

Veteran of the Month April 2009

Congratulations to Steven D. Fuelling!



In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the April, 2009 Veteran of the Month Recognition to Steven D. Fuelling.

Steven Fuelling was born in Ipswich, England where his parents were stationed at the Air Base. He grew up in the Air Force and attended many schools and graduated from Rapid City Central High School in 1982. After graduation from Western Dakota Technical Institute in 1987, he entered the United States Air Force and was assigned to Loadmaster training. He became a Loadmaster aboard the C-141B Starlifter aircraft and acquired over 1100 hours of flying time. Steve flew many missions and was a participant in the Panama invasion in December, 1989. He was deeply involved in airdrops and rescue missions during the times of natural disasters.

After applying for an early out in 1990, Steve returned to college and upon graduation from South Dakota State University, was commissioned in May 1996 as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Reentering the Air Force, Steve was assigned as an Air Weapons Officer and during this time, flew many missions in South American drug wars. He was stationed at various bases around the world. He was in Korea, Kuwait, took part in the Desert Fox campaign and Kosovo. His final assignment was at Luke AFB, AZ as Air Weapons Officer and Mission Crew Commander for the F-16 Training Squadrons. Steve served a very rewarding career in the service of his country. One of his most memorable moments was flying to Vietnam to pick up and return MIA soldiers back to the United States.

During his Air Force career, Steve received many awards including the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award w/device, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short tour, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon w/device and Air Force Training Ribbon.

Steve left the Air Force in July, 2000 and returned to Rapid City to pursue business interests. He currently is part owner of a bowling alley in Rapid City and works at Wharf Industries. Steve is a life member of Theta Tau Fraternity, and a Courtesy member of Chapter 29 TREA. He is involved in racing late model cars and crew chief of the Number 10 late model car. He is also involved with the Jr. Bowling League programs. Steve and his wife Gwen Drewitz have three daughters, Brittany, Caitlin and Alissa.

Steve is especially proud of his military record and accomplishments and is deserving of this special recognition. We are pleased to present Steve Fuelling with the April 2009 Veteran of the Month.