

Vets Views 1 May 07

So, you wanna hear about my trip? Call and make an appointment, or get in line! Yes, I was gone, on vacation they call it, and we had a great time--in Italy. Then I came back and found that I had 3 days of VA training in Mahanomen the next week (have to get periodic training to keep certified, usually 3 times a year, fall, winter, and spring, plus tests, but you don't want to hear about that, do you?). And, yes, I passed the tests, a surprise to many. So, if anyone noticed my absence, I am sorry. For the record, if I'm going to be out of the office for a few days, I normally put it out on the two local radio stations.

What's happening? War in Europe ended 67 years ago, give or take a few days (8 May 1945).

Hey! Are you planning to buy a house soon? Are you an OIF/OEF vet coming home to get a fresh start? Keep reading.

Here's some great info about house loans. The Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation (MMCDC—look it up on the net), provides affordable loans for home purchase and home repair for low to moderate income individuals/families throughout Minnesota. They offer a combination of low-interest loan products and down payment assistance. They have an experienced staff to help you determine a maximum loan amount and can offer tips on credit repair for those who have difficulty qualifying for a loan. AND, they offer great rates, currently around 5.875%. If you think you want to buy a house, I'd suggest you call Kathy Misson or Karen Larson at 218-847-3191.

If you are an OIF/OEF returnee come see me now! Or if you know of one coming home soon, one of the best things you can do is to point them in my direction, know what I mean, Vern? There are going to be some serious adjustment challenges for returnees and the VA is ready to help. Plus, if returnees sign up within 90 days of coming home, they can get a dental exam/treatment from the VA. Returnees will have 2 years of VA medical treatment (some free, some co-pay, depending upon the situations), starting from their separation date.

After 2 years, you'll have to re-sign up for VA health benefits and again, you'll either get free medical treatment, or co-pay medical care. Either way, it's a heck of a deal. If you return, and you don't sign up within 2 years, you might not be able to get into the VA health care system at all, so please, put the word out to your friends and buddies, who are serving or have served, in the OIF/OEF combat zone.

Reminder, my office hours normally are: **Tuesday 8-4:30, Wednesday 8-12:00, then 1:00 at Greenbush Library, and 2:00 at Badger City Hall. Thursday 8-12:00, and Friday 8-12:00, then 1:00 at Warroad Legion.**

If you really want/need to see me, **CALL ME** and make an appointment (if get the answering machine, be sure to leave a number where I can call you back). If we can't meet up during office hours, we can meet on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday; I can work that out with some notice.

By the way, I still have 1 message on my answering machine from a month ago, the veteran did not leave a number and his name is not understandable, so if that's you who called, and I have not called you back, please call again!

The only reason I have this job is to help veterans.

Over and out!