



NORTH DAKOTA GUARDIAN

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On the Cover



Members of the North Dakota Military Funeral Honors' rifle volley practice Sep. 16 and the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan, North Dakota.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters

VIEW FROM THE TOP

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

ACKNOWLEDGING SERVICE & SACRIFICE



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk

North Dakota Adjutant General

November is an exceptional month. We are provided an opportunity to give thanks for all the people and things in our lives and we take time to thank the men and women who have fought throughout history to preserve our way of life.

Over the past couple months, we have honored and celebrated our veterans. In October, we commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of WWII with a celebration, followed by the observance of Veterans Day Nov. 11.

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to call our Soldiers and Airmen to deploy, we are ever thankful that we have the support of our state and our nation.

Our returning Soldiers and Airmen have been fortunate enough have been honored time and again. We have been sent off with great fanfare and warmly welcomed home by our communities. We participate in appreciation days and enjoy discounts from local businesses. Total strangers shake our hands, thank us for our service and extend appreciation for our sacrifices.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case for our brothers and sister returning from all wars. Many Americans shamefully turned their backs on those that returned home from service during the Vietnam War years. As these men and women served on land, in the air and at sea, our nation was tearing itself apart with anti-war protests, and every night the evening news was filled with violent acts of protests while Americans were in harm's way.

There are many accounts of service members of that era shedding their uniforms when they returned to American soil, completing their journey home in civilian clothes because of the ungrateful receptions at the airports and on the streets.

We all know there was no excuse for the treatment that these brave Americans endured who answered their nation's call to arms.

As we are out and about this month, and quite literally always, as we are being thanked for our service, take the time to thank those who have served before you. Look to your left and right and thank your fellow service members. We are not hard to find – 57,000 service members call North Dakota “home.” That’s 1 in 11 people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the families and employers for their service and support for their Soldiers and Airmen. Our families make the greatest sacrifice when their loved one serves away from home. During that time, it is the family that has to pick up the responsibilities for the deployed service member. It is not a task that is easy, but our families have done an excellent job.

Most importantly I thank you, the Soldiers and Airmen, for everything that you have done. I thank you for your service and for your sacrifice. I thank you for volunteering to be a vital member of our nation's defense as we defend the freedom that we so much enjoy, as we fight for the future of this great country and as we assist our fellow citizens when they are in need. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Sprynczynatyk".



Photo by Spc. Brandi Schmidt, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

WWII service uniforms are displayed at a celebration event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of WWII held Oct. 10 at the WWII Memorial Building in Bismarck, North Dakota.



AN TO HONOR

WAR VETERANS HONORED WITH TRIP TO NATIONAL CAPITOL

*By Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
119th Wing*

Repaying a debt to veterans who served in World War II and wars that followed is a tall task, but a trip to our nation's capitol to view the memorials dedicated to those veterans is a good way to start. The WDAY Honor Flight aims to do just that.

Current and retired Happy Hooligans volunteered to make sure veterans had an enjoyable experience during an October 18 through 19 honor flight from Hector International Airport, Fargo, North Dakota to Washington D.C. and back.

The charter flight and over-night hotel stay was hosted by the WDAY radio and television network and staffed by a number of volunteers, who paid their own way to make sure the veterans were well taken care of. One of those volunteers

(Opposite page) Doug Moderow, a honor flight volunteer pushes a veteran in a wheelchair as they return to Hector International Airport, Fargo, North Dakota, upon completion of a trip to Washington D.C. to view the war memorials Oct. 19, 2015. The path from the boarding gate is lined with military support organizations and well-wishers who positioned themselves to greet and cheer for the returning veterans. An estimated 300 people gathered at the Hector International Airport terminal to show their support for the U.S. war veterans of WWII and the Korean conflict. The honor flight trips are done to recognize the contribution and sacrifice the veterans made for their country by providing them with an all-expense paid trip to the United States capitol to view the memorials created to honor them.

was Senior Master Sgt. Susan Schroeder, of the 119th Communications Flight.

Schroeder and her sisters, retired Lt. Col. Diane Moderow, of the 119th Medical Group, and Lori Ishaug were active in the planning and fund raising efforts leading up to the early Sunday morning departure.

Moderow is a registered nurse that works at the Fargo Veteran's Administration Hospital who put her skills to use by providing medical assistance for the veterans on the honor flight.

Lori Ishaug was the 'blue team' bus leader, which was one of the three groups of veterans that were divided when they arrived.

