

Gov. Mike Rounds today announced the appointment of Kenneth Albers of Canton to the South Dakota Board of Pardons and Paroles.

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**Gov. Rounds appoints Albers to Board of Pardons and Paroles**

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Mike Rounds today announced the appointment of Kenneth Albers of Canton to the South Dakota Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Albers will replace Thomas Cihak of Yankton when Cihak’s term expires on January 18, 2010. Cihak was first appointed to the Board in 2002.

“I am pleased that Ken Albers has agreed to serve on the Board of Pardons and Paroles,” said Gov. Rounds. “As a former sheriff, Ken has a great amount of practical knowledge in the area of law enforcement. That experience will prove invaluable when dealing with prisoners seeking parole. Ken also gained valuable experience as a member of the state Senate Judiciary Committee.”

Albers served as Lincoln County Sheriff for 26 years and as Deputy Sheriff for six years. He served ten years in the South Dakota Senate from 1997 to 2004 and from 2007 to 2008.

State law grants appointing authority for the nine-member Board to the Governor, Attorney General and Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court, with each appointing three members. At least one of the members appointed by each authority is required to be an attorney.

Albers’ appointment is subject to confirmation by the South Dakota Senate.

Parole Board members serve four-year terms. The Board of Pardons and Paroles conducts hearings and takes action on inmate petitions for parole and makes recommendations to the Governor on requests for clemency. The Board is administered under the jurisdiction and direction of the Department of Corrections but retains quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative, advisory and other non-administrative functions independent of the Department of Corrections.