratulations to all the District winners. The District winners will now compete at the Department Oratorical Finals scheduled to be held at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center during the Mid-Winter Conference on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The first place winner will advance to the National American Legion Oratorical contest that will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 5-7, 2019.

Everyone is welcome to come to Holiday Inn Convention Center to listen and witness these outstanding students that put a lot of hard work in their oratorical presentations.

## Posts Earn 2019 National Honor Ribbon Awards

A post honor ribbon is awarded to all posts whose 2019 membership by the January 17, 2019, target date exceeds the total 2018 membership. Post Honor Ribbons will be presented to: District 1: Timber Lake #83, Buffalo #147, Little Eagle #239, Bison #255, Eagle Butte #308; District 2: Custer #46, Midland #143, Philip #173, Oelrichs #238, Pine Ridge #251, Kyle #265, Wanblee #269, Porcupine #294, Parmelee #295, St. Francis #297, Allen #317; District 4: Columbia #58, Herreid #170; District 5: Lily #156; District 6: Chamberlain #3, Plankinton #5, Wolsey #59, Oldham #158, Emery #166, Ethan #261; District 7: Salem #140, Canistota #162, North Sioux City; District 8: Vermillion #1, Wakonda #13 and Greenwood #257.

## County Commanders Win Membership Awards

An award will go to the County Commander in each of the four goal size groups listed below that has enrolled the highest percentage of assigned membership goal for 2019 by the December 12th target date. The award is an armed forces flag desk set. The winners are:

15 to 199 goal size – Perry Keller (83), DEWEY CO. 135.71%  
200 to 349 goal size – Jim Childers (164), LAWRENCE CO. 87.33%  
350 to 549 goal size – David Driscoll (18) DAVISON CO. 83.09%  
550 and Larger size – Darrel Barry (33), MEADE CO. 86.40%  
Congratulations to all the winners for their work in membership.

## Good Samaritan Award

The Good Samaritan Award serves to recognize those individuals or groups who give of themselves to help others. This award is designed to make the public aware of the many good deeds and acts of kindness that are going on around us each and every day.

A narrative with supporting documentation must be forwarded to the District Commander ten (10) days prior to the Spring District meeting. District Commander's will forward the District's nominee to State Headquarters in Watertown, SD, no later than May 1, 2019.

An information sheet listing all the criteria and purpose of the Good Samaritan Award can be found on the South Dakota American Legion website at [www.sdlegion.org](http://www.sdlegion.org) or you may contact the South Dakota American Legion Headquarters at PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201-0067 or by email at [hq@sdlegion.org](mailto:hq@sdlegion.org).

Once the Good Samaritan Award is announced, the award will be presented at a local venue to honor the recipient. Please take the time to consider submitting a nomination of a Good Samaritan in your community.

## Posts Earn Award for Consecutive Membership Years

A special award will be presented at the 2019 District Spring Meetings to the following Posts that have achieved five or more consecutive years at or beyond 90 percent of goal, including 2019, by the target date of January 17, 2019.

Framed citations will be awarded for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 consecutive years with attachments awarded for each intermediate year. Posts that will be awarded the Post Award are as follows:

**District 1:** Sturgis #33, 8 years (attachment). **District 2:** Custer #46, 5 years (citation) **District 3:** Hoven #159, 12 years (attachment). **District 4:** Hecla #68, 5 years (citation). **District 5:** none. **District 6:** Lake Preston #63, 71 years (attachment); Plankinton #5, 10 years (citation); Ethan #261, 7 years (attachment). **District 7:** Colman #278, 13 years (attachment); North Sioux City #319, 13 years (attachment); Harrisburg #45, 8 years (attachment); Garretson #23, 7 years (attachment), Chester #136, 6 years (attachment), Montrose #154, 6 years (attachment) **District 8:** Armour #52, 9 years (attachment).

## Membership Turn-in MidWinter Conference Saturday, February 9, 2019

All Posts are encouraged to bring their Memberships to turn into State Commander Denny Brenden on stage during the 2019 MidWinter Conference at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Spearfish, SD.

## 2019 Youth Trooper Academy

The South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy is a cooperative effort between the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the American Legion of South Dakota.

The mission of the Youth Trooper Academy is to recruit young men and women from culturally diverse backgrounds from across the state of South Dakota, and to increase their understanding of the job of a state trooper.

The Youth Trooper Academy is an intensive, one week, residential learning experience for young adults who are high school juniors and seniors.

The Youth Trooper Academy is held at the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pierre, SD.

The 2019 Youth Trooper Academy dates are June 26-30 and space in the program is limited to 24 students from across the state.

The program is open to male and female high school students that have an interest in a career in law enforcement. Candidates must be in good academic standing with their high school. Candidates must possess a valid South Dakota driver license.

Applications may be obtained on-line at the South Dakota American Legion website or by contacting the South Dakota American Legion State Headquarters at 605-886-3604.

Application deadline is March 25, 2019. All completed applications must be mailed to the South Dakota Highway Patrol, ATTN: Sgt. Tony Maunu, 1302 E. Highway 14, Suite 5, Pierre, SD 57501.

