



THE SCUTTLEBUTT

CARING FOR AMERICA'S HEROES SUMMER 2013

North Dakota Veterans Home

1600 Veterans Drive
Lisbon, ND 58054
701-683-6500

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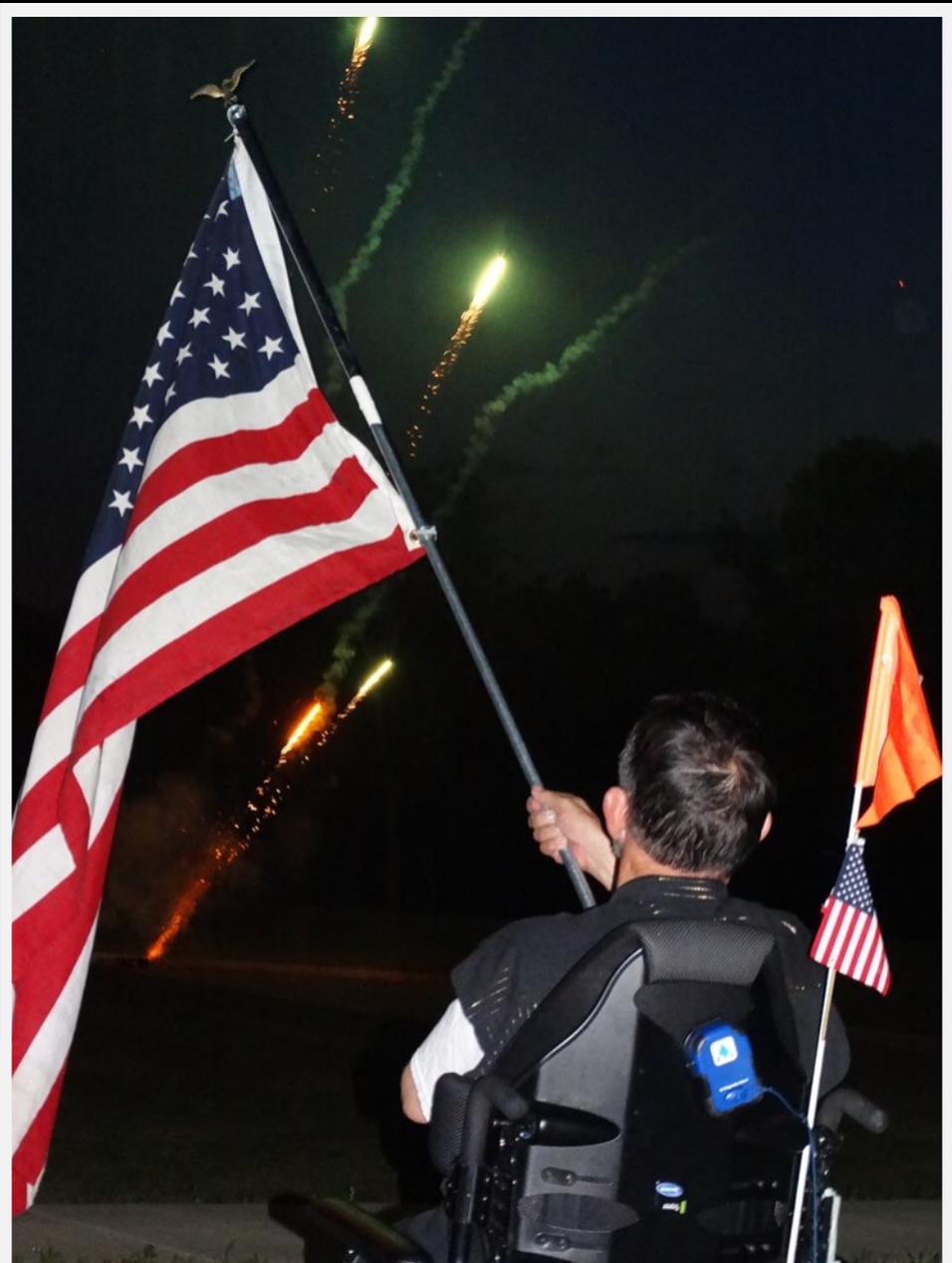
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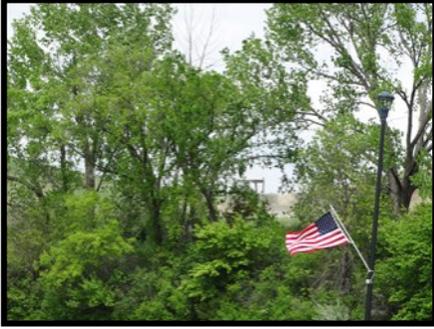
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And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?





