

# South Dakota National Guard celebrates 150 years of service

The South Dakota National Guard marked 150 years of service to the state and nation last Friday, as they celebrate the Jan. 27, 1862, birth date of the organization's formation.

With a proud 150-year heritage of serving as the state's militia, the SDNG finds its origins dating back to 1862 as part of the Dakota Territory.

Since that time, SDNG units have served in nearly every major war or conflict since the Civil War, as well as provided assistance to the state in times of domestic emergencies such as floods, fires, tornadoes and winter storms.

"We are very proud to be celebrating this historic milestone in our organization's history, and we look forward to continuing that lineage of service to our state and nation," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "Other than during World War II when there was a total mobilization of the South Dakota National Guard, these past 10 years clearly ranks among the most significant periods of our history."

To commemorate this lineage of service, the SDNG is planning several celebrations to be conducted later this year.

The flagship dates for this celebration will be held on June 8 at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, as part of their Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center open house and July 21 at Joe Foss Field as part of the Sioux Falls Air Show.

Both events will be open to the public.

Other recognition events are being planned throughout the state to coincide with local community events in which SDNG units are stationed. Dates and location for those events are to be determined and will be released upon confirmation.

The Beginning of the South Dakota National Guard

The journey of the Dakota militiaman begins during the Civil War with Companies A and B of the Dakota Cavalry.

On March 2, 1861, President James Buchanan signed the act establishing the Dakota Territory. By that time, Vermillion, Bon Homme and Elk Point were growing communities. The territory tended to be people who were genuine settlers, mostly immigrants from Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Earlier in the 1850s, the U.S. Army had established garrisons at Fort Pierre and Fort Randall on the Missouri River. Their mission was to protect the 5,000 settlers from the threat of Native American attacks.

However, when the Civil War started, the Army withdrew three companies from Fort Randall leaving it in an exposed position. This led to the Dec. 7, 1861, proclamation, by the Territorial Governor William Jayne, to raise two companies of volunteer militia.



Recruiting centers were then established in Yankton, Vermillion and Bon Homme. The citizens were very patriotic with a lot of local pride, and in just over one month enough men had enlisted to assemble the first company of citizen-Soldiers. On Jan. 27, 1862, Capt. Nelson Miner, company commander, formed the unit in Yankton, Company A, Dakota Cavalry.

This was the first unit of the Dakota Territory Militia. This was the birth of the South Dakota National Guard.

History of the South Dakota National Guard

Since that fateful date in 1862, the SDNG has since seen combat during the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm. The National Guard was also called up during the Mexican Border Conflict, Korean War, Berlin Crisis and peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, each of South Dakota's 28 National Guard communities has experienced a unit mobilization in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. More than 4,600 Soldiers and 1,500 Airmen have deployed in support of these operations and continue to deploy today.

The National Guard is the only military component that holds a dual-mission consisting of both federal and state roles. The federal mission is to maintain trained and equipped units available for prompt mobilization for war or a national emergency. At the state level, the governor reserves the ability, under the Constitution, to call up members of the National Guard in times of domestic emergencies.

Throughout the years, natural disasters have called forth the Guard's spirit of teamwork and sacrifice to battle floods, fires, blizzards and tornado destruction. From the Rapid City Flood of 1972 to the 1997 Spencer Tornado to Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005, and most recently the 2011 Missouri River Flood, the SDNG has helped its fellow South Dakotans and

Americans in times of need.

The South Dakota National Guard Today's SDNG remains strong with nearly 4,400 Soldiers and Airmen available to execute its dual-mission on the state and federal level. The Guard is now in 28 communities throughout South Dakota and is comprised of 64 separate Army Guard units and detachments and 16 Air Guard units. These units perform a variety of missions; everything from command and control, administration, engineering, field artillery, transportation, logistics, communications, maintenance, aviation, public affairs, military police, firefighting and medical.

The Guard is no longer a strategic reserve to the active component, but an operational force directly integrated into active-duty deployments and missions. The force structure of the SDNG is designed to meet the needs of the future force; giving the Guard an enhanced capability to respond in times of emergencies and natural disasters and to support Overseas Contingency Operations.

The SDNG had a significant impact on the state's economy with more than \$181 million dollars in expenditures and wages in 2011. The SDNG is also one of the largest employers in the state with more than 960 full-time employees, along with nearly 3,400 traditional Guard members who train on a part-time basis while pursuing a career or civilian education.

These full-time employees, along with state employees and civilian contractors, work to assist the traditional Guardsman by providing administrative, training and logistical support. This support collectively goes into helping units meet mobilization and readiness requirements.