Schroeder was one of about 10 volunteers making the trip who were responsible for watching out for veterans who were not traveling with a family member, guardian or escort.

The sisters helped with several fund raisers to cover the costs for the veterans including, a silent auction at the American Legion, T-shirt sales, and a bowling fundraiser.

While the airline ticket, the hotel and the meals were all provided at no cost for the veterans, the volunteers paid their own

expenses.

It was a special flight for Schroeder and her sisters because their father, Korean War veteran and retired Happy Hooligan, Master Sgt. Delyle Ishaug, was one of the veterans going on the flight.

Ishaug served two years in the Army during the Korean War and went on to serve 32 more years in the North Dakota Air National Guard before he retired as a Master Sergeant.

"It was very enjoyable to see all of the memorials, and I was really proud of my daughters for volunteering," said Ishaug, as he redirects any recognition from himself to his daughters — a common tactic for many of the humble veterans.

Approximately 800 World War II veterans were honored with free flights to Washington D.C. in 2007 and 2008. The flights have just recently begun again and added the Korean War veterans to be eligible to participate. Any terminally ill veteran is also eligible for the honor flights. There is a waiting list for veterans to participate.

The activities in Washington D.C. started

with a stop at Arlington National Cemetery and a viewing of the changing of the guard. Then on to the Iwo Jima memorial, and the Vietnam and Korean War memorials before heading to the hotel to check in and prepare for an evening banquet honoring the veterans.

"We were extremely busy! We barely had enough time to catch our breath from the moment we landed in D.C.," said Schroeder.

Monday morning began with a unique, private viewing of the original Declaration of Independence at the National Archives, and then continued on to the World War II Memorial where they took a group photo.

They finished up with a driving tour, including the White House and the Capitol before boarding the return flight to Fargo.

"The veterans were so thankful, it made the whole trip very rewarding for all of the

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing

(Below) From left to right, Senior Master Sgt. Susan Schroeder, of the 119th Communications Flight, annotates sizes for honor flight jackets for escort Steve Odegard and his father, veteran Raymond Odegard, at a WDAY Honor Flight preparation meeting at the Biltmore Hotel, Fargo, North Dakota, Sep. 27, 2015.





Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp, 119th Wing

(Above) Senior Master Sgt. Susan Schroeder, of the 119th Communications Flight, right, poses with her father, Korean War veteran and retired Master Sgt. Delyle Ishaug, and her sisters, retired Lt. Col. Diane Moderow, of the 119th Medical Group, far left, and Lori Ishaug during a WDAY Honor Flight meeting Sep. 27 at the Biltmore Hotel in Fargo, North Dakota. Delyle is one of the veterans who was honored with an all-expenses paid trip from Fargo to Washington D.C. to visit the war memorials on the honor flight. He retired from the North Dakota Air National Guard after serving 32 years in the organization. Schroeder was a volunteer worker on the trip, Moderow is a registered nurse at the Fargo Veteran's Administration Hospital, who will be providing medical assistance on the trip and Lori Ishaug will be a bus team leader for the veterans on the trip.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Susan Schroeder, 119th Wing

(Left) A pair of WWII veterans from different states meet at the Washington D.C. WWII memorial during their respective honor flight trips Oct. 18, 2015, and find they both served in the 94th Infantry Division in Europe. Albert "Al" V. Bauder, of West Fargo, North Dakota, in wheel chair, discovers his 94th Infantry mate by the patch on his sleeve. The honor flight trips are done to recognize the contribution and sacrifice the veterans made for their country by providing them with an all-expense paid trip to the United States capitol to view the memorials created to honor them.

volunteers helping out," added Schroeder.

Several other Honor Flight volunteers had Happy Hooligans ties, including current member Master Sgt. Jason McSparron, who volunteered as a member of the fund raising committee and went on the flight as a volunteer.

"It was a remarkable experience and an emotional roller-coaster," said McSparron.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Reitan, who currently works at the Veteran's Administration Hospital, and her son Airman 1st Class Nathan Reitan, a current member of the 119th Wing, were on hand to assist veterans at their departure and return to Hector International Airport.

Capt. Paul Dosch, of the 119th Force Support Squadron, is a Boy Scout troop leader, who brought his group out spontaneously when he and a scout master discussed the homecoming event at their Monday night meeting.

"We wanted to show the boys a patriotic event, and they had such a great experience welcoming the veterans back," said Dosch.

Tech. Sgt. Mandi Hagen, of the 119th Operations Group, noticed the homecoming event on facebook.com and decided to attend.

