



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Thursday, January 21, 2016

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### **2016 State-Tribal Relations Events “Honoring our Veterans”**

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations (SDDTR) has partnered with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) in ‘Honoring our Veterans’ during this legislative session at the State-Tribal Relations Events on Jan. 27 and 28 in Pierre.

“I am honored to be partnered with SD Department of Veterans Affairs this year,” said Steve Emery, Secretary of Tribal Relations. “This is a great opportunity to learn about challenges and opportunities regarding our Tribal Veterans.”

Events start with a State-Tribal Listening Session from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Feb. 25, followed by a Legislative Reception from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. CST for tribal leaders and legislators.

“The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is looking forward to working with the nine tribal nations and celebrating relationships for decades to come,” said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “Native American veterans have a long and illustrious history of fighting for this country's freedom. The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is proud to help mentor, teach and learn from our veterans in the nine tribes.”

On Thursday, Jan. 28, tribal, federal and state veteran booths will be in the Capitol Rotunda from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST. A Rotunda Ceremony will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST featuring a welcome from Gov. Daugaard as well as comments by tribal leaders.

The Lakota Women Warriors will be the Honor Guard along with drum group Bad Nation. This year’s meal will be prepared by the McIntosh High School ProStart Culinary Program with supplies donated from InterTribal Buffalo Council and Lakota Thrifty Mart. Events at the Capitol Rotunda are free and open to the public.

For more information on the event, please visit the SDDTR website at [www.sdtribalrelations.com](http://www.sdtribalrelations.com). For more information on South Dakota Veterans Affairs and SDDVA, please visit <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov> .