

Veterans News

My friend Kristin sent me the following information and opportunity for Veterans and Servicemembers. Come visit Santa and Mrs. Claus in your favorite holiday pajamas! Take your picture with the guests of honor, create a craft to take home, enjoy a horse drawn sleigh ride and play on the inflatable games during this free event! West Fargo VFW and Auxiliary will be serving hot chocolate and cookies! This takes place Sunday 10 December from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the West Fargo Park District, 601 26 Ave E, West Fargo, ND.

The VA announced rollout and application process for a new Veterans ID Card (VIC). The VIC is now available for Veterans - yet another action honoring their service. This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans. Only Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans. "The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "With the card, Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services." The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC. To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on "Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card" on the bottom left of the page and sign in or create an account. Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December. I went to the website to get mine, but the site was down because of heavy demand. It allowed me to enter my e-mail address so I could be notified when it is back on line. More later.

Today, 7 December is, of course the 76th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The day is to remember and honor the 2,403 citizens of the United States who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. On Pearl Harbor Day, the American flag should be flown at half-staff until sunset to honor those who died as a result of the attack on U.S. Military and naval forces in Hawaii.