The South Dakota Army National Guard remains strong, with nearly 3,400 Soldiers available for state and federal missions. The nerve center for the SDARNG resides at the state headquarters at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, an 84-acre training site first developed in 1924.

The South Dakota Air National Guard is located on the southeast corner of Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls and was federally recognized in 1946. It has nearly 1,100 Airmen assigned to its headquarters and the 114th Fighter Wing. The mission of the SDANG is to provide combat capability to the war fight, security for the homeland and to provide combat-ready units in three roles: Federal, state and community.

The proud heirs of the militia tradition can be found in the men and women of today's SDNG. They stand ready to leave the comforts of home and family to help their friends and neighbors, defend the nation's interests and bring peace and hope to people throughout the world.

# Annual row crop clinic to be held

The only Row Crop Clinic held in the Southeastern part of the state will be held on Feb. 14 at the Parker Community Building in Parker. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Coffee and rolls are sponsored by Farm Credit Services and lunch is sponsored by Cargill and CENTRAL Farmers Cooperative.

There is a \$10 fee for the program and anyone interested may attend. CCA credits will be available.

The program includes Kurt Reitsma, SDSU Extension precision ag field specialist, who will discuss "Making Cents Out of Yield Monitor Data"; Chris Hay, SDSU Extension agricultural water management specialist, who will talk about

"Land Drainage and Water Management"; Ron Gelderman, SDSU Extension soils specialist, who will address "Nitrogen Use Efficiency"; Mike Moechnig, SDSU Extension weeds specialist, who will provide a "Herbicide Update"; and Connie Strunk, SDSU Extension plant pathology field specialist, discussing "Crop Disease Control".

There also will be a private applicators training in conjunction with the Row Crop Clinic in Parker on Feb. 14.

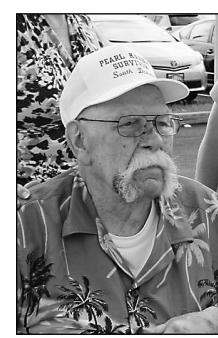
To receive pesticide applicator certification you must attend the entire afternoon session from 1-4 p.m. You also must bring along your driver's license or similar government issued photo ID card.

## OBITUARIES

### Darrel Christopherson

Darrel Loren Christopherson, 87, of Vermillion, passed away Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, at the First Baptist Church in Vermillion, with Pastor Elmer "Sandy" Aakre officiating.



CHRISTOPHERSON

Military honors were conducted by V.E.W. Post 3061.

Interment will be at a later date at Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Sturgis.

Visitation was from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the First Baptist Church, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Darrel Loren Christopherson was born Feb. 12, 1924, to Fred and Clara (Millage) Christopherson in Vermillion. On his 17th birthday he joined the U.S. Navy. When he joined, he was so young that his father had to sign for him to enlist.

On Dec. 7, 1941, "A day that will live in infamy," he was on the ship USS Vestal, a repair ship tied up to the USS Arizona, when it was hit by a Japanese bomb. He also served on the USS Yorktown and retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service. After retirement, one of Darrel's favorite pastimes was teaching school children to "Remember Pearl."

The family then returned to Vermillion, where Darrel served the community for the next 20 years, working for the Vermillion Police Department, retiring after.

He married the love of his life, Beatrice Fiumara, on Nov. 26, 1945, in Pittsburgh, PA. To that marriage four children were born. Sharron Peters of Albuquerque, NM, Ray (Bev) Christopherson of West Fargo, ND, Kathi (Steve) Larson of Yankton, and Rick (Jan Koehn) Christopherson of Vermillion. He is also survived by his sister, Marietta Muckey. He also loved spending time with his three grandchildren, Laura Peters, Kaleb Christopherson and Kourtney Christopherson.

On Jan. 16, Darrel made his last visit to the USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, HI, accompanied by Beatrice, Kathi, Kaleb and Kourtney. He was warmly welcomed on every airline flight and he was treated like a hero throughout his visit in Hawaii. On this final trip he was thanked for his service to his country, signed people's books about WWII and Pearl Harbor, and had his picture taken with strangers who just wanted to have their photos taken with a true American hero.

Darrel died in his sleep Jan. 29, 2012, six days after he returned from visiting the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Hawaii, and 14 days before his 88th birthday. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and all that knew him (and his family is grateful that he was able to fulfill his "bucket list").

He is preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Clara Christopherson; his brothers, Raymond, Gordon, Alvin and Kenny Christopherson; and his sisters, Delores, Fern and Florence.

Services are entrusted to Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online to [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com).

