

## Legislative Update

Senator Eken, Representative Marquart and Representative Lien will be providing us with an update on activities at the Minnesota Legislature at 6:30 pm, Thursday, 18 April at the Rourke Art Museum, 521 Main Ave in Moorhead. The event is sponsored by the Rourke, the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead. Audience members are encouraged to come with questions for our representatives. Questions should be written and will be asked by a moderator. The event is free and open to all. Moorhead Community Access Media (MCAM) will record the event and rebroadcast on Moorhead's community access channels and will make the video available on YouTube. The Veterans committees have referred funding bills to the Finance committee for inclusion in the omnibus funding bill. One interesting part of the Veterans committee recommendations is the establishment of three Veterans appreciation days. POW/MIA Day would take place each year on the third Friday in September. Veterans Suicide Awareness Day would take place the first Saturday in every October moving forward. Finally, American Allies Day would take place on June 30 each year. Last Friday 5 April was Gold Star Spouses Day. I'm sure most of us didn't know that. Originally called Gold Star Wives Day, its name was changed to Gold Star Spouses Day because of the women who lost their lives in service to their county. The gold star symbol is for families who lost a member in combat was started during WWI,

On the national level, the VA recently announced that it would increase the amount of funds for contracting with firms owned by service-disabled Veterans and Veteran owned small businesses. In other words, the VA will buy more goods and services from Veteran owned businesses.

Last week at Snowmass ski resort in Colorado, the VA and Disable American Veterans (DAV) held its annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. The event provides instruction for injured Veterans and promotes sports therapy and rehabilitation through adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, rock climbing, sled hockey, scuba diving and other sports and activities. Over 400 Veterans took part in the event this year.

As I write this article on 9 April, I did some WWII research and found that on 9 April 1940, German warships entered major Norwegian ports, deploying thousands of German troops and occupying Norway. Hours after the invasion, Germany demanded Norway's surrender. The Norwegian government refused and the Germans responded with a parachute invasion and the establishment of a puppet regime led by Vidkun Quisling, former foreign minister and supporter of Germany. Quisling would become synonymous with the word traitor in Norway. King Haakon VII and the Norwegian government went into exile in England, returning to Norway in June 1945.