

The Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home

History of the Home

The Dakota Territorial Legislature met in February of 1889. While in session, they passed a bill establishing the Dakota Soldiers' Home to be located in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The bill carried an appropriation of \$45,000 for construction. The object of the Home was to provide the care and subsistence for veterans and their wives and widows who meet eligibility requirements for admission to the Home.

The cornerstone of the first building was placed on November 11, 1889. This building remains in service and houses the Home's administrative offices and recreational facilities.

The Veterans Home grounds cover approximately 193 acres. This offers a serene setting carved out of the beautiful Black Hills. By preserving the old and adding conveniences of the new, a true home environment exists. The three major structures are for residents along with a central heating plant, laundry, and maintenance shop.

On October 3, 1998, Governor William J. Janklow and Major General Philip Killey dedicated the South Dakota Veterans Home to Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient "Michael J. Fitzmaurice." Michael received the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity of action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Specialist Four, United States Army, Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division at Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam, March 23, 1971.

