

I'm glad to see that many of you are on the right frequency and our lines of communication seem to be fine; apparently some of you actually read this column, as I had a good response to the last article about signing up for health benefits. Business is brisk and I like it that way. If you haven't yet, drop in and we'll fill out some paper work, you'll be no worse for wear and just maybe, the VA will shoot some benefits your way.

I do have a favor to ask, when you call and leave a message for me, please speak slowly and clearly, and include your phone number. I've had a couple of messages from folks and I cannot for the life of me, understand the names they left. I have even asked other county employees to listen to the answering machine messages, sometimes to no avail. So, if you have called me and I have not called you back, please call me again.

Don't drive anymore? Pretty sick? Car out of commission? Ever wonder how you're going to get to your VA doctor appointment in Fargo or Grafton? Well, here's some good news. The county helps fund a program called Senior Medical Travel; it's managed by the Roseau County Committee on Aging and its purpose is to offer medical transportation to senior citizens, disabled persons, and veterans in need. They use volunteer drivers, who are then reimbursed for their expenses. If you're a vet who needs some help getting to an appointment, call 463 - 3177 (Mon - Thurs) to arrange for a ride. AND, if you'd like to volunteer your time to drive some of our buddies, call Sandy or Gayle at the same number and give them your name. They're always in need of more drivers, and you'll have a chance to make a new friend.

For those who have lost a loved one who was a veteran, please keep reading. The VA administers the Presidential Memorial Certificate program. The Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans. It's available to any next of kin. There is no form to fill out, just send a letter requesting a certificate to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
5109 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

NOTE: You will need to enclose a copy of the death certificate AND the veteran's discharge paper(s). If you are unsure about the discharge papers, call me. 463-3308.

Speaking of calling me, please give me a call and suggest any topics you'd like to know more about in this column; I'm always looking for ideas.

It's always best to call and make an appointment, especially for the "satellite" locations, as sometimes there may be several folks waiting. An appointment will ensure that I'll be there for you and it will give me a chance to review/bring any records I have on you.

If you can't make it during any of these times, call me and we can work something out.

Over and out.