

Building a Community

Last Friday at a community wide Mitzvah-Good Deeds Day, I provided four hours of Genealogy and computer help to the community. The location was a house of worship. Following the work, we went to lunch at another place of worship of a different faith. The emcee was a member of a different place of worship, the benediction was delivered by another. His comments emphasized that we have a much better community when we put our differences aside, work together toward common goals and provide help to our fellow citizens. The Good Deeds day was sponsored by local places of worship and a grant from a local secular (non-religious) foundation. Lunch was provided by a secular retirement home. It was a great experience and I met more people from different backgrounds and beliefs. The best part of the day was it benefited our community.

On Veterans Day in Moorhead, we will have all of the normal activities sponsored by local Veterans organizations including a Vietnam Veterans memorial at the Veterans bridge, a Veterans Day celebration at the Civic Center, flag raising and program at the West Fargo VFW, stew being served at the Fargo VFW, Fargo Legion, and Dilworth VFW posts. The Moorhead Legion will also have stew being served plus the Red River Valley Veterans Concert Band will perform at 3:00 pm. At the Moorhead Legion, Mike Carney has retired after serving 23 years as a manager. Mike has been a great manager and will be missed. Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day celebrates the ending of World War I. It was later changed to honor all Veterans.

If you are unable to attend any of these events, there are other ways to honor our community members who are Veterans. Here are a few: buy from a Veteran owned business, visit a Veteran at a VA hospital, retirement or nursing home and make sure to bring the kids, visit a cemetery and decorate Veterans graves, write a letter to the editor about Veterans, participate in fund raising such as the Honor Flight, attend a Veterans Day parade, visit a museum to learn about how our Veterans shaped our world, display a flag at your home, or watch a documentary about a recent or historic war and discuss the issues Veterans face. In other words, make sure that the Veterans of our community are appreciated. Another option that I saw from our volunteer day is to do some research on the backgrounds of our Veterans. Not all of our Veterans look like us!

Here in Arizona, I'm a volunteer emcee with a local forum club where we have presentations each week on a variety of topics. On 6 November, the local American Legion Post will be doing a presentation and meaning of posting colors, the POW/MIA ceremony, the correct way to fold a flag speak about contributions our Veterans have made to our communities and answer questions. Veterans Day celebrations here will all be outside, in warm sunny weather!