Veterans Home receives landscaping face lift

By SSG Jill McGough, NDNG

The North Dakota Veterans Home received a landscaping face lift, recently.

Detachment 2, 815th Engineer Company completed their two weeks of Annual Training (June 1-15) at the ND Veteran's Home in Lisbon. The Veteran's Home provided the National Guard with three large projects to complete during their two weeks of training.

The first project was on the levee on the southwest side of the Vet's Home. The levee project included the removal of tree stumps, clearing of dead tree branches and logs, cutting and filling clay to raise and widen approximately 150 feet of the levee on the Veteran's Home side of the levee.

The second project was located on the far east side of the Veteran's Home. The National Guard was tasked to reclaim the hillside located on the far end of the property. The hillside project included digging out a pit to haul dead trees and branches to, utilize the clay from the hillside as fill on the levee, fill in the dump pit, smooth the hillside and build a road to give the neighbor farmer easier access to his land.

"They rebuilt our dikes after the damage from the 2010 flood," said Mark Johnson, administrator, NDVH. "They have added clay and put that area back in shape."

The third project was the oxbow project, located on the north side of the Veteran's Home. This project also consisted of stump removal and hauling dead trees and branches out of the area. After all the trees and stumps were removed, the National Guard utilized their equipment to cut and fill areas to assist with better water flow.

"Everything looks really nice," said Johnson.

With much rain at the beginning of the annual training period, the National Guard wasn't sure if they would be able to complete all three projects. Thankfully the weather cooperated their last week and they were able to finish on time."

"It's been a great project," said Johnson. "I feel fortunate to have them. They've done an outstanding job."



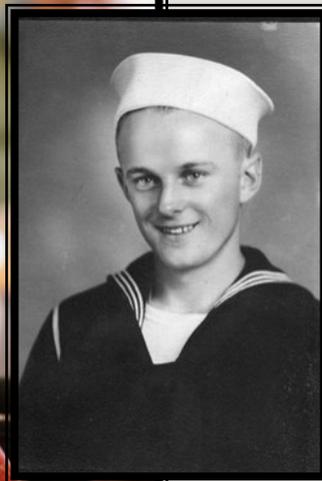
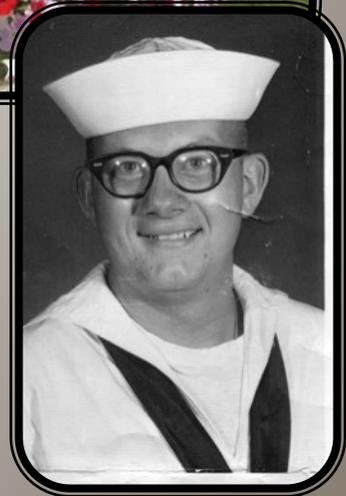
WHAT OUR RESIDENTS ARE SAYING:



“THIS PLACE IS THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA.”
ROBERT BERG



“THIS IS HOME. THIS IS WHERE I BELONG.”
KURT FITZNER



“I AM GLAD TO BE HERE AT THIS PLACE; IT IS QUITE AN HONOR.”
HARRY HAKANSON

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED



“I BLOOM WHEREVER I AM PLANTED.” A quote from Norma Jameson , resident and Army Veteran of World War II.

As I was compiling the pictures for this section of the newsletter I could not help but to think of Norma's words. Norma truly has bloomed at the North Dakota Veterans Home and so have many others...



