

On The Road Again

As you all know, Sweetie and I are on the road back to Moorhead. Since leaving Arizona, we've been through parts of Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and are now in Spokane, WA, visiting folks and generally seeing the country. One thing I've noticed in all the states is they have dedicated sections of the Interstate highways to Veterans of the many conflicts the US has entered. All have a section dedicated to Vietnam Veterans which is really nice since our Vietnam Veterans did receive a welcome home when returning from Southeast Asia. Nevada had the greatest number of dedications covering all conflicts from the Civil War to the War on Terror. Perhaps Minnesota and North Dakota could follow the examples of the western states.

Regarding the appointment of Dr. Ronny Jackson as the new Department of Veterans Affairs secretary, his confirmation process has been 'paused' to allow members of Congress to conduct some vetting. Senators are expected to press Dr. Jackson on his views on the role of private medical care for veterans, instead of the department's government-run health care system. Senators planned to question his lack of management experience running a large organization. The VA is the federal government's second largest, employing more than 370,000 people and operating sprawling health and veterans benefits systems. Of course, much of the fighting over his nomination will be along party lines. In addition to Secretary and Deputy Secretary, the VA has nine more positions requiring presidential appointment and Senate approval.

I found some interesting things about the VA Secretary. The Secretary is, of course, a member of the President's cabinet. The position is second to last at sixteenth in the line of succession to the presidency. It was last until the Department of Homeland Security was added in 2006.

From Moorhead American Legion Post 21 commander Les Forman, I got the following: The American Legion will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. Our post plans on celebrating this event in a big way. Our post home was built in 1996 and it's starting to show signs of age. With age comes the need to "REFRESH, REPAIR AND REPLACE". The House committee has launched a campaign to raise \$50,000 so that they can accomplish needed repairs and replacements. Some things they are looking to do is replace carpet and floor tile, kitchen items and coolers as well as paint the interior of our club home. Our members can help with this campaign by buying "Summer Clean Up/Fix Up" raffle tickets at \$5 each. Members can also contribute good usable items to be sold at a silent auction which will be held on Memorial Day. Post members may also donate cash, simply send a check to the Post.