"I just felt like I should go out and show my support, and I was so glad I did, because it was wonderful to see the veterans and their reaction to the large crowd cheering for them at the airport," said Hagen.

"I've been on 5 flights now...and it never ceases to amaze me how generous and humble these veterans are. They're so appreciative of the support from our community and have a hard time comprehending the thanks and adulation they receive. I think that's the most fun part. Seeing the smiles and tears of these wonderful men and women when they realize that they have made a difference and that future generations are grateful," said Tracy Briggs, a WDAY Honor Flight committee member and Marketing/Media coordinator. ■



Photos by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Baardson, 119th Wing

(Above) An estimated 300 people gather at the Hector International Airport terminal to cheer and greet U.S. war veterans of WWII and the Korean conflict Oct. 19, 2015, as they return from Washington D.C. (Left) Veteran Raymond Odegard, a U.S. Army WWII veteran, is escorted by his son Steve Odegard as they descend on the escalator stairs at Hector International Airport, Fargo, North Dakota, upon their return from Washington D.C. on a trip to view the U.S. Military war memorials on the WDAY Honor Flight Oct. 18 and 19, 2015. Approximately 300 people gathered at the airport to welcome the veterans home from the trip.

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

By Sgt. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment



According to the U.S. Department of Defense, “the rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the nation’s deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful nation can provide to the veteran’s family.”

The North Dakota Military Funeral Honors (MFH) Program members keep this in mind while planning and executing their missions throughout the state. The 12 full-time staff members and more than 50 traditional Guard team members aim to conduct themselves as disciplined, dedicated professionals at all times in order to pay tribute to all those who have served.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

North Dakota’s Military Funeral Honors Program began in October 2006 and consists of four regional teams throughout the state.

“I was excited about the new program,” said Janette Fetch, who has served as the North Dakota Military Funeral Honors state coordinator since the program’s inception. Fetch, who is a retired member of the N.D. Army National Guard, was a member of the Honor Guard during her career as a Soldier.

“The new structured program provides an Honor Guard handbook, regular training opportunities for members to become more proficient in their roles and the opportunity to become a certified instructor through the Army National Guard Honor Guard course.”

The N.D. MFH Program has performed about 8,500 funerals since the program started, averaging roughly 1,175 funeral missions per year. The MFH regional teams provide honors for over 80 percent of all veteran funerals in the state.

Fetch said, that because of the frequency of the team’s missions, the program aims to train all team members to the Honor Guard’s standard and to instill confidence. Monthly training is offered to all members, in addition to 3-day training, a regional 40-hour course and an 80-hour Military Funeral Honors course conducted by a certified Old Guard instructor. Funeral detail members also are required to arrive 45-60 minutes

prior to the start of any mission to practice and conduct reconnaissance of the area.

“Every movement, including each and every step we take, is tediously planned and executed because every funeral needs to be identical,” said Staff Sgt. Matt Walstad, the Military Funeral Honors Program western area coordinator and master trainer. “Everything we do during a funeral means something and is done a specific way for a reason. From the number of steps we take to the time it takes to salute and complete a flag fold – everything has a meaning that comes from traditions from generations before us.”

RECEIVING HONORS

The U.S. Department of Defense has deemed that service members are eligible to receive military funeral honors if they are military members who died while on active duty or in the selected reserve; if they are former military members who served on active duty or in the selected reserve and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions; or if they are former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the selected reserve and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Military Funeral Honors team member Sgt. Mark Kubat (photographed as a specialist) presents the flag during a ceremony Sep. 28 for Pvt. Valentine Schneider, a WWI soldier who was killed in action in France exactly 97 years prior to receiving funeral honors at his gravesite in Rugby, North Dakota.

“Military Funeral Honors became a statutory benefit to all veterans with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act,” said Fetch. “Prior to the law, military honors were provided by the military services as resources allowed.”

Fetch said that, at minimum, a Military Funeral Honors detail consists of two members of the Armed Forces, in addition to a bugler, if available. One of the uniformed military members should be a representative of the parent service when possible.

By law, the detail also is required to present the three core elements of a funeral honors ceremony: the playing of Taps, flag folding and presentation of the flag. Additional elements that may be provided include rifle detail, color guard, pallbearers and caisson.

Although the N.D. MFH Program is staffed mostly by Guardsmen, Military Funeral Honors benefits are not limited to Guard members.

