

## **Veterans Day 2018**

Continuing with the events of WWI, on 4 November 1918 the Austrians requested an immediate armistice. The Italians were not ready to stop the invasion of Austria hoping they would be able to gain more territory. The Allies also wanted to have right of passage through Austria to attack Germany. The Austrians finally agreed to terms, however Emperor Charles stepped down as military commander so he would not have to sign the agreement. You will remember that Austria was the first country to invade neighbors after the assassination of the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand. On 9 November, Emperor Charles relinquished his right to govern. The Austrians followed by declaring themselves an independent Republic.

In late October and early November, several German sailors mutinied because they did not want to 'fight to their death'. The German fleet commander even turned his submarines and destroyers toward the mutinous vessels, threatening to sink them unless they surrendered. The sailors could see that Germany was already about to be overrun by the Allies. The Armistice, ending WWI was signed on 11 November, as we all know.

Fargo, Moorhead community events start out with a ceremony on the Veterans Bridge at 9AM. Next, there will be a parade from the train depot to the Fargo Civic Center at 10:45AM. A flag raising ceremony outside the Civic Center will be held at 11AM including a flyover by a vintage WW2 aircraft. A Veterans Day celebration follows inside the Civic Center. There will be a WW1 Commemoration at the Hjemkomst Center at 2PM followed by a Viet Nam War presentation at 3PM.

At our Moorhead American Legion, the tradition of serving free stew continues starting at 11:00 am until gone. The Great Plains Harmony Chorus will perform at 1:00pm and the Red River Valley Veterans Concert Band will perform at 3:00pm. The Vets Day Christmas Raffle drawing will be at 5:00pm with proceeds going to the Fergus Falls Veterans Home.

Our local Vietnam Veterans of American chapter 941 will participate in many color guard services at MSUM, local schools and Veterans Day activities. VVA 941 will also perform color guard services at the Menahga high school on Monday. The VVA does get around!

Veterans Day is a day to remember and honor those who served in our armed forces defending our Country and our Constitution upon which our freedoms are guaranteed. The following is a Facebook post of mine from last week: "I slept well last night and feel much better about the people of my country. The Jewish Temple in our winter town held a memorial service for those killed in Pittsburgh. Bev and I attended as did most of the Temple members and a large number of community residents. Yes, there was grief and sorrow, friends of ours who lived in Pittsburgh lost three close friends. What was amazing was there were no expressions of hate or fear. It was a community that came together to remember those killed. These people are what America is, not the fear mongering we see in political ads. Thank you, America."