



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**ADMINISTRATION**

3200 East Highway 34  
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070  
Phone: (605) 773-3478  
Fax: (605) 773-3194

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 7, 2007**  
**CONTACT: Michael Winder, SD DOC (605) 773-3478**

**State prison inmate dies**

Pierre, S.D. - A state prison inmate housed at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield has died.

Leroy Kooken, age 66, died May 6<sup>th</sup> of apparent natural causes. Kooken was serving a 15-year sentence out of Pennington County for third degree rape.

An autopsy will be conducted. The Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating the death, as is standard procedure in the death of an inmate.