

Back in Moorhead

It's great to be back in Moorhead. Sweetie Bev and I saw a lot of our country during the twelve days drive back from Arizona. We also stopped to see relatives along the way. The short way to get from Green Valley to Moorhead is about 1,900 miles. We took the 2,800 route! Along the way, I stopped at a RV store in Spokane and saw a special parking spot "Veteran Parking Only Thank You for Your Service". We used the space and checked out the store. It is the first time I've seen a special parking spot for Veterans.



May is a special time for Veterans and for remembering those who served. On 19 May, we celebrate Armed Forces Day which was established by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson in 1949 to celebrate all armed forces and the unification of all armed forces under the Department of Defense.

One of my favorite events will be on 24 May at Bonazaville where our annual Veterans Picnic will be held. Gates open at 3:00 pm. All Veterans and families are invited to this special event. I am honored to be emcee again this year.

National Poppy Day is on 25 May this year. The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Wear a poppy to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform. All donations received will be used by The American Legion Family for their programs that support veterans, the military community and their families.

Memorial Day this year will be on 28 May and many events will be held in our community. More information on these events will be in upcoming columns. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

And here is an event I've never heard about – Military Spouse Appreciation Day to be celebrated on 11 May. On Military Spouse Appreciation Day we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset. Military spouses are silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation, and they serve our country just like their loved ones. The first Military Spouse Appreciation Day was observed on May 23, 1984.

Very often, families of our service members are forgotten. It is the primary mission of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead organization to connect Veterans, service members and their families with community support, training, services and resources. Our next BTYR meeting is Thursday, 10 May, 0830 at the VFW in Dilworth. All are welcome to join us.