

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Conference will be held Friday, 16 September 2016 at the Minnesota National Guard Armory, 1002 15 Ave N (1002 Bearcat Way), Moorhead from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. We will provide a day of presentations, information booths, and access to benefits for the Veterans of Clay and Cass County! Presentations and booths will address the following topics: VA Healthcare. VA Benefits Administration, including claims for disabilities, MN and ND Department of Veterans Affairs Programs, MN and ND State Veterans Homes/Nursing Home resources, MN and ND State Cemeteries and VA Death Benefits Grants and Financial Resources. A special commemoration recognizing our Vietnam Veterans will be held. Local Veterans Organizations will be represented and a free lunch will be served. For more information contact the Clay (218.299.5041) or Cass County (701.241.5756) Veterans Service Office.

I received a letter from the Red River Veterans for Peace with an offer to help an estimated 250,000 Vietnam-era Veterans who received less than honorable discharges. Many of the Veterans suffer from PTSD and with 'bad paper' are denied VA benefits. In 2014, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced guidance to military records boards to consider PTSD symptoms when considering veterans' discharge upgrade requests. Veterans with less than honorable discharges may want to contact the Red River Valley Veterans for Peace, PO Box 5612, Fargo, ND 58102 for assistance.

The VFW and American Legion has invited the six candidates for MN District 4 Senate and House races to a candidates' forum to be held at 7:00 pm 15 September at the VFW in Dilworth. The two main topics of the forum will be Veterans issues at the State level and Charitable Gaming related to all local gaming establishments. Time permitting, other topics may be discussed.

The website for the American Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday ([www.vssa.us](http://www.vssa.us)) is now on-line. We are conducting research on Clay county residents who served in WWI. We've also found documents about students from Moorhead Normal School (MSUM) going into the service and an article about how elementary and secondary students helped the war effort. The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County is helping with our project. In a somewhat related area, the Heritage Education Commission will be hosting its 41<sup>st</sup> annual family history workshop on 24 September at Horizon Middle School. Check the website ([www.heritageed.com](http://www.heritageed.com)) for more information.

My Sweetie, Bev and I will be driving the BN train at Bonanzaville on Saturday 27 August from 10:00 am until noon. Children of all ages are welcome to take a ride with us!