JULY 9, 2015

South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

HONORING AND HEALING

2015 will mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The Vietnam Vets / Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club and the Sioux Falls Vets council will host the event, "40 Years of Honoring and Healing", in Sioux Falls, SD August 5-9, 2015. The event will include a police escort to the wall site traveling north on Minnesota Ave, from the VFW, to the event site, Sanford Pentagon Sports Complex, on Aug 5th. The event is open to the public, and will also include opening and closing ceremonies.

The event site will display the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Traveling Wall. This replica is 80 percent scale version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. Across its 360-foot length the Wall contains every single name etched on the original. At its apex the memorial is an impressive eight feet tall. The Traveling Wall was completed in early 1998 and began traveling that year, and over 58,000 fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are listed on the wall. This event is open to the public.

Dave Hodgson, event organizer explains, "This gives an opportunity for those who sacrificed so much the chance to remember their fallen brothers and sisters, as well as the public an opportunity to honor and thank our heroes who served in Vietnam.".

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute is a veteran-owned project committed to travel the USA to honor, respect, and remember those who served, and pay specific tribute to those who gave all.

AVTT is not government sponsored or affiliated, but funded through sponsorship fees, donations, and sale of merchandise at events. AVTT is self - funded via sponsorship fees, merchandise sales, and donations. AVTT is contracted by The Texas Freedom Tribute (TFT,) an IRS designated 501 C3, to provide The Wall, crew, and expertise. Donations or support to AVTT's mission via TFT are qualified charitable tax deductions.

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AVTT
HONOR ★ RESPECT ★ REMEMBER
THE COST OF FREEDOM TRIBUTE ★ THE TRAVELING WALL

SIOUX FALLS NATIONAL GUARD UNIT TO DEPLOY TO KUWAIT

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade has received an official mobilization order for deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Spartan Shield.

Thirty-nine soldiers from the Sioux Falls-based unit are scheduled for a nine-month deployment beginning in late February 2016. While in Kuwait, the soldiers will conduct force protection and security operations.

The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the second mobilization for the 196th, which deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010-2011.

FALLEN HEROES HONORED

American Legion Post 22 dedicated time during their annual Firecracker baseball tournament to honor South Dakota's Fallen Heroes and displayed the Fallen Heroes banner display. Over 1,000 attendees signed the guest book at the display.

To view the schedule for the banners, please visit this link: http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources/fallen%20heroes%20banners.aspx.

BERINGER RETIRES

Friends, family and veterans gathered in Bon Homme County on Friday, June 26, to honor and thank County Veterans Service Officer Richard Beringer.

Rich has served as the VSO since 1995 and has assisted thousands of veterans and their families.

SDDVA Field Officer Steve Lund attended and presented Beringer with a letters of appreciation from SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman.

Děkuji our dear friend - Děkuji.

IRON SELECTED AS NEW LINCOLN COUNTY CVSO

Susan Irons has been selected as the new Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer. She replaces Dick Lien who retired at the end of May.

Irons graduated from Canton High School in 1985 and received her commission as a United States Army Signal Corps Officer from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1989. Her first duty assignment was with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, NC. She deployed to Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm while serving as the Communications Platoon Leader and Battery Executive Officer. In December of 1991, Susan was assigned as a platoon leader in the 50th Signal Battalion (Airborne). While at Fort Bragg, Susan became a US Army Jumpmaster and earned her Senior Parachutist Badge. Upon completion of the Signal Officer Advance Course, Susan was assigned to Kitzingen, Germany with the 123rd Signal Battalion, Third Infantry Division. While there, she served as the Assistant S-3, Battalion S-1, and the B Company Commander.

Upon completion of her tour in Germany, Susan returned to Canton with her husband, Keith. They enjoy spending time camping, traveling, and watching their five children participate in their many activities. Susan's hobbies include running and cooking.

Please join us in welcoming Susan to our network. Her office hours are Monday—Wednesday from 8:30 am—2:30 pm. Her email address is: sirongs@lincolncountysd.org.

11TH ANNUAL CHARITY
POKER RUN
2015
727TH • DAV
SEPTEMBER 5, 2015
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
300 5TH ST. S., BROOKINGS, SD
REGISTRATION
$15 INDIVIDUAL / $25 COUPLE
$500 BEST HAND
PLUS OTHER GREAT PRIZES
RAIN OR SHINE
ALL VEHICLES WELCOME
PROCEEDS
BENEFIT DAV HOSPITAL
TRANSPORTATION FUND
QUESTIONS
CSM (RETIRED) ROBERT FOSTER
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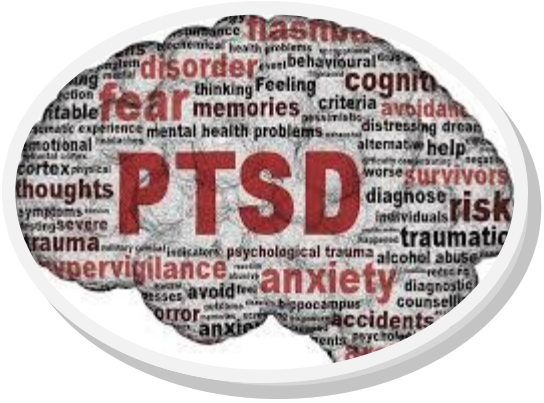
VA LED CONSORTIUM LAUNCHES BRAIN BANK FOR RESEARCH ON PTSD

A consortium led by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has launched the first brain tissue biorepository (also known as a "brain bank") – to support research on the causes, progression and treatment of PTSD affecting veterans.

