JUNE 21, 2012

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

SQUEEZING LEMONS TO ASSIST WOUNDED WARRIORS

Lemons, veterans and youth — what is the correlation?

While watching TV with her grandpa (a Vietnam Veteran), little seven-year old Ava DeWaard started asking questions about soldiers that are injured. She was concerned with how they recover from their wounds and who helps them.

A very patient, proud, grandfather explained to her the programs that are available to help veterans.

After pondering a while, little Ava told her grandpa that she wanted to do something to help. Brainstorming together grandpa and granddaughter came up with the idea of a lemonade stand with the proceeds going to the "Wounded Warriors" project.

The Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "honor and empower wounded warriors" of the United States Armed Forces. "The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) works to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women, to help severely injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs.

So this weekend if you're traveling anywhere near Armour, SD on HWY 281, take the time to stop at Ava's lemonade stand — it will be located at Krull's Grocery Store (709 1st Street) in Armour—right off HWY 281. It might be the best 50 cents you will ever spend!!!!!!!

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MOUNT RUSHMORE CEREMONY CASTS LIGHT ON FUTURE LEADERS

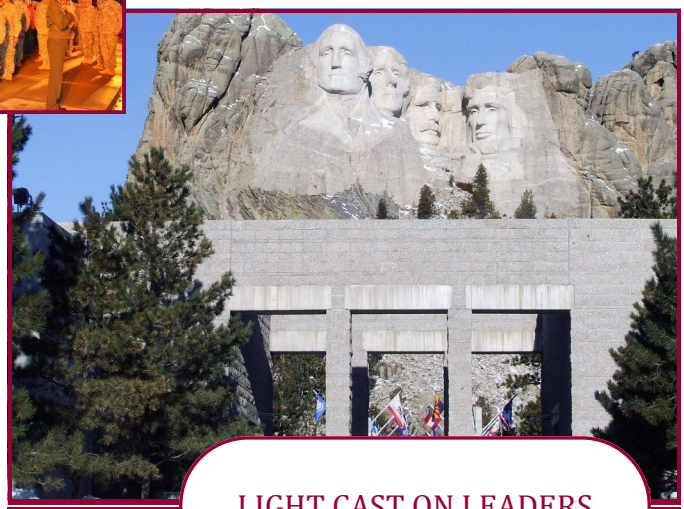
One-hundred and nineteen officer candidates journeyed to Mount Rushmore National Memorial Friday, June 15, to observe the evening lighting ceremony and to celebrate successfully completing the first phase of their training to become second lieutenants.

This class of officer candidates had just completed two weeks of intense leadership training at Fort Meade as part of the 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate School. Candidates from 17 states and Guam completed their End of Phase ceremony just hours before and have been granted a brief respite before moving on.

Candidates were able to attend the evening lighting ceremony, many for the first time. The ceremony was hosted by park staff, and included a history of the presidents featured on the Monument. The ceremony also brought an unexpected surprise for seven of the candidates – the opportunity to "Retire the Colors."

"It was totally unexpected," said Officer Candidate Alessandra Jacobsen, Utah Army National Guard of Salt Lake City. "They just came right up to us and asked if we wanted to help." Jacobsen was assisted by six other candidates in taking down the flag; Justin Ollerich, Sioux Falls, Marc Sternin, Azusa, Calif, Jeffery Conley, Hurricane, W.V., Jennifer Henderson, Spokane, Wash., Preston Miller, Puyallup, Wash., and Leslie Kingery of Denver, member of the Wyoming ARNG.

The candidates have been training around the clock since their arrival, making the down time at Mount Rushmore valuable. They have not been allowed to have any contact with their family, aside from mail Candidates were allowed to retrieve their cell phones from the "contraband" locker Thursday night to begin charging batteries. Many candidates did their best to completely drain batteries calling loved ones they had not spoken to for two weeks.



LIGHT CAST ON LEADERS

SOLDIERS ATTENDING TRAINING INVITED TO ASSIST

"They came up and asked us if we wanted to help with retiring the colors."

SURINAME MILITARY LEADERS RECEIVE NEW OUTLOOK ON TRAINING

The South Dakota National Guard welcomed leaders of the Suriname military as part of the South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program this week. Suriname military leaders from the Army, Navy and Air Force came to observe the Golden Coyote training exercise held in Rapid City and the southern Black Hills. Suriname is one of six foreign nation's participating in this year's Golden Coyote.

The Suriname dignitaries are here on a week-long Subject Matter Expert Exchange to observe training operations, leadership tactics and the different capabilities the South Dakota National Guard has to offer, said Lt. Col. John Weber, South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program director.

