

On the Road 2019

It was sunny and 85 degrees in Green Valley, AZ and my Sweetie, Bev and I decided ice cream was the thing to have so we went to the Baskin Robbins store. Sitting at one of the tables were two Marines in uniform, a young man and his parents. It didn't take long before we realized that the Marines were recruiters and the young man was joining. Apparently he was under the age of 18, because both parents had to sign his enlistment papers. The young man was wearing a JROTC tee shirt, so I assumed he knew something about the military. As we were leaving, we stopped at their table and congratulated the young man saying "Thank you for volunteering to serve our country".

Since Arizona temperatures were going into the nineties, we decided it was time to return to Moorhead, so on the road again 2019. We had nice driving for two days, then hit 20-25 mph side and head winds on day three. The end of day three saw us in York, Nebraska at a new RV park along I-80. We went to a nice steak house for our dinner and started a conversation with a couple at the next table. They were also retired and just returning from the winter in Florida. We complained to each other about the 50 degree temps and the wind. After several topics, we talked about the military. The man's father was a WWII POW for almost two years, imprisoned in eastern Germany and liberated by the Russians advancing into Germany. His brother was drafted during the sixties, went to Vietnam and was killed in action. Since the man we were talking with was the only surviving male in his family and working on the family farm, he was given a deferment. He farmed until about seven years ago when they retired, although he was still driving truck hauling grain from the farm to the elevator. We thanked him for his family's service and wished them luck. As we were getting ready to leave, a man in a suit walked by and was wearing a medallion, so I had to ask about it. The York High School had won the state's speech contest, he was the team's bus driver and they honored him at their banquet with the medallion. He was very proud, as he should have been. We talked about young people today and agreed that there are some terrific young people and our future is bright. I experience the same thing while working with college students at MSUM.

Last week, the League of Women Voters and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon hosted a legislative update at the Rourke Art Museum. MCAM recorded the event and it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Apo5n6Alg3Y>