

Vets Views 20 Mar 2007

Congratulations to our area athletic teams and athletes! Wrestling, basketball, hockey, swimming; some fine youngsters have stood tall up here in the north country. Wonder if any of them will join the service?

If they go to college, you know what they will very likely find? Among other things, they'll find a very strong anti-military sentiment among their professors and peers. This is pretty true (if one is allowed to make a generalization...), on most campuses, and it is particularly true on the nation's most elite college campuses. The hypocrisy is overwhelming—the very institutions that should be encouraging freedom of thought and objective, intellectual growth, instead want students to conform to a “group think” that often discards the values that have shaped our country these past 250 years.

So, what's this mean? I don't know. But it makes me wonder who will fight for the Red, White and Blue in the coming ages? Things in this world aren't going to get any easier for us in the future, that's what I'm ah bettin'. To all of you who did serve, I say again, thank you.

If you have not received that blue form (VA form 10-10EZR) you fill out each year to keep your place in the line at VA health care, you'd better drop by and I can give you one to complete. The VA doesn't seem to be very good at sending these out to y'all each year, so just remember, they want one annually, and I've got some extras here. While I'm on this topic, I have mentioned before, and will again: If you signed up for VA medical benefits, and have not used them (that means, you've not gone for at least a health assessment at Fargo or Grafton) in over a couple of years, you might get kicked out of their system. That could be very bad if you've got more than about \$80,000 in income+assets.

Got your Support Our Troops license plates yet? Why not? Just go to the license bureau in Roseau, and get them. Thanks, tell them Sam sent you.

OK, now for the real important stuff. I'm taking a vacation. Going to be gone, out of office and out of cell phone coverage, from 29 Mar through 18 April. No, you don't want to know. But, if you really need immediate help, have any burning questions, any pressing issues that arise, or just want to talk to someone, the great Veterans Service Officers of Lake of the Woods (Rick Rone) and Pennington (Steve Stone) Counties, have volunteered to help out. So, here's Rick's number: 877-634-7376, and here's Steve's: 218-683-7034.

Last thing—any veterans out there who have not joined the VFW or the American Legion, you might want to think about doing so. Good organizations doing great things for veterans, community, and nation. They could use your help.

Over and Out!