The national brain bank will follow the health of enrolled participants during their lifetime. Participants in the brain bank will donate their brain and other body tissue after their death. The donated tissue, along with each veteran's health information, will provide crucial information for use in research on PTSD and related disorders.

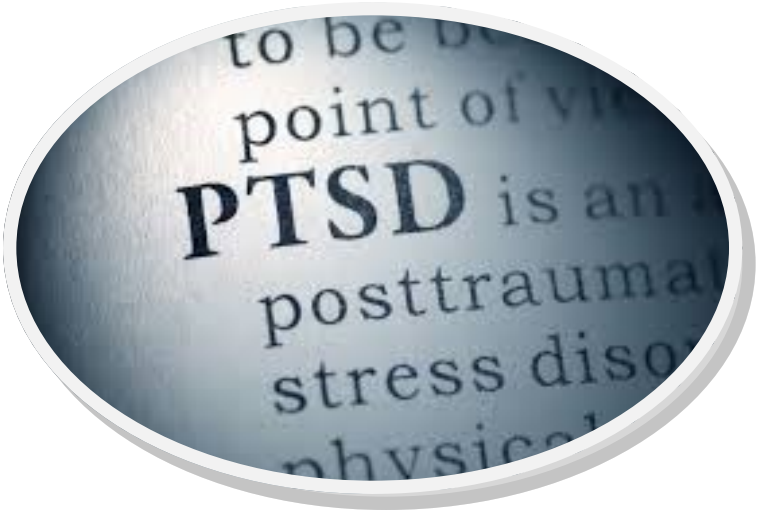


"Although we have learned a great deal about abnormalities in brain structure and function from brain imaging research, there is no substitute for looking at the neurons themselves," said consortium director Dr. Matthew Friedman. "Understanding the cellular and circuit contributions to abnormal brain activity in PTSD is critical in the search for potential biomarkers of susceptibility, illness and treatment response and for developing new treatments targeting the conditions at the cellular level."

Dr. Friedman also is the founder of the national brain bank, and former executive director and current senior advisor to the National Center for PTSD. The national brain bank will investigate the impact of stress, trauma and PTSD on brain tissue in order to advance the scientific knowledge of PTSD, particularly the identification of PTSD biomarkers. Participating sites are located at VA medical centers in Boston, Massachusetts, San Antonio, Texas, West Haven, Connecticut, and White River Junction, Vermont, along with the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences at Bethesda, Maryland (USUHS).

PTSD is a significant mental health concern among veterans. In 2013, 533,720 veterans with primary or secondary diagnosis of PTSD received treatment at VA medical centers and clinics. PTSD is a serious mental disorder resulting from exposure to direct or indirect threat of death, serious injury or physical violence, including sexual violence.

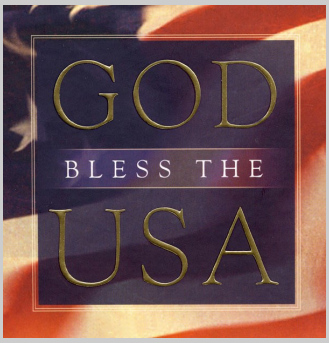
The national brain bank is seeking veterans with PTSD to participate in research about PTSD that affects veterans. Veterans without PTSD are also eligible to participate in the brain bank because it is important to study veterans without PTSD to compare the impact of stress, trauma and PTSD on brain tissue. Veterans interested in learning more about enrolling in the brain bank are encouraged to call its toll-free number 1-800-762-6609 or visit its website http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tissue_banking/PTSD/default.cfm.



Upcoming Events

Jul. 15—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am
Aug. 5-9—AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Comes to Sioux Falls (Sanford Pentagon Sports Complex)
Aug. 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota—Pierre
Sept. 11 — Stand Down—Wagner—National Guard Armory—9:00 am—1:00 pm
Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls
Sept. 18—Ellsworth AFB Retiree Appreciation Day— Exhibits 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MDT)—Luncheon 11:00 am—1:00 pm (MDT) - EAFB
Oct. 5—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls
Dec. 8– Governor's Budget Address—Pierre

2016

Jan. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre
Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre
Jan. 27-28-State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre
Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City
Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

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