

On Memorial Day, as we have done for the past few years, Sweetie, Bev and I will be going to Riverside cemetery in north Moorhead to pay our respects to her father, a WWII Navy Veteran. American Legion Post 21 and VFW Post 1223 will hold a ceremony honoring our Veterans at 10:20. Russell Lake was born at Dry Lake, ND in 1918. He attended the University of North Dakota following high school majoring in Economics. On 12 December 1941, he and two buddies enlisted in the US Navy. He went to the Great Lakes Training Center for basic. Lake then was assigned to additional training in California, where he lived with his wife Jean Mastrud Lake. As an officer aboard an LST, he was in several combat engagements in the Pacific. He was honorably discharged 27 January 1946. They had four children, Jennifer, Beverly, Barbara and Russell. Jean passed away from cancer in 1962. He later married Esther Stine Kjonaas.. Lake passed away in 1995 and was buried at Riverside.

This past weekend, we had a celebration for Lake's 93 year old widow, Esther at Eventide on 8th street in Moorhead. Many family members were there to help celebrate Esther's mother's day. Two great grandsons along with their parents came from Duluth. Her two great grandsons are her pride and joy. One of the Eventide employees told me she brags about them often. Esther also told the employee that she could call Esther grandma, since both of the employee's grandmother have gone. Pastor Matt Valan stopped by and provided comfort and hope for his long-time parishioner, Esther. It was obvious to all that his visit meant a great deal to her. Thank you, Pastor Matt.

Also on Memorial weekend, we will be traveling to Bethesda Lutheran cemetery, west of Newfolden, MN to pay respect to my father and two brothers. My father served in WWI as an artilleryman and saw combat in France. My two brothers served in the Army during the 1950s. Also at Bethesda is my uncle Chester who served in the Army during WWII.

On 21 May, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, American Legion post 21 will join VFW post 1223 in holding a fund raiser for the WDAY Honor Flight. The event starts at 11:00 am with a silent auction and bake sale. Enjoy a BBQ with chips and beans while checking out the auction. The Auction ends at 3:00 pm. All proceeds will go toward the next Honor Flight.

I recently learned of a scam related to the VA Choice program. An imposter phone line has been established to 'mimic' the VA Choice line. The 'mimic' line offers callers a \$100 rebate if the caller provides a credit card number. The VA has reported the scam to the Office of Inspector General for investigation. The correct Choice phone number is 866.606.8198, the 'mimic' line is 800.606.8198. Beware of anyone asking for your social security number, credit card number or bank routing/account numbers.