If you have questions please contact Sergeant Tony Maunu, Training and Professional Standards Division, South Dakota Highway Patrol, at 605-773-2066 or you may email SGT Maunu at [tony.maunu@state.sd.us](mailto:tony.maunu@state.sd.us).

You may also contact PDC Larry Price at 605-472-2272 or 605-460-2273. You may email PDC Price at [larrylprice@hotmail.com](mailto:larrylprice@hotmail.com).

## Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service

April 1, 2019, 9 a.m.

July 1, 2019, 9 a.m.

October 7, 2019, 9 a.m.

Join us as we conduct military honors for Veterans already laid to rest without honors.

Questions? Please call (605)347-3930 or (800)743-1070 ext. 7299.

## Department Adjutant Thoughts

Travise Flisrand  
Department Adjutant



Legionnaires,

**\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\***Sitting in this office as the Department Adjutant, I tend to get calls for help, calls of frustration and questions for advice. I seldom get those calls of "Our Post is doing awesome things and we want to share what we are doing!". With that said, this month's column is focused more on those calls I do get.

A century ago our organization was established under Pillars that focused on our Veterans, our Children, our Americanism/Patriotism and the defense of our Nation. These pillars have never changed and stand firmly in place since the inception of this great organization. How we execute these pillars might have changed; they have likely evolved as generations of veterans have come and gone but the true spirit and purpose remains.

During my time in the service, I learned several key ingredients to any organization, that when overlooked, would lead to diminished returns. Training and teamwork go hand in hand with successful organizations. Without one, you tend to not have the other component. The last key ingredient is that leader who the members rally around and follow their lead. With new members in the Post comes an opportunity to build friendship, trust, respect and knowledge of talents that all members have. This is a point that lays the foundation for a member who will stick around and become part of the structure inside the Post, or a member who will be around a short time and leave our organization due to many varying answers. Leadership inside the Posts should foster a positive environment where this will occur, not just at meetings, but in social gatherings within the community and outside of the Post.

I remember a mentor I had many years ago tell me "It doesn't matter how much you do "good", it really counts on how much you can do that is "outstanding", this advice shines through today. Each Post in this state has unique events/programs that they do because they have talented members who can ensure success in those events. They know what talents Post members have, who has the time available to volunteer and a leader who can keep things moving. Reflecting on my mentors' statement, a Post must decide upon what programs they can support and do a great job at them.

The South Dakota American Legion has been a central part of our Communities and State for the past Century. As we plot our paths forward in the next Century, every Post is advised to look at what they do for their community, and ask themselves: How does your community see you? Are you an asset / are you seen as obsolete / are you seen as "the bar in town for old veterans"? A Post who is trying to do everything with no membership to assist in performing those programs will have difficulty in attaining a great outcome in everything.

At some point a Post will need to decide what to do in the future. Reviewing our Four Pillars is a great place to start. Looking at the foundation of our organization and decide what your Post has the abilities to do, what the members are able to do and is there a need in your community for those programs. Strategic planning with all members, identifying goals with specific milestones sets the course for a successful future as long as it is a collaborative effort with a majority of the members.

Closing thought to my Column. "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." President Harry Truman

Travise Flisrand  
State Adjutant

## 58th Annual Washington Conference

In late February 2019, eleven Legionnaires from the Department of South Dakota will travel to Washington, D.C. and attend the 58th annual American Legion Washington Conference. Those called to Washington, D.C., this year include NEC Jim Huls of Madison, Commander Denny Brenden of Watertown, PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson, PDC Tim Jurgens of Milbank, Warren Aas of Watertown, District 6 Commander Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, Miranda Krumm of Chester, DSO Courtney Van Zanten of Chester, Fred Nelson of Spearfish, and Gary Wolkow of De Smet. Also attending will be Department Adjutant Travise Flisrand of Castlewood.

The American Legion has a list of legislative priorities that will be discussed with the South Dakota Congressional Delegation on Tuesday, February 26th, known as "Hill Day" during the conference. The South Dakota delegation is scheduled to meet with Senator John Thune, Senator Michael Rounds as well as Representative Dusty Johnson to discuss the legislative priorities of The American Legion.

Department Service Officer Courtney VanZanten will travel to Washington D.C. on Tuesday, February 26th and will attend The American Legion Department Service Officer School in conjunction with the Washington Conference.

# Hats In The Ring: Department Officer Candidates



**Fred Nelson**  
State Commander Candidate  
2019-2020

Fred Nelson of Spearfish, SD, a member of American Legion Post #164, of Spearfish, has been endorsed by his post as a candidate for the position of State Commander.



**Harry Boner**  
State Vice Commander Candidate  
2019-2020

Harry Boner of Castlewood, SD, a member of Olson-Reid American Legion Post #250, of Castlewood, has been endorsed by his post as a candidate for the position of State Vice Commander, Districts 3-8.



**Kevin Morello**  
State Vice Commander Candidate  
2019-2020

Kevin Morello, of Piedmont, SD, a member of American Legion Post #311, of Piedmont, has been endorsed by his post as a candidate for the position of State Vice Commander, Districts 1-2.



