

## **Personal Ramblings**

The past weekend, Sweetie and I attended a Bakke family reunion. Veterans and descendants of Veterans were there. Our family includes those who served during the Vietnam Era, Korean Era, WWII, WWI and even one who served in the Swedish Army before coming to this country. Many of the Veterans saw combat, all served honorably and came back to this country and led successful lives. We enjoyed telling and listening to stories of those no longer with us. Some members brought old photos and newspaper clippings which I scanned and will supplement my family history which is going on the web at bakkehistory.com. One family member came from California just to meet us and get to know her heritage. She told me she really didn't know what to expect in the Midwest and was pleasantly surprised that we are pretty normal. We are all descendants of brothers and sisters whom came to Minnesota from a small town in Norway. All settled near Newfolden, MN. Speaking of Norway, while I was a student at MSUM, we had an international student from Norway who also happened to have served in the Norwegian Navy. The Vets Club on campus changed its by-laws to include Veterans of any military service, making him eligible to join.

Speaking of family history, if you have any interest in family history, please consider attending the 43<sup>rd</sup> Family History Workshop on 29 September at Horizon Middle School in Moorhead. You can check out the topics and register at heritageed.com. We have a couple sessions on military and Veterans research, plus the Red River Valley Veterans Concert Band will perform at noon. The Heritage Education Commission is the sponsoring organization and is also the organization that has collected over 75 Veterans oral histories. You can read and hear the stories on the same website. And if you have an interest in Moorhead history, there is also a regional oral histories section with almost 300 oral histories of local people. They were recorded during the 1980s.

On 27 September, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead will be holding a fund raiser with bingo and a silent auction at VFW Post 1223 in Dilworth. If you have items to donate to the auction, please bring them to the VFW. More importantly, please attend our auction and bid on items. Moorhead has been recognized as a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community by the State of Minnesota since 2011. Our mission is to provide help to service members, guard members, deployed members and most importantly to their families. We work very closely with the Clay County Veterans Service Office and provide financial assistance to needy Veteran and military families in Moorhead.

The BTYR was a co-sponsor of the candidates' forum last Thursday. We had six of the seven candidates who attended, one was out of town. Over 50 Clay County residents attended and we were covered by local TV. In October, we will be holding forums for local candidates. Check this column for more information.