

South Dakota National Guard

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December 20, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Guard members deliver holiday gifts to Vets Home

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. –The South Dakota National Guard delivered holiday gifts to veterans during the annual Christmas party at the South Dakota Veterans Home in Hot Springs, Dec. 15.

Members of the SDNG have attended the party for more than 15 years to help bring Christmas cheer to more than 100 residents.

“Before the scheduled party, the residents fill out a wish list,” said Barb Beery, State Veterans Home secretary. “They look forward to this event with a lot of anticipation. The party includes caroling, snacking and plenty of presents that hardly fit under the Christmas tree.”

This year, the National Guard had approximately 27 people, dressed in Santa hats, distribute gifts to the residents.

“Some of the residents can hardly wait to rip open their presents,” said Beery. “They have such delight when they unwrap their presents, while a few others quietly take their gifts back to their rooms to be savored until Christmas morning. The National Guard party has become a highlight of the holiday season at the Veterans Home.”

Among the holiday chaos of singing, eating and unwrapping Christmas presents, a presentation took place to recognize two volunteers who spend their time making the lives of service members, families and veterans better.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, presented Gloria Doohen and LuAnne Johnson with the Outstanding Civilian Service Award. The award consists of a bronze medal, lapel button, and citation certificate.

“For exceptional meritorious service to the Soldiers, Airmen, families of the South Dakota National Guard and South Dakota veterans,” said Reisch, during the presentation. “Your faithful and selfless service to the military community is a true inspiration for others to emulate. The countless hours that you gave in service to others clearly demonstrate your belief of service above self, and our organization and veterans are better off because of your dedicated service and support.”

Additional stories and information are online at www.facebook.com/southdakotationalguard



121215-A-AB123-001: LuAnne Johnson and Gloria Doohen receive the Outstanding Civilian Service Award presented by the South Dakota National Guard for their countless hours of dedicated service to the Soldiers, Airmen, families of the SDNG and veterans, Dec. 15, 2012, at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, S.D. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)



121115-A-AB123-002: South Dakota National Guard Soldiers delivered gifts to the State Veterans Home for their annual Christmas party in Hot Springs, S.D., Dec. 15, 2012. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)



121115-A-AB123-003: Residents of the State Veterans Home sing Christmas songs at their annual Christmas party in Hot Springs, S.D., Dec. 15, 2012. The South Dakota National Guard has attended the party for more than 15 years to help bring Christmas cheer to more than 100 residents. The party includes caroling, snacking and presents. (Courtesy photo) (RELEASED)

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