

Veterans Day in New Orleans

My Sweetie Bev and I spent Veterans Day in New Orleans. As with most communities, there were parades, as only New Orleans can do them, speeches, and visits to the cemeteries. Many of the cemeteries in New Orleans are above ground because New Orleans was built on a swamp and is at or below sea level. We toured one of the oldest in the city on Veterans Day. While in New Orleans, I got a call from fellow Vietnam Veterans of America member Larry Nicholson asking if I would like to join him talking to the local Moorhead AARP chapter. Larry and I have done presentations to many high school classes and a few middle school classes and are always willing to do more. One week after Veterans Day, we gave our presentation on the Cold War (my part) and the Vietnam War (Larry's part) to a very receptive group of people. In the audience were two Vietnam-era Vets, one from the Korean War and one from WWII. After we left, I started thinking about our two local service clubs; the American Legion in Moorhead and VFW in Dilworth and did a little research. The Melvin E. Hearl American Legion Post 21 is located at 303 30 St N in Moorhead. The post is named after a man killed in action during WWI. Melvin Elmer Hearl was born on 16 November 1895, confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church Moorhead on 7 May 1911 and was killed in action on 3 November 1918. His body rests at Riverside Cemetery Moorhead. At one time Post 21 was located in the current Usher's building and the MSUM Vets Club held their meetings in the basement. The Albert E Johnson VFW Post 1223 at one time was in the current Buffalo Wild Wings building but are now at 1505 Center Ave W, Dilworth. The Post is named after Albert Emil Johnson, born on 3 October 1891 of Norwegian immigrant parents. He was inducted into the service on 27 June 1918 and died of wounds received in action on 1 November, 1918. The body rests at Riverside Cemetery Fargo, ND. The two Posts are open to the public, have restaurants, host gaming along with bingo and are very active in our community. Both Posts provide color guard details for funerals, parades and other special occasions. The Posts work together on several events each year. In October the two joined the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon to host fundraisers and will be presenting a checks for over \$2,500 to both the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls and the VA Hospital in Fargo. In December, the two Posts will host Christmas parties for our local National Guard units; one for Guard members and one for their children. Stop by the VFW on Saturday night for Trivia in the bar starting at 7:30. We've finished second once and third once. If trivia isn't your thing, check out Monday Night Pinochle at the Legion.

On Thanksgiving Day, we remember all of the things we are thankful for and I ask each of you to remember all of our Veterans and Service members and say thanks for your service to those in your circle of family and friends.

If you know of any Veteran in need of help, please have him or her contact our wonderful Clay County Veterans Service Office. A future article will be dedicated to that office.