Kurt Fitzner and Velma Martin have lent their talents to the outdoor patio. As you can see in the pictures, Kurt and Velma truly enjoy gardening. Resident and staff members are so appreciative of the time and care that our resident gardeners have put into the patio areas between the B and C pods. Brennen Stotts of Lisbon put 130 man hours into the raised garden beds in hopes to become an Eagle Scout. The North Dakota Veterans Home truly appreciates you all!



Thoughts by Connie



Thank you.

Two words we often neglect to say, or we say it so automatically that we neglect to reflect on how we say it and how it is received.

I have been here for six months and have recently celebrated a birthday. Both are good times to make a written, or at least a mental list of those things and people for whom we are thankful.

I am thankful first of all for my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Though I have often forgotten Him, He is always there for me and for you.

I am thankful for the soldiers and sailors who committed their lives so I can enjoy a country with its many freedoms.

These days of growing older, my world grows smaller and it prompts me to reflect on how I got to this point in my life and say, "How lucky am I". Like so many others my life was not planned; it just happened.

My almost three years in the Marine Corps came in the ending months of the Korean conflict. The twenty-eight years as the wife of a career marine were often difficult ones, as we moved many times. Now as I reflect on this, I realize how fortunate I was to live in different parts of our country. We experienced the accents and traditions of people from the north to the south, and we consider ourselves richer for it. Also, after retirement I enjoyed travel as I gathered and savored those experiences to enjoy again as memories for my "rocking chair" years.

Then the day came that I agreed with my doctor that it was time to look for a place to live where I would be near people and to have help if needed.

I had done fifteen years of volunteer work in nursing homes in and around the Twin Cities. None of them were places that appealed to me.

The decision was made to move back to my home state of North Dakota. I maintain that the hardest working, kindest people on earth live in North Dakota, and I am 100% correct.

From Wahpeton I heard about the Veterans Home. I consider myself so fortunate to be here where the staff is kind, considerate, and also fun. That same attitude permeates throughout the residents so I have enjoyed the friendships of many. Naming all these people would fill more pages than a book.

As you read this, no matter if you are staff or a resident please know you are appreciated, and I thank you for enhancing my life. You know who you are. From me to you, thank you and consider yourself hugged.

Connie Zangla

Pastoral Ponderings by Pastor John Anderson



I love my veterans! I am not a veteran myself; I often wish I were so I could relate to the residents on a deeper level. I am just thankful to spend time here at the North Dakota Veterans Home. It is my honor to be in your midst. Thank you all for your service to our beautiful country! Whether you loaded ammo in battle, drove a truck or tank, steered a ship, flew a plane, filed papers, cooked meals, fixed jeeps...it does not matter. You veterans went where you were sent and did what your country asked of you. Again, thank you!

I am not a veteran, but my dad was. I am very proud of him. He served in World War II. I enjoyed the stories he told me of his time in the Army. I think he trained in hot, humid Alabama. He told me of the 20 mile hikes in the heat with a heavy pack on his back, the pushups, sit-ups, and drills. He was a sharpshooter, and I have seen his medals to prove it. I still have the little tin box containing the mementos from his Army days: razor, small tobacco pipe, documents, postcards, letters to and from home in Walcott, ND, his sergeant stripes, and of course, his medals.

After Alabama, Dad shipped off to Japan. He told me he fell asleep on a bench at the Seattle train station. He awoke covered in dark soot from the old coal train. The Army discovered my dad's mechanical gifts and put him to work as soon as he stepped onto Japanese soil. He served in the motor pool there as chief mechanic. Broken down, battle worn Jeeps would limp into the shop, and he would overhaul the motors. Then he would send them back out into service, fresh and ready for work. I am proud of the work my dad did in the Army long ago. Thank you Dad!