The Suriname dignitaries were able to view and participate in some training exercises on West Camp Rapid. They took part in the Leader Reaction Course, where soldiers are tasked to accomplish goals that require the use of team work. The Suriname leaders observed the Military Operations on Urban Terrain training, where soldiers are put into scenarios they may encounter in a deployed situation. The Suriname dignitaries also had the chance to operate the Virtual Convoy Operation Trainer, where soldiers simulate combat convoys in realistic conditions in a combat zone.

"Our goal is to set-up lasting relationships. We want them to be able to ask us for the help in setting-up different types of training," said Weber. "Anytime one of our Soldiers gets a chance to work with the Suriname military it's a valuable lesson in working with other cultures and how other countries operate."

The State Partnership Program is a 20-year-old program that includes 65 nations who partner with the 54 National Guard states and territories. The partnership of South Dakota and Suriname was established in 2006 and has been growing ever since with several visits a year.

"Senior leaders visit yearly to ensure that everyone continues to stay engaged in our partnership," said Weber. "We want them to start thinking of ways that they would like to see us help them in their operations and training."

Similarities between the two partners makes the relationship beneficial because they can use and share ideas that will work well for each other. South Dakota was chosen to partner with Suriname because of their similarities in population size, land mass, agricultural based economies, and lack of significant language barriers.

SOLDIER RETURNS HOME TO DELIVER HUMANITARIAN AID

When Sgt. Marcus Martin joined the South Dakota Army National Guard; he knew he was signing up to support his state and nation. What he didn't know, is he would one day provide support to his hometown community of Wanblee. The mission: to deliver humanitarian aid in the form of timber to be used by his local Native American community for heating and ceremonial purposes.

Martin, a truck driver with the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Pierre, grew up in Wanblee and got his first chance to directly help his hometown community as a part of the Golden Coyote training exercise's timber-haul mission – a joint operation with the National Guard, National Forest Service and Custer State Park.

"The reception to come home in uniform was heartwarming," said Martin. "This community has made a huge impact on my development as an individual and as a Soldier. I am glad to come back to this community and show my support and give back to them for all the love they have showed me over the years."

Wanblee is just one of ten timber drop-off points on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. 152nd CSSB provides the command and control of the mission with the help of the 2113th Transportation Company from Paducah, Ky., which transports the timber. The goal of the timber-haul mission is to haul 97 loads of timber with the goal of 450-500 cords delivered to the ten sites.

Martin said "It was a great mission that the Guard conducted with the timber hauls. This is a huge blessing for the community. It is hard for the elderly to find enough fire wood to get them through the winter months." Wanblee is in the Eagle Nest district, one of nine districts of the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The timber is hauled in on military semi-trucks and off-loaded near the community's center, so it is easily accessible for the whole district.

TRAIN AS YOU FIGHT

Members of the U.S. Army Reserve's 486th Engineer Company, the Navy Reserve's Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas One and members of the Corps of Royal Engineers came together for a life-saving measures training lane at West Camp Rapid during the South Dakota National Guard's Golden Coyote training exercise June 17. Golden Coyote is a premiere training venue for National Guard, Reserve and active-duty military, providing relevant training opportunities with foreign allies and partners.

"We are training here as if we are a NATO coalition," said Navy Lt. j.g. Ike Akanu, a member of EMF Dallas One and the officer-in-charge of the Perform Immediate Life-saving Measures training lane. "We have worked with the Danish, the Canadians, the U.K. and our own service members. It's no different than what we experience in combat. This war we are fighting on terrorism is a joint effort, and we are realizing that and seeing, hands on, how we train with each other will help us when we go over there to assimilate better."

Navy Senior Chief Stephen Hinkle, a member of the EMF Dallas One and the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the lane, said it is important to train as you fight and he shared an experience of when he performed immediate lifesaving measures within a joint operation. His Navy unit was attached to a U.S. Army unit and they were traveling in a convoy together.

