



**Independence Day 2016** My Sweetie, Bev and I spent much of the day at Bonanzaville, starting at 6:30 am helping with the Vietnam Veterans of America 5K/10K event. About 130 runners participated in the annual event. Following the run, we volunteered as engineer and conductor for the BN replica train, giving rides to kids of all ages. My granddaughter, Aria was the assistant engineer riding in the engine. At two and half years of age, she might be the youngest assistant engineer around!

**Bearcat Way** At 10:00 am, 6 August 2016, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead will be holding a special event at the Moorhead Armory. BTYR Moorhead received permission from the City to purchase and have installed ceremonial street signs, designating 15<sup>th</sup> Ave N from the river to 11<sup>th</sup> St as Bearcat Way to honor the Minnesota Guard units stationed in Moorhead. We will be holding a press conference with the unveiling of the sign at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave and 10<sup>th</sup> St North.

Speaking will be the Mayor Del Rae Williams, Col Benson will respond for the Guard. Also invited are Sen Kent Eken, Rep Paul Marquart, Rep Ben Lein, the city council, Clay county commission, Moorhead Public Service Commission, American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America and DAV. The Guard will be holding drill that weekend. Everyone is welcome to join us in honoring the Guard. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. The signs were purchased by BTYR Moorhead using Butch Anton Signs in Moorhead. City staff will install and cover the first sign at 15<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> on Friday, 5 August with the rest being installed the following week. Moorhead Public Service and Missouri River Energy Services are sponsors of this event.

As we were planning this event, we had wonderful cooperation from Moorhead city employees. Mayor Williams, Bob Zimmerman and the engineering department met with us, offered suggestions and have been very responsive and helpful. Moorhead business Butch Anton Signs designed and printed the signs for us, getting them done is less than a week. Yes, we support Moorhead businesses.

**Veterans Still Serving America – Legacy and Vision of Clay County** The American Legion was founded following WWI, held its first convention in 1919 in Minneapolis and will be holding its 100<sup>th</sup> convention in 2018 again in Minneapolis. The national organization is encouraging communities to hold special events in 2018 to honor the Legion, other veterans' organizations and Veterans. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead has assumed leadership in this project and is planning events for 2018. Future columns will provide updates on our planning.