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SOUTH DAKOTA FLAGS TO BE PRESENTED

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Mike Rounds has provided the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division with two South Dakota flags for commemorative World War II events in two European cities.

On May 5 and May 8, 2010, flags from all 50 states will be presented to city officials in Berchtesgaden, Germany and Colmar, France, respectively.

This year marks the 65th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division will honor World War II veterans by conducting ceremonies to mark the critical role of the United States military in the liberation of Europe.

“We owe so much to the men and women who fought and continue to fight for freedom around the world,” Gov. Rounds said. “They have earned our utmost respect and sincere thanks.”

On Feb. 2, 1945, the 3rd Infantry Division participated in the liberation of Colmar, France, and received a Presidential Unit Citation for it.

The Division was the first unit into Berchtesgaden, Germany, and the nearby Obersalzberg compound that contained Adolph Hitler’s home. The 3rd Infantry Division arrived May 4, 1945, and conducted a flag-raising ceremony the next morning.