

Veteran of the Month July 2010

Congratulations to Jerry Wright!



In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the July 2010 Veteran of the Month Recognition to Jerome “Jerry” Wright.

Mr. Wright led a long and distinguished 30-year career as a citizen soldier, serving in both the Army Reserve and the South Dakota National Guard, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Jerry joined the Reserve Officer Training Program while a student at the South Dakota School of Mines and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1971. He was assigned to Fort Belvoir, Virginia for the Officer Basic Course. During the next 5 years he was assigned multiple tours to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he completed the Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course and was assigned to the Occupational Forces School.

Throughout his career he served in various capacities in the South Dakota Army National Guard, including Civil Engineer, Plans and Operations from 1980 to 1985, Communications Officer for the 109th Engineer Group from 1985 to 1990, and Evaluation and Readiness Section Exercise Director for Golden Coyote from 1990 to 1993. He retired in December 1997 from the United States Army Reserve and was on retired reserve status from December 1997 until November 2006 when he was recalled to active duty under the Retiree Recall Program. He served as Executive Officer, Engineer Section, Third Army Headquarters, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait from December 2006 through November 2007. His last day of active duty was November 25, 2007.

His citations include:

Meritorious Service Medal 2nd award, Army Commendation Medal 2nd award, Army Achievement Medal 2nd award, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal 5th award, National Defense Service Medal 3rd award, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 30 year service device, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon 2nd award, South Dakota Distinguished Serve – Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau Guardsman Award June 30, 1993.

As both a civilian and a serviceman, Jerry has served his community. During the Rapid City flood, he sacrificed his personal safety to save the life of a young child from the flood waters. Ten years after retiring from the Army Reserve in 1997, he volunteered for active duty in the service of Operation Iraqi Freedom at age 59. He returned from Kuwait just days before turning age 60.