

## **Memorials to Veterans in Moorhead**

Located at the north end of the parking lot in front of the Moorhead American Legion is the Post 21 Memorial. Several years ago, the Post raised funds to build a brick memorial to honor all Veterans. The project is continuing with an option to purchase a brick to honor your Veteran. I purchased one for myself a couple years ago, since I wasn't sure anyone else would! Joking, my Sweetie Bev encouraged me to do it. You'll find my name under the US Air Force section of the memorial.

Those killed in action from Clay County, from all wars, have their names engraved in the granite face on each service branch. There has been some confusion on what brick purchases can include. The person honored does not have to be from Clay County. The person you are honoring on a brick, can be living or deceased, they can be active duty, retired, and from anywhere in the USA. The only requirement is that it must be service or memorial related

You can find the Memorial brick form on the Legion's website – [www.legionpost21.com/memorial.htm](http://www.legionpost21.com/memorial.htm). Print this form to order an engraved brick to commemorate your service member's contribution to America's defense, you may also use this form to make a cash donation to the project. The brick you purchase with your donation, will be placed with other veterans' bricks in the appropriate service branch section of the Post 21 memorial and will forever be a part of the memorial.

Of course, the Veterans Memorial Bridge connecting Moorhead to Fargo is dedicated to all Veterans. Nancy Otto, recently retired city council member from first ward and former city council member and Vietnam Veteran Larry Nicholson were very instrumental in getting the bridge named during the bridge reconstruction. As a gateway between the two cities, it is a place to learn more about the branches of our military and about the Red River of the North. There are plaques for each of our military branches on the pillars. Each year, our Moorhead Legion and Dilworth VFW hold an early morning flower laying ceremony on Memorial Day. Our firefighters hold a special ceremony on the anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center on 11 September. Our local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter holds a special ceremony on Veterans Day.

Because all Veterans served to defend the freedoms in the Constitution of the United States, other organizations can use the bridge to demonstrate for causes and against actions. All bridge demonstrations have been peaceful which is a tribute to the residents of our community. Military and Veterans staunchly defend the right to assemble and speak.