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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Retired Guardsman receives honorary Gamble Award**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – James W. McEwen, Rapid City, was awarded the “Col. James F. Gamble Award” last month at the annual meeting of the National Guard Executive Directors Association in Baltimore, Md.

The Gamble Award, started in 1991, recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exemplary performance and dedication in support of the member states and their activities.

“Col. Gamble was most instrumental in getting our current payroll deduction for Guard members' Group Term Life insurance,” said McEwen. “There was no provision to allow for an allotment or deductions for National Guard so he testified before Congress and made this happen.”

McEwen, an active member of NGEDA for 27 years, currently serves as vice chairman of the Payroll Deduction Coordinating Board. He volunteers about one day a month for the organization - breaking down the payroll files of the entire Army and Air National Guard and distributing insurance premiums to the different states.

“When I started this duty, I had to manually go through the payroll printout and it took days to get through it,” said McEwen. “Then my son developed a few computer programs that simplified the workload.”

He noted that every South Dakota National Guard member is insured for \$1,000 automatically with the option to purchase up to \$50,000 in life insurance through both Enlisted and Officers' Associations.

McEwen served in the South Dakota National Guard for 37 years, from February of 1954 to October 1991, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. He also worked full time for the Guard for 34 years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.

**Photo cut line:** RAPID CITY, S.D. – James W. McEwen, Rapid City, was awarded the “Col. James F. Gamble Award” on Jan. 27 at the annual meeting of the National Guard Executive Directors Association in Baltimore, Md. From left to right is Cynthia Watson, president of NGEDA, Jerry Wilson of Ohio, McEwen, Butch Dowse of Kansas and Russell Kraus of Colorado. Wilson, Dowse and Kraus are past recipients of the Gamble Award. (Courtesy photo from James McEwen)

Link to Photo:

[https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/NGEDA\\_McEwen\\_awarded\\_Gamble.jpg](https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/NGEDA_McEwen_awarded_Gamble.jpg)