

# Young Heroes Award Program

Sponsored by  
The South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association

The South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association sponsors a program that honors children, ages 5-18, who have displayed courage and bravery while battling a life threatening disease, illness, or injury. This program, which started in the early 1990's, has presented hundreds of Young Hero Awards all over South Dakota with the intention of publicly recognizing the dignity of real life Young Heroes, whose tremendous struggle might otherwise go unnoticed. Military Veterans are frequently recognized for their sacrifices in combat, and this program is dedicated to showing people that battles are not just fought by men and women in uniform.

These Young Heroes can be referred to us by family members, friends, hospitals, support groups, teachers, or anyone who knows the child and can verify that he or she has faced a life threatening disease, illness or injury.

Active military service members will present the Young Hero Medal during a brief ceremony of recognition held at the most convenient time and place for the recipient. It is conducted in a semi-formal military manner and may include both Army and Air National Guard service members. Common locations for this ceremony have included local military facilities, school classrooms and assemblies, hospitals, churches, and even the recipient's home. Service members will present the Young Hero with their medal and an official certificate, then render them a "salute" for their courage and bravery. We have military participants all over South Dakota and can arrange for presentations anywhere in the state.

To nominate a child, please complete the attached nomination form and send it to the Young Hero Award Committee, Attn: Kelsey Lambert:  
1201 W Algonquin St, Sioux Falls, SD 57104



*"Battles are not just fought by those in uniform."*