**PDC Jim Huls**  
Post #140, Salem, SD  
Candidate for  
National Executive  
Committeeman



**PDC Terry Hanson**  
Post #42, Arlington, SD  
Candidate for  
Alternate National  
Executive Committeeman



**Verle Whipple**  
Post #109, Gary, SD  
Candidate for  
Department  
Sergeant-at-Arms

## Legislation From Pierre

The 2019 Legislative Session in Pierre kicked off on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, with the Governor's State of the State Address and the House and Senate in session. This session has a 38 day calendar; below are the current bills The American Legion is monitoring. We anticipate a few more bills concerning veterans will be introduced as the session progresses and we will monitor them as well. February 2nd is the last day to introduce individuals bills. The following are the current bills we are monitoring and their status as of January 27, 2019:

HB 1007 revise certain provisions regarding the exemptions from the twelve-month residency requirement for university students. House of Representatives (HoR) Do Pass 1/25

HB 1043 require the Department of Social Services to collect and report certain information regarding the military affiliation of a parent whose child is subject to a report of abuse or neglect. HoR Do Pass 1/25

HB 1044 authorize certain children who are subject to a pending military relocation to apply for enrollment in a school district. Military & Vet Affairs, Do Pass Amended 1/23

HB 1051 establish the South Dakota state seal of civics literacy program. Education, Do Pass Amended 1/25

HB 1056 prohibit certain local ordinances regarding firearms. Local Government, Amend 1/24

SB 8 provide for a statewide resource information system. State Affairs, Amend 1/23

SB 9 provide for the Servicemember Firearms Protection Act. Referred to Senate Military & Vet Affairs, 1/15

SB 55 require the national motto of the United States to be displayed in public schools. Referred Sen Education, 1/17

SB 58 authorize the Bureau of Administration to conduct a study of the Flaming Fountain on Capitol Lake, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency. Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations, 1/22

SCR 3 Commending, honoring, and thanking South Dakota's numerous women veterans for their service to our country and state. Senate Adopt, 1/10, HoR Concur, 1/14.

## Mark Your Calendar

### February 2019

- 2: USS South Dakota Commissioning
- 3: Four Chaplains Sunday
- 6: Creative Arts & Crafts Show, Sioux Falls VA, 10am to 2 pm
- 6: Boys / Girls State Governor Commemoration, Capitol in Pierre
- 6: Department Legislative Committee Meeting, Pierre Post Home
- 6: American Legion Legislative Reception, Pierre Post Home
- 8-10: **MIDWINTER CONFERENCE** – Spearfish Holiday Inn
- 8: Department Finance Commission Meeting, Spearfish Holiday Inn
- 8: Department Executive Committee Meeting, Spearfish Holiday Inn
- 9: MidWinter Conference, Joint Banquet, Spearfish Holiday Inn
- 9: Opening Session, MidWinter Conference, Holiday Inn, 8 a.m.
- 10: SDAL State Oratorical Contest Finals, Spearfish Holiday Inn
- 14: Valentine's Day
- 15-16: Boys State Planning Meeting, Northern State, 10:00 a.m.
- 18: **PRESIDENT'S DAY**, State Headquarters office closed
- 21: Drop In Legal Services—American Legion Post 17 (1412 9th Ave SW—Watertown (9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
- 22: Drop in Legal Services—DAV (1519 W. 51st Street)—Sioux Falls (9:00 am—3:00 pm) (CT)
- 24-27: Washington Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 27-1: Department Service Officer School, Washington, D.C.

### March 2019

- 1: 2019 Eagle Scout of the Year Nominations due at State HQ's
- 6: Ash Wednesday
- 8: American Legion Birthday
- 8: South Dakota 92nd Legislative Session Ends.
- 10: Daylight Saving Time Begins (turn clocks ahead)
- 17: St. Patrick's Day
- 16: District 1 Spring District Convention, Spearfish
- 17: District 2 Spring District Convention, Crazy Horse
- 20: First day of Spring!
- 22: Deadline for Youth Trooper Academy Applications
- 22: District 6 Spring District Convention, Wessington Springs
- 23: District 7 Spring District Convention, Canton
- 24: District 8 Spring District Convention, Yankton
- 29: District 4 Spring District Convention, Leola
- 30: District 5 Spring District Convention, Clark
- 31: District 3 Spring District Convention, Winner

### April 2019

- 1: American Legion CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH
- 1: Deadline for SD American Legion Boys State Registration
- 3: BH National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service
- 5-7: National Oratorical Contest Finals, Indianapolis, IN
- 19: Good Friday
- 21: **EASTER SUNDAY**
- 22: Earth Day
- 26: Arbor Day

## Get Your Post Active!

### A Few Community Service Project Ideas

- Paint South Dakota:** The South Dakota Housing Authority will reimburse for paint and primer; you provide the volunteers on a weekend in June! See more at <http://www.sdhda.org/social-programs/paint-south-dakota.html>. Applications due mid-April.
- Valentines for Vets:** Make contact with post members by visiting them around Valentines Day! Coordinate with your Auxiliary or local Elementary to help make the cards, and remember your members in the nursing homes.
- Earth Day/Arbor Day Activities:** Coordinate a ditch cleanup effort—recruit high school groups looking for community service time; or, if you sponsor a baseball team or Boy Scout troop, this is a great way to get them involved. Work with your local tree nurseries, arborists and Conservation officers to plant some new trees around town.