“A common misconception is that the National Guard will only do funerals for Army veterans,” said Walstad. “Our mission is to, now and always, provide the highest level of military funeral honors to any and all veterans, a mission that we take seriously.”

THE HONOR GUARD

Any member of the Army or Air National Guard can become a member of the N.D. MFH Program as long as that person is in good standing with his or her unit, meets height and weight standards and maintains a valid state vehicle operator license.

“We are a prestigious unit and we exemplify integrity, respect, honor and selfless service,” said Fetch. “We are proud of our mission. It demands the utmost professionalism from every member and it provides an opportunity to give back to those veterans that have served our country and were instrumental in (creating) our freedom that we all enjoy today.”

Walstad said that, since joining the Honor Guard in 2006, he has relished the opportunities to train and mentor fellow N.D. Guardsmen in his position, but his greatest satisfaction has been honoring those who have served in various capacities while ensuring their sacrifice is not forgotten.

“Honoring those who served means recognizing and paying respect to veterans who, during their lifetime, sacrificed for the good of others,” he said. “Not everyone who has worn a uniform engaged in armed combat, but everyone who has ever worn a uniform has sacrificed something for a cause greater than themselves.” ■

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters



Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Feliciano provides commands for the firing party members, from left, Spc. Derrek Heins, Sgt. Christopher Senff and Sgt Christopher Eppler, during the the Military Funeral Honors' rifle volley practice Sep. 16 and the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan, North Dakota.



Should I Stay?

Extended National Guard Service Can Offer Stability, Financial Relief During 'Golden Years' of Retirement

Story by Staff Sgt. Eric W. Jensen, Joint Force Headquarters

Author's Note: North Dakota National Guard recruiters continue to promote an array of benefits and incentives to entice new enlistees into the organization. In this second installment of a three-part recruiting and retention series, we explore some of the job skills, education benefits and military training applicable to civilian employment being offered to those with an interest in serving their communities, state and nation.

Over the course of this past fiscal year, nearly 500 Soldiers and 80 Airmen left the North Dakota National Guard, all with varying reasons for departing the organization. Although a percentage of that number can be attributed to retirements — those with 20 or more years of service — many walk out the door after their initial enlistment contracts have transpired. When those Guardsmen leave, they take with them valuable skills, knowledge and experience gained from attending professional military education courses, serving overseas or responding to statewide emergencies.

In addition to bolstering recruiting numbers, retaining experienced military members for the nation's defense is a service-wide priority. To keep more of its Soldiers in boots for the long haul, the N.D. Army National Guard, too, is adopting a new game plan. In December, the organization's Recruiting and

Retention Battalion is rolling out a new series of educational presentations — called Guard Your Future — to explain the benefits of longer enlistments to Guardsmen who might be looking toward the exit door. The events will be held quarterly and will bring together Soldiers approaching their expiration-term of service, or ETS, dates with subject matter experts who will discuss the available incentives, bonuses and programs associated with extended enlistments and military retirements. And, right now, there are many good reasons to stay in the National Guard.

Guarding Your Future

Maj. Dan Murphy, the N.D. Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion executive officer, said a select number of states across the country are running programs similar

to Guard Your Future, and have seen promising results.

“The other states that are doing these programs are seeing about a 50 percent retention rate from the Soldiers who attend the events. Guard Your Future is an opportunity for the N.D. National Guard to communicate one-on-one with Soldiers who may be considering leaving,” he said.

And one of the reasons they might be leaving, Murphy said, in part, is because some Soldiers have not yet discovered what benefits are available to them. Guardsmen can qualify for these incentives through extensions or reaching the 20-years benchmark of traditional Guard service, an achievement that allows them to receive retirement payments at age 60. Even if it's not retirement Guard Your Future attendees are interested in, presenters will offer even more topics for consideration, including information about commissioning opportunities, full-time Guard employment openings, military occupational skill openings and even fitness and nutrition classes for those concerned about continuing to pass their Army Physical Fitness Tests.

“We are going to every length possible to retain Soldiers in the N.D. Army National Guard,” Murphy said.

'Golden Years' Ahead

Most importantly, though, the program allows National Guard members to mull over their future options before stepping out of the organization's ranks. Take it from retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job. His military career eclipsed two years ago when he bid farewell to the N.D. Army National Guard after more than 40 years of service. Today, he still works full-time in his civilian profession as the facilities director for Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck. He said his Guard service and civilian employment have complemented each other over the years and the military has provided stability for him and his family at various stages of his career.

