

Veterans Help

At the Clay County candidates' forum last week, I had the honor to serve as moderator. I am very pleased to report that all candidates treated each other and the audience with dignity and respect. We had candidates sitting next to each other competing for the same position and they did not resort to name calling, insulting comments or vicious remarks. It was really nice to see that our local politicians acted much more like adults than some of our national politicians. One of the areas highlighted by our county commission candidates was the problem of keeping Veterans informed about their rights and programs available to them. Our County Service Office (VSO) is doing a very good job, but somehow we need to get more information to our Veterans. In Clay County, in addition to our VSO, we have many organizations ready and willing to help our Veterans. The American Legion, VFW, DAV, Vietnam Veterans of America and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead are all ready to help. Our VA across the river in Fargo has very good employees ready to help. A recent program between the VA and Clay County Housing and Redevelopment Authority is to help our homeless Veterans find a place to live. None of our Veterans should be without a place to live.

Our Moorhead Library and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County are cooperating on stories, presentations and displays about World War I. Sweetie and I recently attending Markus Krueger's presentation on Nurses from Clay County during WWI. If you have not had a chance to see the WWI display at the Historical Society, it is still there. Stop by and check it out. A free film screening of "Sergeant York" is scheduled at the Moorhead Public Library, 118 5th St. S., on October 13 at 2 p.m. The film screening is being held in conjunction with the One Book, One Community reading project, which centers around the World War I novel "The Cartographer of No Man's Land" by P.S. Duffy. Alvin York was one of the most decorated US Army soldiers of WWI. He received the Medal of Honor for leading an attack on a German machine gun nest, taking 35 machine guns and capturing 132 German soldiers. Following the war, a group from Tennessee purchased a farm for York and his family. He later formed a charitable foundation to improve educational opportunities for children in rural Tennessee.

In observation of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, the Historical Society is offering free admission from 12PM to 5PM on Sunday, November 11. At 2:00PM, HCSCC Programming Director Markus Krueger will discuss the local effects of both the war and the armistice.

With the approach of Veterans Day, it would be a good time to stop at the VFW on East Ten in Dilworth and check out the two scrolling displays of active and deceased members of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and Gold Star families.