

VA Updates and VFW Event

In July, David Shulkin and his wife Merle Bari took a trip to London. The six day stay in London included an afternoon at Wimbledon, a visit to Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London and a cruise on the Thames River. Shulkin also attended a two day Veterans conference. If this appears to be a nice vacation, please know that you paid for it. Sulkin is the Director of the VA and the trip was all paid for by taxpayers' funds. Speaking of the VA, there are still people in the administration and congress who are pushing to privatize the VA. The Choice program that was added a few years ago is a good option for Veterans who live far from a VA hospital. However, I believe the VA is better equipped to provide medical care to our Veterans who have, in many cases, unique needs. We need to keep an eye on this potential danger.

Now for some good news. The VFW, Dilworth, MN is hosting *Humor for Heroes Tour* on Sunday 29 October at the Post, 1505 Center Ave W, Dilworth. Show time is 7:00 pm with seating starting at 6:00 pm. The cost for the show only is \$10 and can be reserved by calling the Post at 218.233.6100. If you'd like to make it a dinner evening, the VFW has a special price of \$25 which includes dinner and the show. Proceeds from the event will benefit our wounded Veterans and their families.

According to the Humor for Heroes, their mission is to host comedy shows for the purpose of honoring current and former military members and their guests with a stress free night of comedy while showing our appreciation for the sacrifices they and their families have made for our great nation. Humor for Heroes comedy shows also provide networking opportunities and resource information.

Next week, I will have a list of Veterans Day events. Between now and then, here are some things you can consider doing. Attend one of the many events in our community, contact the VA or a Veterans Home to learn about volunteering there, support Veteran owned businesses, say thanks to Veterans or those in uniform, and make a point of saying thanks to co-workers who served in the military. If you are teaching, invite a Veteran or family to talk to your classes or assign students to do an article on Veterans Day. Please make sure that Gold Star families in our community are honored for their loved one's sacrifice. While at breakfast last week, Bev and I started a conversation with two men near us who happened to be Veterans, one Army and one Navy. Both served in the 1950s. Ask about their service and listen to the stories. Please remember our Veterans and their families all year long. Finally, make sure you become an informed citizen and vote, that is one of the rights we served to protect.