“When I look at the military side of my career, (the N.D. Army National Guard has) an excellent professional development system. When you look at the different types of leadership training, the various positions you can be placed

in, it really takes you out of your comfort zone and forces you to do something different and you're a much better person at the end,” Job said. “I firmly believe that if it hadn't been for my military experience, I would not be where I am in my civilian career.”

In addition to his professional development, Job now is seeing dividends from his years of service in the form of a monthly retirement check. But, he said one of the most valuable incentives he now receives is the TRICARE benefit.

Those who have retired with 20 or more years of service — both in the Army and Air Guard — are eligible for the healthcare incentive, and its value is enormous during the “golden years” of retirement.

“There're a lot of people my age that can't retire from their civilian careers because they cannot afford medical insurance,” Job said. “Where I'm at, it would be \$1,050 (per month) for a family plan — for me and my spouse — if I had to pay the premium (for a healthcare plan)



Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, presents Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Job the N.D. National Guard Distinguished Service Medal Feb. 9, 2013, as Job's wife, Claudette, looks on during his retirement ceremony at Raymond J. Bohn Armory in Bismarck, North Dakota. Job retired after more than 40 years of service in the National Guard.

out of my pocket if I was to retire today and I didn't have the Guard incentives. Now, outside of deductibles and co-pays, that thousand bucks is pretty much diminished."

Upon turning 60 years old, retirees can receive the TRICARE benefit, which is a non-premium based, minimum essential coverage program. And enrollment is automatic when a retiree updates their military identification card with a Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, operator. Later, when the retiree turns 65 years old, they will enroll into the federal Medicare program. Upon enrolling into Medicare Part A and purchasing Medicare Part B, the TRICARE entitlement, known as the TRICARE for Life Program, will continue as a secondary insurance to Medicare. This means Medicare will pay for medical expenses first, followed by TRICARE, even if the sponsor or a dependent has other health insurance coverage.

Settling In

Extended National Guard Service Can Offer Stability, Financial Relief During 'Golden Years' of Retirement

Active-duty Airmen in Minot, North Dakota, now are finding out that the National Guard is a great place to call home and an avenue to continue to serve in the military. In the September 2015 issue of the North Dakota Guardian, Master Sgt. Greg Peterson, a Minot-area N.D. Air Guard recruiter, discussed how active-duty personnel from the Minot Air Force Base have sought out positions in the N.D. Air National Guard's 219th

Security Forces Squadron to extend their military service and provide stability for their families.

"There're a lot of active-duty folks that separate from Minot Air Force Base, who don't necessarily want to be completely out (of the military), or they don't want to serve full-time," Peterson said. "Some just get sick of moving (through permanent change of station, or PCS) all the time. The Guard right now in Minot is a way for them to stay in uniform, but also stay located somewhere where they can put down roots and stay in one place."

Peterson also said there's more flexibility now for members to continue to serve, particularly for those who want to complete their Guard commitments on a seasonal basis. For instance, farmers, oil field and railroad workers who want to wear the uniform may need particular dates set aside for annual training and drills to accommodate their work schedules.

"They're really busy during some points in the year, and other parts of the year they can get away. And we can work around that," Peterson said. "If they want to come in for training days, or annual training weeks, we've got some resources that we can use. We're starting to see more people who are doing Guard service more seasonal as compared to the traditional one weekend each month, two weeks each year that everybody is used to."

The N.D. Air National Guard's Retention Office also provides regular presentations about the benefits Guardsmen can receive upon retirement. Master Sgt. Merri Jo "MJ" Filloon, 119th Wing Recruiting Office supervisor, said

those efforts now are even more crucial since their Airmen are receiving even more unique training and experience in the new 119th Intelligence Group.

"I think it's pretty well understood across the Wing that the skills these Airmen acquire are enticing to civilian employers," she said. "We're working hard to revamp our retention efforts to make sure that our members are aware of the benefits available to them upon retirement and that those benefits are not necessarily going to be provided by the civilian employers."

Job has kept that thought in mind whenever it became time to make a decision about whether or not to reenlist during his career. And as he's mentored others, he's encouraged them to adapt the same mentality.

"I think every time someone's enlistment comes up, they're somewhat on the fence (about staying or leaving)," he said. "I think so many times, they get stuck in the forest and can't see through the trees. One of the things I looked at during my career is that if I was to have lost my civilian job, I would have had at least a little bit of income and some stability knowing that I was still a member of the Guard. I know it probably wouldn't have paid all the bills, but it would've helped."