It reminds me of our relationship with God. Sometimes we get battle-worn in our daily lives. Stress, grief, work, loneliness, fear... all of these factors can wear us out like an old Jeep. We are invited to turn to God. We limp into worship on Sundays, or Bible study, or private prayer time, or quiet reflection...however you commune with God. And, if we are receptive to healing and love, Christ overhauls our motors, or at least gives us a tune up. We are given fresh grace, hope and strength. And, God willing, we return to our lives with renewed faith. God is like the gifted mechanic my dad was. He is always on call to overhaul us, or do a simple tune up. It is my honor to help with any tune ups needed here among you veterans (staff and family too)! I love my veterans! Have I said thank you yet? Here it is again: Thank You Veterans!!



God Bless You All,

Pastor John

NDVH CHAPEL SERVICES

11:00 **Thursday Catholic Mass**

1:30 **Sunday Protestant Service**





♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪
The 188th Army
Band brought smiles
to the faces of NDVH
Residents!
♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪



DOWN
KNOW
HOW
TO
HAVE
FUN

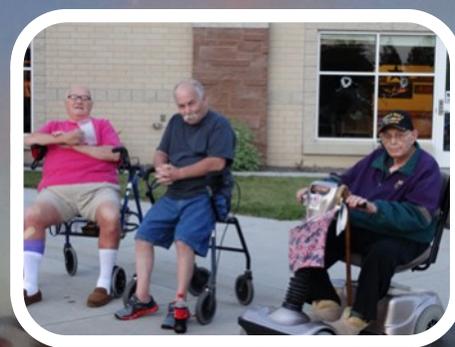


Dancing
to the
tunes of
**RAW
SUGAR**





The Veterans Home celebrated with a BANG on the **FOURTH OF JULY** thanks to pyrotechnic Kyle Moore.





Our Kulm Kids



Those of you who read our Winter 2013 issue may remember a story we wrote highlighting the Kulm First Graders. The First Grade Class of Mrs. Strobel saved all their pennies to buy the veterans new underwear. The veterans were so touched they decided to take a field trip in February to the Kulm school. Students and veterans bonded over books and technology. Each student was coined with a North Dakota Veterans Home coin. These kids will hold a special place in our hearts forever.



The residents of NDVH are read to by Mrs. Webb's 2nd grade students of Lisbon.

MOTHERS DAY TEA



Jackie



Alice and Mrs Naas



Mothers , grandmothers, and daughters shared memories of their mothers and special women in their lives. Pictured is Brenda Elijah and Resident Katherine Kingston sharing memories.



Vonnie, Velma and Vivian

First Field Trip in the new bus to Silver Prairie Saloon of McLeod

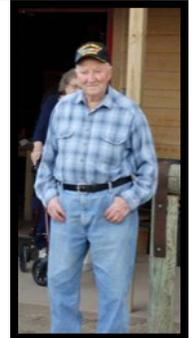


Now **McLeod** would make the Gladstone of my growing up days seem like a big metropolis, but what a place. The guy who owns the eating establishment embellishes in fun ways. Some of his tables are galvanized stock tanks turned upside down with legs put under them. Some of the chair legs are harness heins (well, that's not in my dictionary, but what I mean is the part of the harness that fits around the collar.) He has four huge scoria clinkers that are as good as any I have seen. When we are loaded back into the bus, the boss man comes aboard and thanks us for coming.

The food? Hey, have you ever had sweet potato fries? I had not, boy are they good. I had sirloin steak with my fries.

This weekend is their (McLeod) biggy. Many activities. Meals. A four hour bingo game. The main event is a trail ride that I am told involved over 400 horses last year.

But, the main reason for me to go is for the "scenic bus ride". Brenda just goes cross country, on gravel mostly. The crops look terrific; the corn is so high that from the height of the bus windows you just see over the tops. Wheat looks ready for harvest. Indeed two farmers were in the field. Really looked good. It's just a fun thing to do.