Send in pictures/stories of your activities to your local newspaper—let others know the good you do!

## NVC Steve Sweet MidWinter Conference Keynote Speaker



NVC Steve Sweet, Dept of Mississippi

James Stephen Sweet, American Legion National Vice Commander from the Department of Mississippi, has accepted our invitation to attend

the MidWinter Conference and will be the keynote speaker at the Banquet on Saturday, February 9, 2019.

James Stephen Sweet was elected as a national vice commander of the 2-million-member American Legion during The American Legion's National Convention in Minneapolis on Aug. 30, 2018.

Sweet earned his eligibility in The American Legion by his service in the U S Navy, serving three deployments to Yankee Station, North Vietnam, on the USS Bon Homme Richard, CVA-31 with Attack Squadron 94, The Mighty Shrikes, as a flight deck trouble shooter.

A member of The American Legion since 1972, Sweet has held all offices at Post 32 in Greenville, Miss. He also served at the district

and department (state) level and was elected department commander in 2009. He also represented Mississippi as the Alternate National Executive Committeeman. Other national positions included membership on the Homeland Security Committee and the Health Administration Committee.

He is married to the former Ruth Galey and they have two grown children and three grandchildren. They are all members of The American Legion Family.

Sweet is a member of The American Legion Riders and enjoys riding in support of veterans and their families. Sweet said, "Knowing you can help others by doing what you love and riding my motorcycle, make it all worthwhile."

He is one of 12 national officers.

## Temporary Financial Assistance Applications Surge in Wake of Government Shutdown

*The American Legion Steps Up to the Plate to Help Coast Guard Families Affected*

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - The partial government shutdown is driving thousands of U.S. Coast Guard members to apply for financial assistance with the American Legion.

A team of American Legion staff members volunteered to work on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to sort through a record number of Temporary Financial Assistance applications, known in government-speak as TFAs.

"We get 'thank you's' every day," TFA Program Director Meagan Sweet said. They say "it helps put gas in the car, because they're still having to go to work and their kids don't have groceries right now. So, it helps them a lot."

Nearly 42,000 Coast Guard personnel missed a paycheck earlier this month, and, if the shutdown continues into February, it could happen again.

The American Legion's TFA program runs on donations, and, for now, the Legion can only afford to pay the Coast Guard members who need it the most. They are focusing on helping the junior enlisted ranks with children at home.

Retired Coast Guard Vice Admiral Terry Cross said the typical Third Class Petty Officer earns a base pay of about \$600 per week.

"When they miss a paycheck, it's a big deal," Cross said. "If they miss two paychecks, it could be a disaster for a family in terms of rent payment, mortgage payments, just putting food on the table."

Cross is hoping Congress will pass House Resolution 367, which would pay the Coast Guard during the shutdown. It is the only armed forces branch not getting paid.

Sweet said, during the shutdown, the Legion has given out more than \$700,000 in payments to Coast Guard members. A TFA applicant can receive up to \$1,500.

Now, the TFA program is running low on funds. Donations can be made at [legion.org/donate](http://legion.org/donate).

"We've been there. We had kids while we were in (the military). So, it's vets giving back to vets," Sweet said. "It feels good but it is emotional. It's overwhelming."

**Temporary Financial Assistance runs on donations** both at the state and national level. Applications have been on the rise—since July 2018, the Department TFA fund has handled 3 claims, and processed 2 national claims. In all of 2018, almost \$7,000 has been dispersed.

To donate to the National TFA: [legion.org/donate](http://legion.org/donate)

To donate to the Department TFA: Donations can be presented at the Department Conventions, District Meetings or mailed to Headquarters:

**South Dakota American Legion  
Attn: TFA Fund  
PO Box 67  
Watertown, SD 57201**

## Legionnaire of the Year

There are special Legionnaires in every American Legion Post. Is there a member who has gone above and beyond in a fundraising effort? Perhaps one who tackled a special project within the community? Or the person who has consistently been there for their post and deserves recognition for their loyalty?

This is the time of year where a post has the opportunity to recognize that Legionnaire for their dedication and work in your post.

All posts are asked to take the time to select that Legionnaire from their post and submit their name and maybe they will become the next Department Legionnaire of the Year!

## Honor Guard Competition Slated for Dept Convention

Commander Brenden has announced there will be an Honor Guard competition Friday morning on June 7, 2019 at the Centennial State Convention. The winner will have the honors of posting the Colors at the opening session of the State Convention on Saturday June 8th and will retain the bragging rights of having the best Honor Guard in the State for the next year. National Conventions also have an Honor Guard competition, winner in that competition also has the same privilege of posting Colors.

MARCH 11-18, 2019

BUDDY CHECK



During Buddy Check week, take time to call on any member or former member who may have lost touch with the post. We need them, and they may need us.