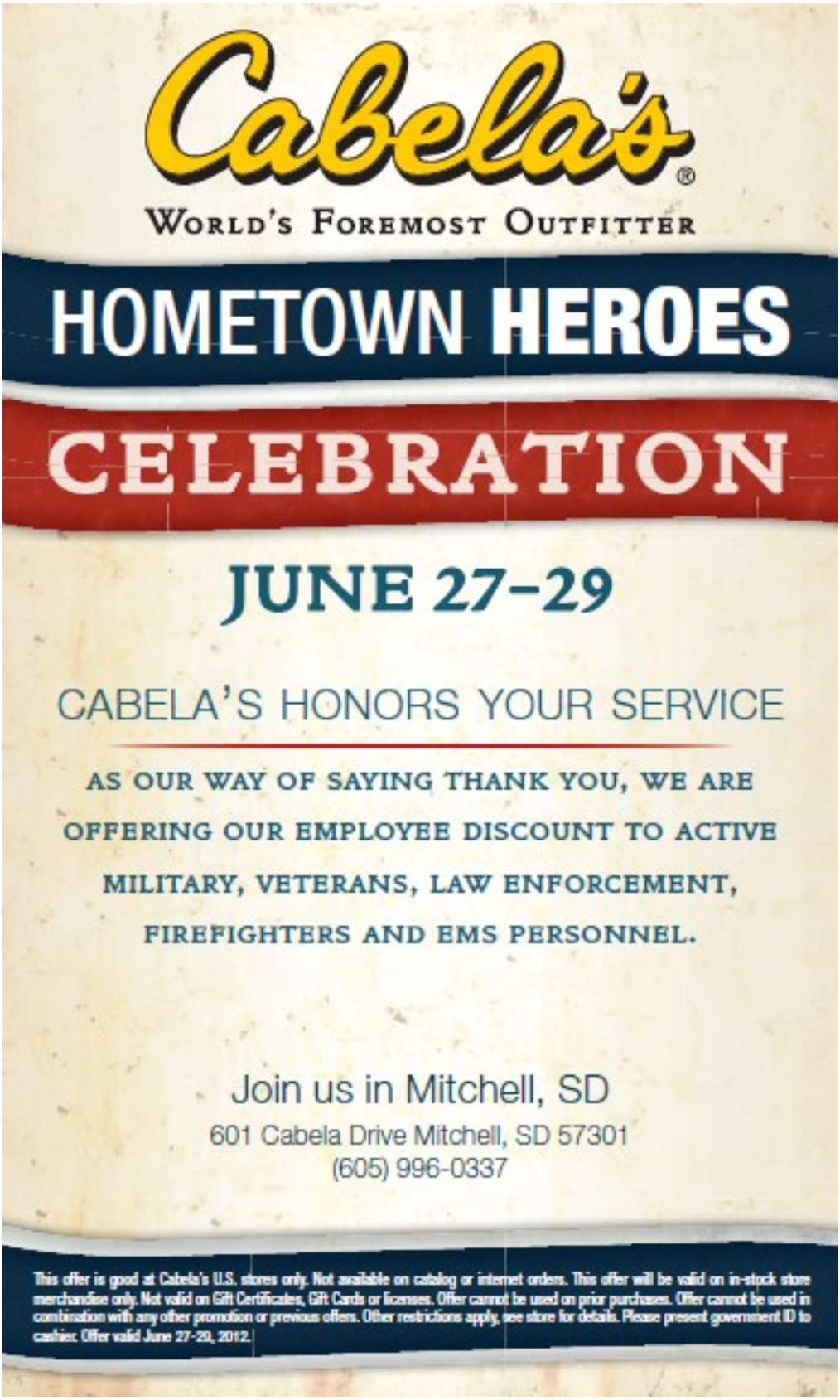
"In 2009-2010, I was in Afghanistan and our medic was hit with a mortar," said Hinkle. "He had a lot of shrapnel on the right side of his body. I held pressure on his face and I held pressure on one of his legs. Fortunately, we didn't need a tourniquet. The direct pressure was enough. They evacuated him with a helicopter." A tourniquet is a device used to stop blood flow to an extremity. Tourniquet application is one of the break-out sessions taught at the Perform Immediate Lifesaving Measures training lane.

There are 50 countries that are part of the International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan. "With all the different countries supporting each other, it's good to get everyone on the same page, knowing the same basic lifesaving techniques," said Hinkle.

Participation in the Golden Coyote training exercise provides relevant training opportunities in support of contingency operations and homeland defense. Army Staff Sgt. Tim Walker, a platoon sergeant with the 486th said, it would be nice to have all U.S. military branches train together more often along with different countries, because you never when you might meet up down the road and fight next to each other.

Approximately 500 service members from multiple branches of service and foreign nations are scheduled to go through the Perform Immediate Lifesaving Measures training lane at Golden Coyote this year.

SALUTING HOMETOWN HEROES



Mitchell Cabela's is saluting hometown heroes and inviting them to celebrate with Cabelas!

The Mitchell Cabela's Hometown Hero sale is June 27, 28 and 29, 2012, and they are extending their employee discount (up to 25% discount, depending on manufacturer and yes, firearms and ammo are included).