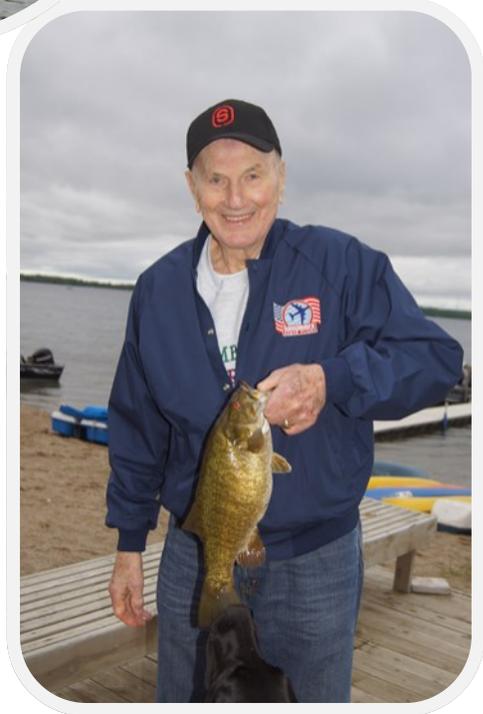
Sonny Johnson, Clayton Johnson and Don Schmit. Clayton is the owner of The Silver Prairie Saloon.

Wayne McKirdy





**ANNUAL FISHING TRIP TO
CORMORANT LAKE
IN MINNESOTA**





Thank you to the DAV for the tasty Picnic on June 13th. Thank you also for feeding the ND Guard members on campus.



DAV PICNIC



Garden Party



Thank you **Laurie Stenson** for hosting a Garden Party at your home in Enderlin for the 2nd year in a row! As you can see, all had a fabulous afternoon.



ENTERTAINMENT



Resident **Elroy Mogck** was instrumental in starting the Jamestown Chorales 59 years ago. What a joy it was to watch him perform with the group he created as they put on a concert at the North Dakota Veterans Home.



The Trailblazers performed a variety of songs.



Jamestown Chorale members pictured with resident Don Williams, center.



Irene and Arnie, entertainment at its best.



The Ambassadors from AFLBS, The Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis performed in July. They are pictured with Pastor Dennis Norby.

The Gazebo is open for Business



Resident Geri McMahon celebrated her 90th birthday in the Gazebo. Several family members, friends and fellow residents joined Geri for the celebration. The gazebo is available for groups to use for meetings and special events. Thank you to all who have given towards the Gazebo project.

To reserve the Gazebo contact Margi at 701-683-6502



To top off the 90th birthday celebration, Geri's great grandchild was baptized at the Veterans Home

Volunteers



*You
Are
Appreciated!*



If you are interested in volunteering at the Veterans Home please contact:

Brenda Elijah 683-6548 or Susie Schlecht 683-6540

We Appreciate our Staff Members!



Maintenance Men: How would we function without you?



Even Doneen and Amber need a break from Therapy!



Relay for Life: M*A*S*H Style



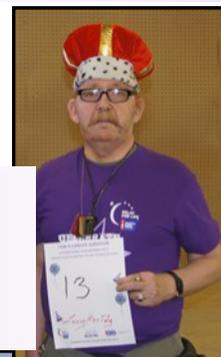
Lead by captains **Tracy Harland** and **Robin Bratile** the North Dakota Veterans Home M*A*S*H* Team raised over \$6000.00 for the American Cancer Society. Team members held bake sales, served hot lunch with homemade soup and buns as well as coordinated a variety of other events. Resident **Frenchy Lajesse** made numerous necklaces, bracelets, key chains, and lanyards which he sold to raise over \$3000.00. The Relay for Life event took place on Friday, June 7th at the Lisbon Expo Center. The NDVH MASH team won the coveted Spirit Award and was within the top 10 individual fundraising teams for the entire region. Way to go!!!!



Team Captain Tracy Harland prepares homemade buns in the Honor Hill Household



Administrator Mark Johnson is pictured with team captain Robin Bratile as they prepare to serve homemade soups and buns .



2012 Employee of the Year Dawn Lemieux

Dawn Lemieux was nominated by the residents and staff of North Dakota Veterans Home to be recognized as Employee of the Year at the 2013 State D.A.V. convention. She was born in Breckenridge, MN, and raised in the cities of Breckenridge, Fargo and Lisbon. Dawn joined the North Dakota Veterans Home team in 2001 as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She is married to Duane, mother of two children, Travis and Ben, and she loves playing with her grandchildren.