Honor the vision of our founders by making **PERSONAL CONTACT** with fellow veterans.

**#TEAM 100**  
[WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP)

## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Courtney VanZanten  
Department Service Officer



Today's world runs on apps. There's literally an app for everything: want to lose weight? There's an app for that. Want to play cards? Yep, another app. Want to stare into the sky and see where the constellations lie? The app is out there. Navigating apps—which ones to download, in particular—is a daunting task. There are nearly 2.1 million available on the Android market, and not all of them are worth their salt. Allow me to make a few recommendations on applications specific to veterans:

**The American Legion App:** The American Legion is the nation's largest organization of U.S. military veterans. This app offers a succinct description of the Legion's forms of advocacy, opportunities to join, donate and find nearby posts. Search for The American Legion on either the Apple Store or Google Play.

**VA PTSD Coach:** PTSD Coach was designed for those who have, or may have, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This app provides you with education about PTSD, information about professional care, a self-assessment for PTSD, opportunities to find support, and tools that can help you manage the stresses of daily life with PTSD. Tools range from relaxation skills and positive self-talk to anger management and other common self-help strategies. You can customize tools based on your preferences and can integrate your own contacts, photos, and music. This app can be used by people who are in treatment as well as those who are not. Search for the PTSD Coach on either the Apple Store or Google Play.

**VA Video Connect:** Apple users, pay attention! This application is for you. VA Video Connect connects Veterans with their health care team from anywhere, using encryption to ensure a secure and private session. It makes VA health care more convenient and reduces travel times for Veterans, especially those in very rural areas with limited access to VA health care facilities, and it allows quick and easy health care access from any mobile or web-based device. Veterans and their health care providers jointly decide whether to use VA Video Connect for a medical visit. Please speak with your VA care team if you are interested in potentially receiving care through VA Video Connect. Ahead of a VA Video Connect appointment, you will receive an email or calendar invite with a link to launch the session. Search the Apple Store for VA Video Connect—Android users, the link sent to your email will work without downloading an app.

**Mindfulness Coach 2:** Mindfulness means noticing and paying attention to what is going on in the present moment, without passing judgment on it. Mindfulness has been shown to be effective for reducing stress, improving emotional balance, increasing self-awareness, helping with anxiety and depression, and coping more effectively with chronic pain. Mindfulness Coach 2 was developed to help Veterans, Service members, and others learn how to practice mindfulness. The app provides a gradual, self-guided training program designed to help you understand and adopt a simple mindfulness practice. Mindfulness Coach also offers a library of information about mindfulness, 12 audio-guided mindfulness exercises, a growing catalog of additional exercises available for free download, goal-setting and tracking, a mindfulness mastery assessment to help you track your progress over time, customizable reminders, and access to other support and crisis resources. Search the Apple Store or Google Play for Mindfulness Coach 2.

**Parenting2Go:** A shoutout to my minions here—I love my children, but they are undoubtedly a source of stress in my life. Enter Parenting2Go: Parenting2Go helps Veterans and Service members reconnect with their children and provides convenient tools to strengthen parenting skills. It can be used alone or in combination with the online Parenting for Service Members & Veterans course. Parents can find quick parenting advice; relaxation tools to use when frustrated or stressed; tools to improve their relationship with their children through positive communication; and strategies to switch gears between military life and home. The app addresses challenges that come with parenting children of all ages and backgrounds. The app also offers guidance for seeking professional help and access to additional resources. Search the Apple Store and Google Play for Parenting2Go.

**StayQuit Coach:** Stay Quit Coach is designed to help with quitting smoking. It is intended to serve as a source of readily available support and information for adults who are already in treatment to quit smoking, to help them stay quit even after treatment ends. The app guides you in creating a tailored plan that takes into account your personal reasons for quitting. It provides information about smoking and quitting, interactive tools to help users cope with urges to smoke, and motivational messages and support contacts to help you stay smoke-free. Search the Apple Store and Google Play for StayQuit Coach.

It's been a fun run writing the Legion News—I'll be handing over the reins to Dave Manning, our new Assistant Adjutant, next issue. Thanks to all who made my job a whole lot easier by submitting materials! Always here to help,

Courtney VanZanten  
Department Service Officer

## Legion Foundation, Finance Committee Take Part in Fundraising Training



Above: National Marketing Chairman Mike Rohan (center) discusses marketing techniques. Foundation member Blaine Hoff of Volga takes notes.

On January 25th, the South Dakota American Legion Foundation and the Department Finance Committee took part in an all-day training focusing primarily on fundraising efforts for the next few years.

In attendance were Department Commander Denny Brenden, Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand, Department Judge Advocate Gary Schumacher, South Dakota American Legion Foundation President Jim Kurtz, Vice President Ken Sabers, Foundation Members Paul Evenson, Blaine Hoff, Tim Jurgens, and Jim Huls, Department Finance Officer Gary Wolkow, Finance Committeeman Courtney VanZanten, and Post 15 Commander Kevin Hempel.

