Independence Day 2018

Again this 4th of July, the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 941 will sponsor their annual 5K/10K walk/run at Bonanzaville in West Fargo. Race day registration starts at 6:00 am with the race starting at 7:30. All runners and walkers are welcome and you can pre-register at vva941.org/VVARUN.html. You can continue to celebrate at Bonanzaville all day with food, rides, entertainment and, of course, a parade of old farm equipment. You can finish the day with Moorhead Business Association sponsored 5656 Ooh & Aah 4th of July celebration at MSUM's Nemzek Hall and Scheels Field, where you can enjoy food, entertainment and the biggest fireworks display in our area. The event is open to everyone and co-sponsored by many of our local businesses. Check out mhdmba.org for more information.

Over the past week or so, I've been exchanging comments with a Facebook friend about recent US treatment of Canada and the Canadian response. So I did a bit of research on our neighbors to the north.

I like asking the question "Does Canada have a 4th of July?" Of course, it occurs between the 3rd of July and the 5th of July! On 1 July Canada celebrates Canada Day, originally called Dominion Day. It was July 1, 1867, that the British North America Act united the British provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario into the Dominion of Canada. Other provinces were added later.

After the Northern U.S. states won the American Civil War, there was a big concern in British North America and London that the victorious Americans would take Canada, and much of the motivation for uniting the provinces was to have a stronger line of defense against the U.S. The name Canada wasn't established in 1867, however; it's derived from the Huron-Iroquois word "Kanata" meaning "village" or "settlement" and had been in use since the 16th century. The Confederation was originally to be named a kingdom of Canada until the British foreign office said, 'The Americans won't like a kingdom on their border, call it something else, or we're going to have bad relations with the Americans.'" Leonard Tilley, one of the Fathers of Confederation, was inspired to suggest the word 'dominion' by Psalm 72:8, which states that Jesus Christ "shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." The Latin version, "A Mari Usque Ad Mare" became the country's national motto. Canadians acquired increasing independence from Britain gradually. Full governmental independence would be achieved even later, via the Canada Act of 1982, in which the British Parliament transferred the power to change Canada's constitution to the Canadian Parliament. The Queen of England, however, retains her role as Queen of Canada. A few months after the 1982 law was passed, a bill changed the name of Dominion Day to Canada Day.