

## **Vietnam Veterans' Day and Recognition and Ramblings**

On 1 April 2017, the Fargo AMVETS will be hosting a recognition of all Vietnam Veterans. Veterans are asked to bring memorabilia for a show and tell time from noon until 2:00 pm, A program with Master of Ceremonies Jerry Doyea will start at 1:30 pm, with Vietnam Veteran Russ Stabler as guest speaker. The ceremony will end with the POW/MIA table ceremony and firing squad. Karaoke with Jerry will start at 5:30 pm.

Recently Sweetie, Bev and I went to the 2017 Gate City Bank Young Artists Showcase Concert at MSUM. A good friend from MSUM was also there. Dave, an Army Veteran and retired MSUM faculty member and I have had many discussions on military life. That's the Veteran connection to this paragraph! Each year the FM Opera invites a few artists to become part of their company and to perform. The four singers and pianists were awesome. You will have a chance to see them on Saturday 1 April at 7:30 pm at the Rourke Art Museum.

On 13 April, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead will be holding it annual election meeting. We will elect officers for the next year. Veterans interested in our organization are welcome. We meet the second Thursday each month at the VFW in Dilworth.

As you know, I served as a Russian linguist and intelligence analyst while in the Air Force. With all the investigations into Russian involvement with our elections and the Trump administration, I've decided to update my Russian skills!

We also have good news and not so good news. I just finished our taxes and we owe the State of Minnesota more money. However, we are OK with the Feds, actually getting a small refund.

Other good news is that due to hard work, saving some money, having a couple retirement accounts and being lucky, we are able to purchase a 'winter home' in Arizona. We will be closing on the home on 13 April and plan on spending a week or so there before coming back for summer. Our backyard view is of the Santa Rita Mountains. Bev loves it. We will welcome visitors and will be able to recommend local motels. I've spent the last couple weeks telling committee I'm on that I am going off.

Writing a weekly column is not as easy as I expected it to be and I am in need of suggestions for topics to cover. Please send me an e-mail message with suggestions.