Kicking off the meeting, Jeff Veltkamp of the South Dakota Community Foundation gave a presentation that explained the perks of donating to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation, and how to relay those benefits to potential donors. Mr. Veltkamp also advised a focused fundraising campaign: focal points created, goals should be set, timelines given.

After hearing from the South Dakota Community Foundation, National Marketing Chairman Mike Rohan began his training. Mr. Rohan covered a number of topics: an overview of nonprofits, what constitutes good governance, marketing techniques, and fundraising options.

Recommendations included refining and controlling the Department's message, utilizing multiple fundraising platforms, and ensuring acknowledgement of donors.

To donate to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation: <https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-donors/south-dakota-american-legion-foundation/>

## 2019 South Dakota American Legion Legislative Lobbyists

State Adjutant Travis Flisrand,  
Castlewood, SD  
Doug Feltman,  
Chamberlain, SD  
Kim Hallock,  
Ft. Pierre, SD

## National Executive Committeeman

Jim Huls  
NEC



With Mid-Winter just around the corner we are pleased to welcome National Vice Commander James Sweet to our department for his official visit. He is from the Dept of Mississippi. Hopefully we will have good weather for his visit. He has indicated to me that he doesn't want to experience a good South Dakota Blizzard.

Also in attendance will be the 2nd leading candidate (2021-2022) for National Commander Paul Dillard from the Department of Texas. Paul will present his vision for the American Legion during his year as Commander.

The Washington Conference will be held February 25-26-27 in Washington, DC where the American Legion will present its National Legislative agenda to the Congress. The South Dakota group will meet with Senators Thune, Rounds and Congressman Johnson during this time to be sure they are aware of the Legion's priorities. The National Commander Reistad will testify before the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on February 27.

Please give a warm South Dakota welcome to our visitors at the Mid-Winter Conference.

For God and Country,  
Jim Huls NEC

## The Immortal Four Chaplains

On Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains – Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling – gave up their life jackets on a sinking Army transport in the North Atlantic so that others might live.

Of the 902 soldiers, Navy armed guard, ship's crew and civilian passengers on board the Dorchester, only 230 survived. They have told us of the chaplains' efforts to restore calm in a hopeless and chaotic situation, and how they were last seen at the ship's stern, arms linked in prayer.

In their honor, a prayer:  
Heavenly Father,

You inspired the Dorchester chaplains to be models of steadfast sacrificial love in a tragic and terrifying time: Help us to follow their example, that their courageous ministry may inspire chaplains and all who serve, to recognize your presence in the midst of peril. We know this story is one among many examples of true brotherhood. Yet, we single out and hold it before us as a reminder that all persons – of all faiths and colors and creeds – are capable of showing such courage and such compassion. Thank you for their bravery on that fateful day, and guide us by their honor. Amen.



## Dave Manning Joins Headquarters as New Assistant Adjutant

Dave Manning of Watertown, SD, has been hired as the new Assistant Adjutant for our department. Manning will start his duties effective January 3rd, 2019. Dave is a 14-year member of the American Legion and will be retiring as Sergeant First Class with 32 years of service from the South Dakota Army National Guard, 18 years as Active Guard Reserve and Military Technician. He has held several positions while serving: Human Resource Sergeant, Military Intelligence Analyst, Administrative NCO, Platoon Sergeant, Facilities Manager, Security Personnel Manager, Chief Fire Direction Computer/Battery Operations NCO and Certified Military Funeral Honors Instructor. Manning is a member of the Richard Clement Post #299 of Polo, SD. He and his wife Jacki have 5 sons, 3 daughters-in-law and 5 grandchildren.



## Certified Early Bird Go-Getters for 2019 MidWinter Conference

The following is the Early Bird Go-Getter list as submitted and certified by their post adjutant as of January 17, 2019, who are entitled to attend the MidWinter Conference Go-Getters Reception in the High Plains Western Heritage Center in Spearfish, SD, on Friday, February 8, 2019.

### GO-GETTERS

**Aberdeen #24:** Sidney Beckler, Larry Nupen, Sam Olson, Tom Perrizo, Gene Schumacher, Melvin Volk and Gary Warne

**Arlington #42:** Phil Larson, Douglas Scheller, Terry Hanson, Rolly Quam, Leon Josephsen, Dale Royer, Don Karlstad, Guy Gronewold, Gary Madson and Kevin Josephsen

**Beresford #72:** Ernest Wevik, Jr., Robert Haas, Harlan Tiedeman, Lyle Savey, Larry O'Connor and Bill Dolan

**Bison #255:** William Morris

**Brandon #318:** James Schumacher, N., Gene Renschler II, Karen Reiser, Don Branson and Don Kranz

**Britton #80:** Mike Kraft, Larry Buntrock and Dave Andrews

**Brookings #74:** Robert Hurd, Betty "Sam" Vaughn, Alan Kludt, Christopher Gross, Roger Simmons, Gary Sackmann, Dennis Peterson, Mark Binkley and Russell Mileham

**Castlewood #250:** Krisma DeWitt, Dennis Lund, Warren "Bud" Ruesink, Larry Dockter, Travise Flisrand, Wendy Flisrand and Harry Boner