Dawn has been willing to step in and accept responsibility for any task or project she has been asked to complete, no matter how big or small. While the Clinical Care Partner was on medical leave, she took over completion of weekly care plans, assisting with doctor rounds, admission of new residents, and anything else that was asked of her. When Dawn starts a task, she doesn't just "pass it on" in report, she sees it through to completion and follows up on any questions that were left unanswered. There is no question of whether something will be taken care of when Dawn is working. Her supervisor states "I never need to follow behind her and make sure that she's completed her work or documented it properly. She keeps me informed of any new concerns, questions that have come up, and

problems that have been resolved; yet, works with no need for supervision. Her calls are always just an FYI, not an attempt to pass her work on to someone else."

Most recently, Dawn has stepped in and taken over the responsibility of doctor rounds on a routine basis. In only two weeks, she completely changed the manner in which these are conducted, making the whole process much more efficient, to include the referral of residents for specialty care which has commonly been a problem in the past.

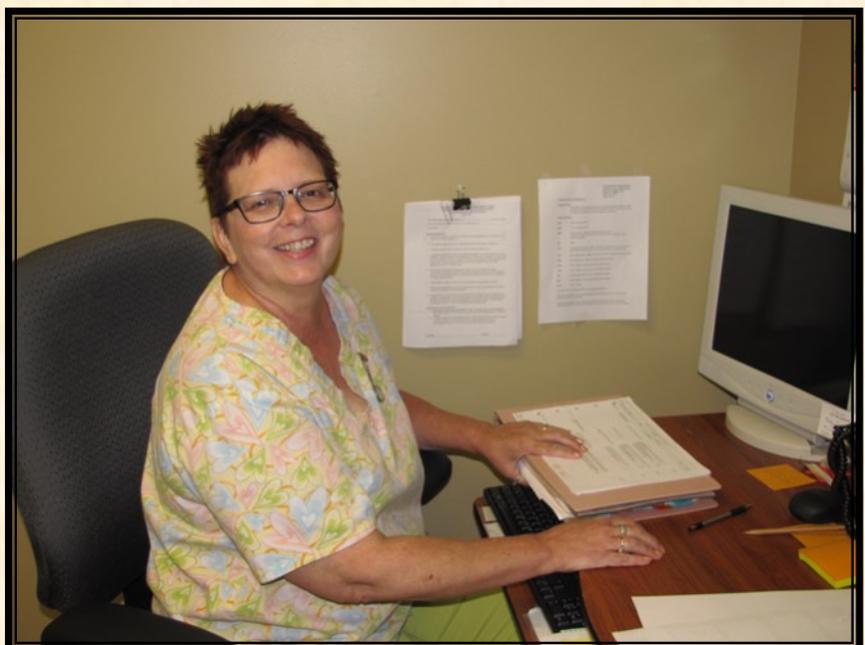
Dawn has never asked to be relieved of her other extra duties no matter how much additional work was asked of her. She continues to work with Infection Control and this too, is something she takes very seriously.

Dawn comes to work every day with a positive attitude and willingness to take on any challenge. If she has any complaints or concerns, she will share them with the appropriate supervisor, but never

with other staff or residents. Her work is ALWAYS completed in a thorough and efficient manner, demonstrating excellent time management skills, and she gives direction appropriately to CMT's and RLS's to ensure appropriate use of their time as well.

Dawn demonstrates excellent decision making and critical thinking skills within her scope of practice, always keeping members of the care team involved in changes necessary to the plan of care. She shows great respect for all residents and other staff by treating everyone the way she would like to see herself or her own family treated.

Dawn has demonstrated a huge amount of personal and professional growth since moving to the new building. She is now seeing change as an opportunity for learning and improvement in the care we provide and is eager to take on those challenges.



WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU?



West Fargo
VFW #7564



Zion Lutheran Women of Grand Rapids

AMVETS POST#9 of Bismarck



Rosemary Feck of Bismarck along with Supporting Our Troops of ND sent several totes of supplies. Dwight Pletau of Action Motor Sports, Mandan and friends Virgil Horst and Jim Klemia, both of UNVMC, delivered the goods.