For more information about retirement benefits or reenlistment bonuses in the N.D. Army National Guard, contact your local area recruiter. Their contact information can be found at ndguard.com, under the "Recruiting and Retention" tab, or call 701-333-3159. For the N.D. Air National Guard, call its recruiters at 1-800-972-8825. ■

REASONS TO EXTEND YOUR FUTURE

- 1 Retirement Pay, 20 yrs, E7 with 2100 pts = \$525 per month**
- 2 Medical - Tricare Reserve Select starting at \$47.90/month**
- 3 Low cost Life Insurance \$400,000 at \$28.00/month**
- 4 Low cost Dental Insurance starting at \$11.30/month**
- 5 Continue your education or pass on your benefits onto your dependants, Post 9/11 GI Bill**

- 6 Extension Bonus or Student Loan Repayment**
- 7 PX and Commissary privileges for life**
- 8 Great part-time pay**
- 9 Build a resume for your civilian career**



"If only I would have stayed in... I could have retired by now."

CONTACT YOUR RETENTION NCO WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



AS OF NOV 2015

Celebrating Victory

Veterans Recognized During 70th Anniversary of WWII Victory

Story by Spc. Brandi Schmidt, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Photos by Staff Sgt. Brett Miller, Joint Force Headquarters



An estimated 2,000 of the more than 60,000 North Dakota veterans who represented the state during World War II are still alive today. To honor their service, North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple signed a proclamation to recognize a celebration of North Dakota's 70th Anniversary of WWII Victory from Sep. 2 – Nov. 11, 2015, and to observe Oct. 10, 2015, as North Dakota's WWII Victory Recognition Day.

The 164th Infantry Association hosted a celebration on Victory Recognition Day, which served as the last large-scale recognition event of this era. It was held at the World War Memorial Building in Bismarck, North Dakota, where Soldiers and families once gathered to bid farewell as members of the N.D. National Guard's Company A, 164th Infantry Regiment, prepared for war.

About 600 people, including 125 WWII veterans, attended the celebration, which also commemorated the 73rd anniversary of the 164th Infantry Regiment's landing at Guadalcanal. The event commenced with the singing of the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by U.S. Army WWII Veteran Robert Bain, of Bismarck.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead the Pledge of Allegiance," he said. "So honored, that I am going to turn my back to the crowd to face the flag. I still love you all. But the flag symbolizes everything we fought for, the reason we are considered the greatest generation,

the reason we are all here today.”

A number of volunteer organizations and motorcycle clubs, including the American Red Cross, Team Red White and Blue and the N.D. Patriot Guard, played a hand in the planning and the execution of the Victory Celebration.

“The program is designed to be short on talk and long on entertainment,” said Lt. Col. (ret) Shirley Olgeirson, 164th Infantry Association volunteer who helped organize the event. “The 188th Army Band, which holds lineage to the 164th Infantry Band, were the core performers. The songs were selected because of their significance to the era of the war.”

The N.D. National Guard’s 188th Army Band Jazz Ensemble performed Glen Miller’s “In the Mood,” while demonstration dancers twirled to the tunes of the big band music. U.S. Navy WWII veteran, Harold Edwards, from Garrison, North Dakota, danced with his wife, Marjorie. U.S. Navy WWII veteran Delvin Owen, from Park River, North Dakota, danced with his daughter, Karen Tescher.

The Victory Celebration also observed the Victory Roll Call, a roster of all the living WWII vets in North Dakota. During the celebration event, veterans, as well as those who served with the Merchant Marines, Nurse Cadet Corps and anyone who participated in home-front defense efforts, were each called upon and recognized for their service and sacrifice. ■