**Chamberlain #3:** John Payer, Tim Thomas, Sr., Kenneth Anderson, Delores Arbach, Jim Adamson, Lyle Dehaai, LaVaun Holan, Dennis Gunderson, Douglas Feltman and Michael Sherman

**Chancellor #283:** H. G. "George" Vietor, Jerry Hagen, Harvey Berens, Verlyn Muller, Mark Eitrem and Lee Holst

**Chester #136:** Rodney Smith, Miranda Krumm, and Courtney VanZanten

**Cresbard #213:** Ron Graves and Wayne Vetter

**Dell Rapids #65:** Jerry Fox, Mike Geraets, Terry Pfannenstien, Robert Risty, Joe Thornell, Ron Welbig and Jack Majeres

**Delmont #249:** Donald Hoffman

**DeSmet #138:** Gary Wolkow, Gary Schumacher, Paul Hanson, Lyle Richards, Jim Pekron, Clifford Poppen, Dennis Helms, Wade Hoefert and Jerry Hutchinson

**Ethan #261:** Vilas Kurtenbach, Harry Huffman, Joe Puetz, Larry Klumb, Jim Pollreis, Dave Hohn and Dan Schmidt

**Gann Valley #16:** Kenneth Wulff, C.J. Wulff, Richard Woledge and Gene Grabin

**Garretson #23:** Andy Lyngen, Owen Wiese, Gary Lyngen, Paul Evenson, Robert Meyer, Ronald Rekstad, Marty Luebke, Steven Warren and Steven Kirton

**Gary #109:** Verle Whipple, Albert Bekaert, Mathew Spilde, David Hanten, Carey Holt and Michael Miller

**Gregory #6:** Richard Shaffer, Richard Rubel, Ronald Shattuck, Gordon

Miner, Darrell Jones and Gerald Gergen

**Herreid #170:** Dennis Huber

**Hot Springs #71:** Sue Brenna, Carson Webb, Mark Frevert, Ed Harvey, Angie Koch, Marc Lamphere, John Phelan, Ricky Rowe, Rhonda Tomlinson, Lester Zimiga and John Sudtelgte

**Hudson #128:** Mark Weinmann, Richard Ekle, Richard Loe, Todd Schlup and LeRoy Feekes

**Humboldt #62:** Charles Dubbe, Charles Beck, Jerry Corey and Fred Lee

**Huron #7:** Steve Martens, Jake Salathe, Lloyd Timperley, Keith McMillan, Dan Hoellein, Sharon Reno and Jerry Mencke

**Irene #193:** Wesley Rye, Chris Olson, Don Richelieu, Darrell Hansen and Larry Johnke

**Iroquois #280:** Annette Dunham, Charemon Dunham, Dwight Fast, Robert Blue, David Owens, Colin Royal and William Whites

**Lake Preston #63:** Brett Anderson, Rodney Anderson, Crystal Larson, Jason Paul, Scott Longville, Dave Casper, Lanny Olson, Robert Jones, Mel Ness, Dave Gutzmer, Scott Ingalls and Blaine Miller

**Lemmon #66:** William Erhardt and Al Colgrove

**Leola #78:** Derald Mack, James Schaffer, Michael Bell and Darrell Yost

**Letcher #93:** Harry Northrup

**Madison #25:** Bruce Corey, Larry Sterling, Patrick Mullen and Dan Wyatt

**Martin #240:** Kenneth Spears

**Milbank #9:** Noel Cummins, Floyd Hermans and Tim Jurgens

**Mitchell #18:** Hugh Holmes, Richard Hofer, James Hauge, Charles Gibson, Virgil Schoenfelder, Melvin Eilts, David Schulte, Dale Magnuson, William Jackson, Dean Strand, Dave Driscoll and James Pickinpaugh

**Montrose #154:** Dean Kueter, Cliff Hallem, Kenny Katzer, Shane Lamer, Scott Binder and Bob Condon

**Mt. Vernon #210:** Gerald Koch, Dean Baker and Paul Claggett

**Plankinton #5:** John Staller, Ronald Berens, Cynthia Hoffman, Bill Folan, Whitney Bruinsma, Ken Payne and Paul Payne

**Platte #115:** Clarence Blunck, Robert Westra, DeLyle Johnson, Ron VanDriesen and Tom Jaeger

**Rapid City #22:** Christopher Vandelist, Lyle Tolsma, Douglas Harris and Michael Ball

**Rapid City #320:** Bill Merchen, Dean Pelofske, Cody Champion, Chris Rendon, Bobbi Jean Jarvinen and Pete Eliason

**Redfield #92:** James Beckrich, Perry Schmidt, Larry Price, Dave Durfee, Ted Kimball and Jim Huckabay

**Roscoe #259:** Mike Barondeau, Ron Hoffer, Kenneth Vilhauer, Eugene Conn, James Flannery, Ricky Hauck, Ronald Kadlec, Jerome Pris-

be and LeRoy Sauer

**Sinai #133:** William Buck, Donald Weiss and Donald Langum

**Sioux Falls #15:** Michael Driscoll, Ken Foley, Dale Haas, Kevin Hempel, Gary Henle, Ed Hruska, Bob Johnson, Roger Klos, Gil Koepsell, Larry Panning, Gary Saxhaug, Michelle Smith, Ed Stringer, Mike Taylor, Ken Teunissen, Jeff Wilkes, Dan Wahlert and Darwin Wahlert