## Black Hills Playhouse to host auditions

The Black Hills Playhouse, in beautiful Custer State Park, is back again for the 2012 season and will be auditioning actors and interviewing technicians at the Warren M Lee Center for the Fine Arts in Vermillion on Monday, Feb. 13. Technical interviews will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Auditions are from 6-9 p.m. Auditions will also be held for the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival.

For more than 60 years, the Black Hills Playhouse has been presenting professional theater entertainment in breathtaking Custer State Park. This year, the BHP presents: "Run for your Wife," "Godspell," "The Drowsy Chaperone" and "The Three Musketeers."

Call Chaya Gordon-Bland at (605) 677-5419, or e-mail [Chaya.Gordon-Bland@usd.edu](mailto:Chaya.Gordon-Bland@usd.edu) to schedule an audition or interview time. Acting candidates should prepare one to two contrasting monologues and 16 bars of music. Both monologues and music should be under three minutes. Technicians should bring a portfolio or examples of their work for their interview.

More information on the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival can be found at [sdshakespearefestival.org](http://sdshakespearefestival.org) or by calling Gordon-Bland at (605) 677-5419.

## Accounting students net jobs, internships with S.D. firms

The University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business announced that 40 students accepted internships and full-time positions at several prestigious state and other Midwest accounting firms.

Last fall, 14 accounting firms conducted interviews on campus, resulting in 25 student placements in internships and full-time positions. Additionally, 15 students were placed in internships or full-time positions through the Employment Services Office at the Beacom School of Business or through other means.

Students and their placements: Corey Backer of Sioux Falls, Victoria Goltz of Lincoln, NE, Megan Maassen of Brandon, Heather Tjeerdsma of Springfield, Joshua VanLaecken of Watertown, and John Whalen of Hartford, SD, at KPMG L.L.P.

Sara Blom of Sioux Falls and Laurie Siegel of Burbank at King, Reinsch, Prosser & Co., L.L.P.

Ben Dangel of Sioux Falls, Alyssa Duerksen of Sioux Falls, Rebecca Duncan of Brandon, Kellen Garrison of Sioux Falls, Brent Impecoven of Larchwood, IA, Judon Mehlhaff of Eureka, SD, Byron Storm of Corsica, SD, Anna Rempe of Sioux Falls, Lynsey VonHoltum of Wilmont, MN, and Jamie Worrall of Huron, at EideBailly, L.L.P.

Ian Bell of Rapid City, Evan Hegge of Dell Rapids and Aaron Pomerence of Sioux Center, IA, Black Hills Corporation

Patrick Dickes of Sioux Falls at CliftonLarsonAllen L.L.P.

Abby Doorn of Vermillion, Erin Hasenbank of Elk Point, Derrick Martin of Wagner, SD, and Chad Regnier of Lynd, MN, at Williams & Company,

P.C. Justin Ebsen of Madison, at Ketel Thorstenson, L.L.P.

Carly Hayes of Vermillion and Fares Khoury of Jacksonville, FL, Deloitte Jackie Hiebert of Maple Grove, MN, and Caleb Lyle of Beresford at Ernst & Young

Kelsey Huewe of Dell Rapids and Greg Schmidt of Avoca, IA, McGladrey & Pullen

Gregory Miner of Le Mars, IA, Randall Smith of Vermillion and Qing "Ken" Zhao of Irvine, CA, at Shuck, Bennett & Weber, L.L.P.

Jessica Thompson of Sioux Falls at Ness Tax and Bookkeeping Service.

For more information about accounting at the University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business, go to [www.usd.edu/business/accounting](http://www.usd.edu/business/accounting) or e-mail [bschoolstudentsvs@usd.edu](mailto:bschoolstudentsvs@usd.edu).

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### Peggy Johnson

Peggy J. Johnson, 61, of Elk Point, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center in Vermillion.

Peggy Rentschler was born May 25, 1950, in Omaha, NE, to Robert and Jacqueline (Calvet) Rentschler. She grew up in Omaha, graduating from the Notre Dame Academy High School in 1968. She attended college in many different places and traveled extensively in Europe during that time.

Peggy married David Johnson on Oct. 11, 1991, in Vermillion and she had been the head librarian in Elk Point

until her health forced her to retire.

She is survived by her husband David of Elk Point, a step-daughter Tracey (Tim) Helgeson of Sioux Falls, SD, four grandchildren, two brothers, Jim (Becky)Rentschler and Paul (Desi) Rentschler, all of Omaha, a sister, Patti Miller, also of Omaha, her mother-in-law Mary Johnson of Yankton, SD, and several nieces and a nephew.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Vermillion, with burial of ashes at a later date.

[hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com)

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