Mayville American Legion #8 and VFW Post #4221



Hannaford American Legion #113 Bingo



Diane and Wally Halverson of Fargo donate a three-wheel bicycle.



The residents appreciate the VFW Auxiliary.

The American Legion Riders led by Gerald Puetz and Friends keep giving and giving.....



The residents truly appreciate the time the riders take to host bingo and create relationships with their fellow veterans.



Donations Continued

In memory of Don Wraalstad

Roxanne Lynnes of Grand Forks

Lois Schultz of Lisbon

Jeanne Speich of Lisbon

Paul Wraalstad of Fargo

In memory of Chaplain Adrian Kelly

Rudy & Carol Loperena of Lisbon

In memory of Ernie Fadness

Judy Kub Devitt of Lisbon

Chuck & Nancy Murphy of Fargo

Joann & Brian Ordahl of Kindred

Cass County Electric Members

In memory of Muriel Rufsvold

Miriam Rykken & John Schulz of St.

Paul, MN

We are so overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of those who have given of their time and talents to benefit the Veterans Home. Please realize how much your gift means to us and accept our apology if we neglected in sending you a thank you.

Many thanks to the dedicated staff of NDVH who give financially as well as offering their time and talents. You are all so appreciated.

Wish List

- I tune Cards
 - Calling cards
 - Lighters, matches
 - Tennis balls
 - Electric razors
 - XL-4XL Men's Clothing
 - Blank birthday, thank you and sympathy cards
 - Stamps
 - Watches
 - Clocks (big numbers)
 - Aftershave
 - Mouthwash (alcohol free)
 - Shoe polish (black and brown)
 - Shoelaces (black and brown)
 - Plastic soap dishes
 - Hair conditioner
 - Laundry soap
 - Dryer sheets
- ⇒ If you have specific items that you are looking to donate please contact us at 701-683-6500



Special thanks to **Larry Wagner** for sharing his home videos of local events and bringing in fresh produce from his garden.



"It is not what we have that will make us a great nation; it is the way in which we use it."

Theodore Roosevelt



Senator Heidi Heitkamp took time to tour of the new Veterans Home. Senator Heitkamp also held an informal forum where Veterans were able to ask questions.



Administrator Mark Johnson and Senator Heitkamp admire the MIA/POW table of honor.



Senator Heitkamp visits with WWII Veteran Leslie Gibson and his wife Arlene.



The North Dakota Veterans Home has a great family environment. We welcome families and friends to take part in all we have to offer.



Family





TAPS

Russell Kaler
Lynn Ptacek
Ernie Fadness
Muriel Rufsvold
Joe Hartinger

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? John 14:2



Dawn Lemieux , Basic Care Nurse treated residents with Carmel rolls in honor of her birthday. Dawn's grandchildren came to help serve rolls and juice. Thank you, Dawn!

WELCOME ABOARD NEW EMPLOYEES

Cherie Thomas, Skilled RLS

Sheila Avery, Basic RLS

Mackenzie Smith, Skilled RLS

Zach Peterson, Grounds

Isaac Peasley, Grounds

Caren Lau, Basic RLS

Justine Nieves, Household Coordinator

Lorrae Nieves, Skilled Kitchen help

Brianne Nelson, Pharmacy Tech

Lisa Anderson, Dietitian

Kaila Gruba, Skilled RLS

Miranda Lutt, LPN

Morgan Severson, Skilled RLS

Christi Shadow, LSW

Jenna Olerud, LPN



NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS HOME

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Hello!

If you prefer to view our newsletter in **COLOR** please visit our webpage at www.nd.gov/ndvh. Open The Scuttlebutt tab and choose the issue you wish to view. Please contact Susie at 701-683-6540 if you would like to view the newsletter on the web rather than receive a mailed copy. We will take you name off of the physical mailing list to cut back on our costs. THANK YOU!



Caring for America's Heroes

Scuttlebutt Staff:

Susie Schlecht, Editor

Julie Olson-Martin, Editor

Brenda Elijah, Photography

As well as many staff and residents



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