**Sisseton #50:** Phillip George and Calvin Hove

**Spearfish #164:** Fred Nelson, Doug Henwood, Barney Wagner, Scott Hanson, Bill Hughes, Ron Schuttler, Brian Hambek, Brian Dean and Mark Sachara

**Sturgis #33:** Darrel Barry, Craig Sanderson, Jerry Lolley, Ken Sabers, Tom Smith, Bill Estes, Paul Haedt III, Dave Cooley, James Twitchell, Randy Kieffer, Arvid Meland and Cody Goldade

**Tabor #183:** Alvin Sternhagen and Richard Hovorka

**Thunder Hawk #279:** Quentin Benson, William Ericsson, John Goeres, Richard Goodmanson, Chad Barnes, Thomas Tomac, Donald Tomac and Joe Warfield

**Vermillion #1:** Joseph Knoer

**Veblen #76:** Hans Nelson, Dave Geyer, Aaron Anderson and Don Borgen

**Virgil #268:** Gunner Baatrup

**Volga #114:** Philip Egeberg, Russell Bortnem, Verne Hansen, David Rankin, Lyle Strande, Joana Sykora, Blaine Hoff, Kim Chase, Rebecca Trygstad, Chester VanderZee and Gary Olson

**Wagner #11:** Greg Geiman, Merle Stone, Jay Youngbluth, Dannie Gruenwald, Robert Kucera, Dennis Clemens, Donald Kotab, Clayton Rados, Mark Wiechmann and Melvin Horner

**Wakonda #13:** Jim Logue, Paul Jensen, Jim Williams, John Haver, Darrell Vognild, Ron Prusa, John Peterson, Marlin Reynolds, Don Lyso, Evan Peterson, Tom Larsen, Kenny Peterson and Mike Hessman

**Watertown #17:** Shelli Romeu, Jose Romeu, Everett Johnson, Paul Kraai, Al Keeler, Roger Papka, Mark Sumner, Mark Stolp, Byron Callies, Richard Vohlken, Gary Stolp and Wolfgang Migge

**Waubay #129:** Ted Wasilk, Royce Birney, Cathy Herold, Gene Holm and Terry Town

**Wessington #110:** Jim Major, Marvin Matthews, Marvin Palmer and Jerold Zerfoss

**Wessington Springs #14:** Dennis Scheel, Reed Engle, John Dornbusch, Kathren Caffee, Catherine Schmidt, Mark Getman, Herman Eilers, James Brodkorb, Dareld Buchholz and Walter Borkowski

**Wolsey #59:** Bob Brodkorb, Keith Larsen, Jesse Cook and Rita Cook

**Yankton #12:** Don List

## USS South Dakota Set to Enter Active Duty February 2019

The Navy's newest fast-attack submarine, USS South Dakota (SSN 790), will be commissioned at Naval Submarine Base Groton, CT, Feb. 2. Designed to operate in both coastal and deep-ocean environments, it'll be the 17th Virginia-class submarine to join the fleet. South Dakota will be the third U.S. Navy ship, but first submarine, to be commissioned bearing the name "South Dakota." The first USS South Dakota (ACR9/CA 9) was a Pennsylvania-class armored cruiser and launched in 1904. Assigned to the Armored Cruiser Squadron, Pacific Fleet, South Dakota cruised off the west coast of the United States through August 1908. She was then sent on a cruise to Samoa and later operated in Central and South American Waters. She returned home in 1912 and was placed in reserve at Puget Sound Navy Yard. The second USS South Dakota (BB 57) was commissioned March 1942 and assigned to Task Force 16 centered on the aircraft carrier USS ENTERPRISE (CV 6). South Dakota conducted blockade operations against Japanese forces approaching Guadalcanal, where they engaged Japanese carrier forces in the Battle of Santa Cruz. She saw action in the Battle of Savo Island, Battle of Philippine Sea, Okinawa, Iwo Jima and other Japanese strongholds earning 13 battle stars. South Dakota will have a broad range of capabilities, including anti-submarine warfare; antisurface ship warfare; strike warfare; special operation forces support; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions. Additional public information about the commissioning, and events leading up to it, is available at the USS South Dakota Commissioning Committee site at <https://ssn790.org/>. The ceremony will be streamed live at [www.navy.mil/southdakotacommissioning](http://www.navy.mil/southdakotacommissioning).



Above: The USS South Dakota at sea. Picture courtesy of the USS South Dakota Commissioning Committee.



### South Dakota Legionnaires to Present Silver Plate to Commemorate USS South Dakota Commissioning

The South Dakota American Legion will be presenting the pure silver plate during the USS South Dakota Commissioning Ceremony. Department Commander Denny Brenden, Department Adjutant Flisrand, and several other Legionnaires will be in attendance in Groton, CT. Keep an eye out for the Legion caps in the crowd!

