

So, ya'll got through the holidays ok? It was sad for many, seems we had our share of veteran's pass away last month. That's a down side to this job, you get to meet some great folks, and then you have to say goodbye to them as well.

Once more on subject of VA health care, I'll say this:

1. If you are a veteran, who served on active duty, and you have not come in and enrolled in the VA health care system, please do so soon. You may or may not qualify for immediate health care, but at least, if Congress should change the current policies, you *might* be grandfathered! So, cover your bets. Call me or come in and see me!
2. If you are an "in-country" Vietnam veteran (boots on ground, no matter for how long or in the coastal waters nearby) call me or come and see me! There's a very good chance you will immediately qualify for VA health care. Pass on the word to others.

Have you heard of Project Hero? Well, you're about to, and it's not what you might think. Keep reading. The Department of Veterans Affairs health networks in this part of the country will be entering into a pilot program/contract to arrange for services for veterans from non-VA providers in the community. This pilot project is called Project HERO (Healthcare Effectiveness through Resource Optimization). Don't blame me; I didn't think this up... There were two contracts awarded for these services:

1. HUMANA Veterans Healthcare was awarded the contract for medical/surgical, mental health, dialysis and diagnostics.
2. DELTA Dental was awarded the contract for dental services.

The plan calls for the contractors to have services available very soon. I don't know how all this will play out, but probably y'all should expect you will be referred to some local medical clinics in Fargo or maybe other cities, too. As more info becomes available, I'll pass it on.

Say, how about Jim S.? I heard he bought a new wide-screen TV and donated it to the Roseau Legion Club. I imagine he wants to keep it quiet, so don't tell anyone. Pretty nice thing to do. I can tell ya this

though, on the ice he ain't nearly so nice—if he gets close to the net, it's in there!

Got your Support Our Troops license plates yet? Planning to get them this year? How about ideas for articles? Anything on your mind that you'd like me to fill you in on? Call me at 463-3308; leave a message if I don't answer. Happy New Year!

Over and Out