GUARDIAN

Snapshots

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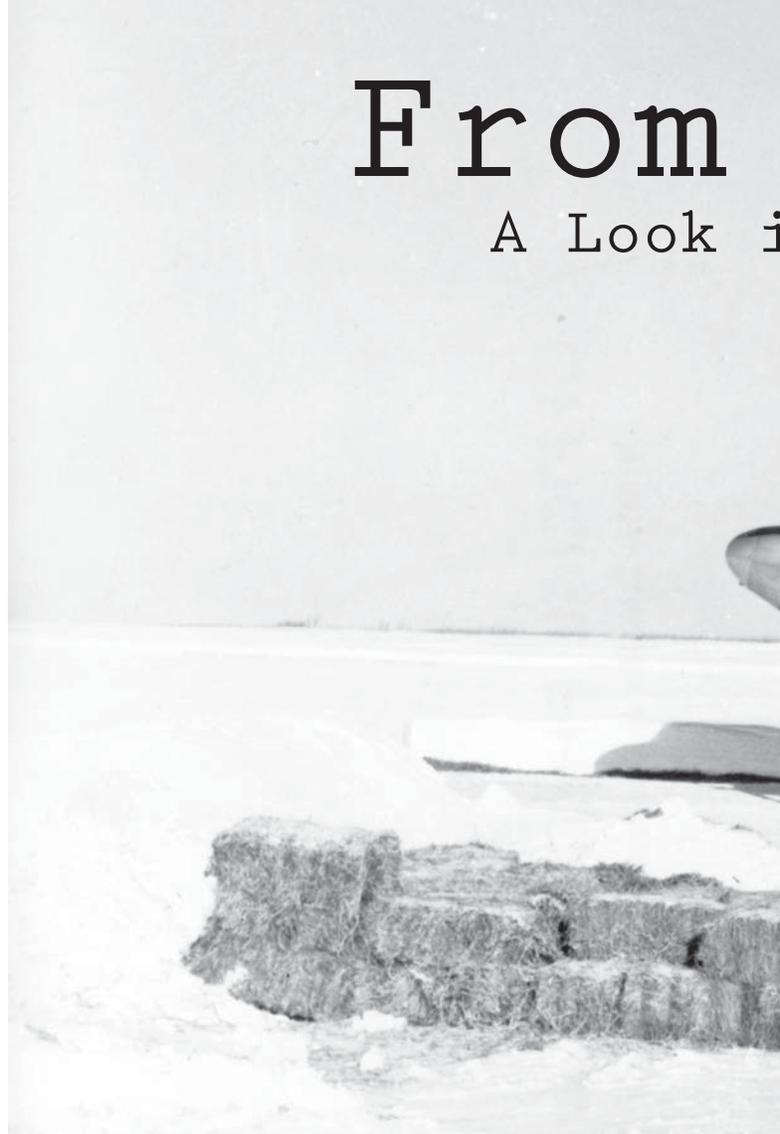
1st Lt. Thornton "Beck" Becklund, of the 178th Fighter Squadron, climbs into an F-94C aircraft at the N.D. Air National Guard Base in Fargo, North Dakota, sometime in the mid to late 1950s. The unit flew the F-94 from 1954-1960. Becklund served as the unit commander from 1981-1983, and retired as a brigadier general in the N.D. Air National Guard chief of staff position.



About 400 N.D. Air National Guard members gather for a Christmas dinner while deployed to Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, during the Korean War. The Airmen went on to serve at George Air Force Base, California, before being released from active duty December 31, 1952, and returning to Fargo.

From

A Look i



According to the N.D. Air National Guard 30th Anniversary book, the winter of 1947-48 was a particularly harsh one. The Airmen were isolated. Food, medical supplies and help were needed immediately. The N.D. Air National Guard was in operation with a C-47 aircraft out of Minot, North Dakota. A second aircraft was added to the effort and the



Former N.D. Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Keith Bjerke, center, adds an Outstanding Unit Award streamer to the N.D. Air National Guard flag staff June 8, 1998, during an awards presentation ceremony held at Hector Field in Fargo, as Col. Michael J. Haugen, 119th Fighter Wing commander, right, speaks at an assembly, and Tech. Sgt. Troy Krabbenhoft holds the flag.

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Into Happy Hooligans History



road one for North Dakota, as well as the central part of the United States, which suffered one of the worst blizzards on record for that time. Roads were impassible and people, livestock, farms and communities were tasked to air-drop hundreds of tons of feed for livestock, food for the stranded and relief for the distressed. On Feb. 3, 1949, Governor Fred A. Aandahl ordered the 178th Fighter Squadron to begin the hay lift. They remained on call, at the discretion of the unit commander, for a time.



Master Sgt. David A. Brunner, left, and Tech. Sgt. Kevin M. Anderson, both of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, shovel snow in an effort to construct a snow cave shelter Feb. 11, 1998, during a winter bivouac at the N.D. Air National Guard Base in Fargo.

Share your photos!

Submit your photos to be considered for inclusion in the N.D. Guardian!

Email high-resolution photos to Sgt. Jennifer Joyce, N.D. Guardian editor, at jennifer.m.joyce2.mil@mail.mil.



