

## Veteran of the Month April 2010

### Congratulations to David Van Cleave !



In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the April 2010 Veteran of the Month Recognition to David Van Cleave.

David joined the South Dakota Army National Guard in 1983, and was assigned to Delta Company of the 153rd Engineer battalion located in Springfield, South Dakota. He subsequently served in various positions as a combat engineer in Lead, South Dakota; Phillip, South Dakota; and Winner, South Dakota. In 1999, David was selected as the First Sergeant of the 211th Medium Girder Bridge Company in Mobridge. Following reorganization of this company, David served as First Sergeant of the 1085th Air Med company, as a Master Sergeant with the 109th Engineer battalion and finally as the First Sergeant of the 200th Multi Role Bridge Company in Pierre from 2001-2004. David served with the 200th MRBC during their deployment to Iraq and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division from 2003 through 2004. He retired from the Army National Guard in April 1, 2005.

David's citations include the Bronze star medal, Army Achievement medal, Army Reserve components achievement medal with silver cluster, National Defense medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, Global War on Terrorism medal, Armed Forces Reserve medal, NCO Professional Development ribbon, Army service ribbon, Army Reserve components Overseas training ribbon, South Dakota Distinguished Service Medal, South Dakota Service ribbon and the Army Valorous unit citation.

David's service through the South Dakota Army National Guard was distinguished and most honorable. In these days of the Citizen Soldier, individuals and their families contribute time and energy in being prepared to serve their nation and or their state in many types of emergencies. David as a loyal and true soldier rising to the rank and distinction of being a Company First Sergeant, in peace time and war. He provided leadership to his unit in preparing them for the day of mobilization, through the day of returning safely home. His attention to duty and to the welfare of each and every soldier in the 200th Multi Role Bridge Company, while being deployed to Iraq in 2003-2004, is testimony to his service and duty to his country and fellow soldiers.