All Hometown Heroes are invited, so please feel free to forward this to friends who qualify. Heroes include law enforcement, firemen, EMS personnel and all active duty and retired military personnel.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jen Johnston, Retail Events Coordinator, 601 Cabela Drive, Mitchell, SD 57301
Phone: 605.996.0337 Ext. 8046
www.cabelas.com/mitchell

ATTIC BOXES UNVEIL TREASURES

Last month we published a story about some of the projects that would be taking place this summer at the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre.

Museum Director Sonja Johnson, partnered with the Boys and Girls Club, in an effort to reach out to over 100 boys and girls and educate them about the heritage of the South Dakota National Guard; and the significant role they have played throughout South Dakota's history both on federal and state missions.

During the month of June they have been working on the "attic project." Every attic and/or basement is home to many family heirlooms, some of which could be weapons, uniforms, wartime letters and postcards, military pins, flags, medals, newspaper clippings, and other military artifacts. This project highlighted how the riches within the museum relate to families military history. Each of the 35 students created their own attic treasure box and brought something special to store within their box.

Possessions included such items as: necklaces, headbands, baseball caps, watches, bracelets, shoes, glasses, earrings, stuffed animals, action figures, battle figures, trophies, dolls, finger puppets, purses, cars, and air planes. Each student talked about their respective possession, where they got it and why it was special to them.

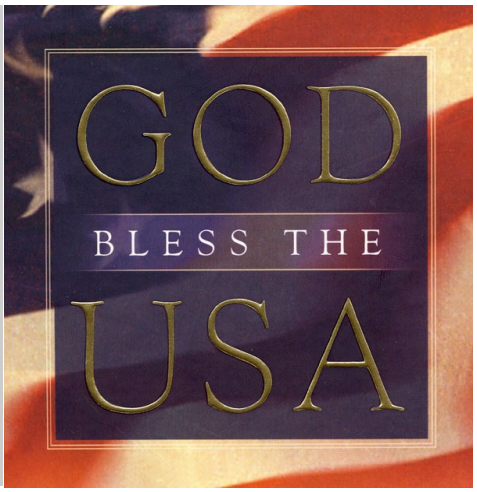
"Our goal with the attic project was to bring to life the story behind the artifacts in a museum," said Sonja Johnson, museum director. "Artifacts are not just some old dusty stuff from an attic but they are something special to someone. These items tell a story and the owner wanted to share that story with others and that is why they donated it to the museum. The attic project allowed the kids to create their own display cases and share a special item with others."

Next week the students will begin studying the history of military aircraft nose art and will, throughout the month of July, create their own aircraft, design their artwork and paint their respective artwork on their aircraft. Judging will take place on July 31.

Upcoming Events

Jun. 23-24—Thirty-Day Yellow Ribbon Event for the 200th EN/139th BSB—Sheraton—Sioux Falls
July 2—Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—Black Hills National Cemetery—9:00 am
July 4—Independence Day—State Offices Closed
July 11—SD Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post 15—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
July 21-22—Sioux Falls Air Show
Jul. 21—SD Convoy of Hope Stand Down—Rapid City
July 28-29—Thirty-Day Yellow Ribbon Event for the 189th AVN—Rapid City
Aug 4-5– American Legion Riders Chapter 7 Poker Run—Hot Springs
Aug. 15—Veterans Job Fair—Sioux Falls VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue) 10:00 am—2:00 pm
Aug. 23—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rosebud/Mission
Aug. 27-29—VSO Annual Benefits School—Pierre
Aug. 27—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rapid City
Aug. 29—Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Stand Down—McLaughlin
Aug. 30—Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Stand Down— Eagle Butte
Aug. 30– Sept. 3—SD State Fair—Huron (Veterans Day—Aug. 30)
Sept. 11-Stand Down—Wagner National Guard Armory—610 E. SD HWY 46 (10:00 am—2:00 pm)
Sept. 21—Stand Down—Sioux Falls - VFW— 3601 S. Minnesota Ave. (9:00 am—3:00 pm)
Sept. 25—Stand Down—Aberdeen Civic Center—203 S. Washington (2:00 pm—7:00 pm)
Sept. 25 Pierre Homeless Connect

S.O.S. - - ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES NEEDED!

SDNG Museum Director Sonja Johnson is in search of used artificial Christmas trees for a display at the museum. If you are interested in donating a tree, please give Sonja a call (605-773-2375). Her goal is to decorate a tree for each of the war eras that the SDNG served.

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