

## **Vote in Honor of a Veteran**



Recently a friend from VFW Post 1223 gave me a Vote in Honor of a Veteran button from the Minnesota Secretary of State's office. On their website I found "Our right to vote has been defended by the courage and sacrifice of the many brave men and women who served in our nation's armed forces. Anyone who has someone in their family or a friend in the armed forces understands the dedication and patriotism demonstrated by these men and women in defense of our freedom and liberty. Many Minnesotans have personal stories to share. These stories pay tribute to a veteran or an active-duty service

member. This office encourages you to read these tributes. Official Vote in Honor of a Veteran buttons are available free-of-charge. Personalize your three-inch button with the name of the veteran in whose honor you are voting." I personalized mine to honor all the Veterans in the Bakke family. We had members serving in WWI through those currently serving. My favorite great-niece, a special education teacher, is married to an active duty soldier. I really am proud of the service of both of them.

At our local candidate forums, you may have seen some of our Veterans wearing those buttons. Speaking of candidate forums, I want to express my appreciation to all of the candidates who attended our forums, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley. My thanks go out to our local residents who attended the forums, we had 140 at the Mayor and City Council forum, 56 at the House 4A and 4B, County Commission and Sheriff forums and over 40 at the Moorhead School Board forum. I've had the honor of moderating forums in Moorhead and in Fargo. The League is a fantastic group of volunteers whose primary goal is make sure our voters are educated and understand major public policy issues. The League is nonpartisan although several of the members do belong to political parties, but Democrat and Republican. As moderator, I know the questions asked come from the audience, not from the League. In North Dakota this year, some candidates boycotted the forums because they believed the forums were biased. I can assure you they were not. The forums are over for this year, so please do your duty and Vote.

This time of year, our Clay County Veterans Service office starts collecting warm clothing for our Veterans in need. If you have some unused warm clothing, please contact the VSO in north Moorhead and ask if they could use some more. It is a wonderful service the VSO provides for our less fortunate Veterans.

As you are reading this, Sweetie, Bev and I will be relaxing in southern Arizona. We expect to return to Moorhead in April 2019. It is more difficult finding column topics when we are away. If anyone out there would like me to address a topic or issue, please let me know.