

Vets Views 22 May 07

Now hear this!!

The dedication of the Minnesota World War II Memorial will take place on Saturday, 9 June 2007. The event, held on the grounds of the State Capitol, will run from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. The event is FREE for everyone! There will be approximately 3000 free parking spaces at the Capitol complex, and another 3,000 at the State Fair grounds (free shuttle service every 15 minutes).

All WW II veterans attending this event will have to register. There is a registration form available on-line (www.mndva.state.mn.us), and registration can also be done at the event. If you want me to, I can print off the registration forms and help you with them. Why register? Because you will then receive a copy of the group photo and a commemorative medallion minted and donated by Jostens. If all goes as planned, registered WW II veterans may even receive some transportation re-imbusement, but that is not set in stone yet, so don't hold me to it.

Here's the tentative list of events:

- Capitol Building Events: Static displays about the home front including legislation, information on the draft, labor shortages, rationing, black outs, civil defense, biographies of soldiers, and interviews of WW II veterans by the historical society.
- Front Lawn of the Capitol: Period re-enactors, cantinas, military vehicles, equipment and other exhibits.
- Red Cross Bloodmobile.
- 10:00 am – 1:00 pm: Registration of WW II veterans who did not pre-register.
- Roll call of Minnesota's WW II casualties by the monument.
- Big tent: Newsreels, networking, food, socializing.
- WWII era singers and orchestra perform popular period songs.
- 1:00 pm: Group picture of MN WW II veterans on the front steps of the capitol.
- 2:00 pm: Fly-over of WW II aircraft.
- 2:01 pm: Dedication Program starts and includes color guard, speakers, music, and the dedication of the monument. The one hour program ends with a 21 gun salute and Taps.

I encourage family members and friends of WW II veterans to step-up to the plate on this one; drive mom or dad, grandpa or grandma, auntie or uncle, or your buddy, down to this once in a lifetime event.

A bus has been chartered and will be shared by Lake of the Woods and Roseau County WW II veterans. There should be 20-22 free seats reserved (half the bus) for Roseau County. The local veteran's organizations have really helped out with the costs of this. The bus would leave at about 5:30 am on the 9th and it would return around 10:30 pm, same day. (Yes, a very long adventure, but you can sleep on way down and back.) Call me if you want to go, and I'll print out a registration form for you, too. If we don't get enough WW II veterans who want to go, we will make it available to other veterans. So, call me if you have any interest in going. **463-3308**.

Breaking news!! I have just received word from the state that any WW II veterans who drive (or are transported by family) their own vehicles to the dedication event, will be reimbursed at \$.485 per mile. The veteran must register at the event, and then must submit a reimbursement voucher (I have them at my office) by not later than 30 June.

New subject: Here's a good piece of info, so cut it out and post it on the fridge! Where do you stay if you have an appointment in Fargo that requires you to remain overnight? Thanks to Keith, a local Iraq veteran, here's an option: The Fargo Econo Lodge, 701-232-3412. If you show them your appointment letter, a room will cost only \$34.99.

This month is not only National Military Appreciation Month (and to all who served, I want to say thank you for your service); but also it is Older Americans Month, so to all you older Americans and veterans--a special thanks for serving our country as you did!

Now, get down to the License Bureau, and get those Support Our Troops license plates!

Over and Out!