

## **Ronny Jackson and John McCain**

Ronny Jackson withdrew his nomination as VA Secretary amid stories of misconduct while serving as White House physician. Misconducts included driving after drinking and smashing a government car. Most of us Veterans have done dumb things. I know I have but am not stupid enough to put them in this column. I do remember serving with an airman in Japan who happened to see a locomotive on a track with the engine running, so he got in and somehow managed to drive it to the next station. Yes, he lost rank and spent time in the stockade. Jackson's main problem was his lack of experience leading a very large organization. The VA is currently under the direction of Robert Wilkie who also serves as under secretary for the Defense Department. Some Veterans' groups are supporting VA Deputy Secretary Thomas Bowman.

I had my annual check-up with the VA hospital in Fargo last week and can report that everything is going well. That means you may have to put up with my column for another year or two! The VA medical team made a couple suggestions; lose some weight and add some potassium to my diet, my count was just below normal. The staff at the VA hospital was very professional, respectful and responded to all my questions. Since Sweetie and I are spending about half the year in Arizona, I plan on using the VA for all my medical care. The VA hospital in Tucson has a good reputation as does the VA clinic in Green Valley.

Several years ago, our Heritage Education Commission started recording the oral histories of WWII Veterans. One of those Veterans, in his interview, said some very complimentary things about President George Bush (the second one). A few years later, at an MSUM event, we talked and the Veteran asked if he could re-do part of his story. He no longer believed Bush was doing a good job. I told the Veteran that I could remove those comments and re-post his interview. He wanted that done, so I honored his request. He was a WWII Veteran who spent time in a German POW camp. We became friends and together we enjoyed MSUM athletic events, he was a loyal Dragon.

As we all know, Senator John McCain has terminal cancer and is helping plan his own funeral. He has asked that President Donald Trump not attend. As I honored the WWII POW Veterans in the story above, I strongly believe McCain's request should be honored. It is rare that a person has the opportunity to plan his or her own funeral. Given that opportunity, we should respect the wishes.