Disabled Veterans Hunt at Camp Grafton Training Center

By Sgt. Jennifer Joyce, 116th Public Affairs Detachment

Disabled Veterans received some necessary assistance to hunt again this year. Five Veterans participated in a special deer hunt Nov. 17-18 at North Dakota National Guard's Camp Grafton Training Center near Devils Lake, North Dakota.

During the hunt, each Veteran was accompanied by an assistant — a friend or family member — and a representative from Camp Grafton. The Barnes County Veterans Office assists veterans in registering for the hunt, while Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Walford coordinates the event at Camp Grafton.

"It is very rewarding to see these disabled veterans have the opportunity to enjoy the sport with the assistance of this program," said Walford. "Many of the



veterans who apply don't have the land access or necessary assistance to hunt."

The late Col. Dean Hildebrand initiated the hunt more than 25 years ago in order to give disabled Veterans an opportunity

to enjoy a pastime they may have become unable to do on their own, as well as to slightly reduce the deer population on Camp Grafton. The hunt has taken place every year since.

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New App Makes it Easy for Guard Members to Connect with Mental Health Care

By Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy, National Guard Bureau

For Guard members, getting connected with a mental health provider in their area is as easy as downloading an app.

The Guard Ready app, which has listings for mental health providers and other specialists, was initially fielded in a limited capacity about a year ago but has been retooled over the past few months with listings in all 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia, said Army Capt. Brian Pennington, the Suicide Prevention Program coordinator with the National Guard Bureau.

"They put their home state into the app and they select local resources and it connects them to maybe a behavior health counselor in their area," he said. "No matter where they are, it's just one click away to get help."

And that's been the driving force behind the app's creation—making it easy

for those that need help to get help.

"One thing that we found, a commonality, is that most Soldiers don't know where these resources are actually located," said Pennington. "So, having this centrally located app gives Soldiers the ability to say 'hey, I'm having some problems, where can I go to get the help I need?'"

While there may be other, similar apps available, the Guard Ready app is tailored to those in the Guard and offers other features to simplify access to help.

"Many of the other apps we've found they don't actually link the Soldier and Airmen with the resource he or she needs," said Pennington. "This actually does that. It links them directly with the resource."

The app, said Pennington, stands as another way to intervene to prevent

suicides within the Guard.

"What the Guard has done is taken a proactive stance to help combat that," said Pennington. "This app is just one of many tools that the Guard uses to help not only reduce the stigma [of asking for help] but to connect people with resources."

The app itself is free to download and available on most services where apps can be downloaded, such as Apple's iTunes or Google Play, said Pennington, adding that plans are underway for improvements to the app to allow for alerts, updates and messages from providers to automatically be pushed to those subscribed to the app.

"I think it's going to be a great tool to have out in the field moving forward," said Pennington. "One life lost to suicide is one life to many and we want to continue what we can to get out there and connect folks with the resources they need." ■

Chaplains' Corner:

Giving Thanks – *In All Circumstances*

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dellas Herbel, 119th Wing

During World War II, Corrie ten Boom and her sister, Betsie, were held in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp in Germany, having been arrested by the Nazis for being part of the Dutch Underground. When they were transferred from their initial barracks to their permanent holding area, Corrie quickly realized the barracks were infested with fleas. Betsie noted that the Bible reading earlier that day had mentioned giving thanks to God in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Corrie thought her sister was wrong, but later learned that because of the fleas, the guards would never look for contra-band in that area, which protected the smuggled-in Bible and allowed the women freedom to hold prayer services.

Betsie died at Ravensbrück but Corrie would go on to talk about their experiences during imprisonment. For those of us fortunate enough to live freely from Nazi occupation, this story might seem extreme. It might even seem “lucky.” Would Betsie really feel the same way about the fleas if the guards had decided to search for the Bible and put a stop to their prayer services?

From what I have learned of Corrie and Betsie ten Boom, the answer is “yes.” Betsie’s contention was not simply that they should be thankful for the fleas because the fleas would somehow bother the Nazis, her belief was that the fleas were part of their circumstances and, therefore, something God could use to shape their lives.

During the time of thanksgiving, it may be hard for us to see why we should be thankful for the “fleas” in our lives. Perhaps some of us have a

lot of fleas. Our fleas might be co-workers, our work schedules, or even friends and family members who complicate our lives. Our fleas might be any number of aspects in our lives that do not seem to produce anything useful or positive. Ironically, like Corrie and Betsie ten Boom experienced, we might not realize the “good” in our lives until we first say “thank you” for it.

Saying “thank you” for something that seems negative does not mean pretending it is “all good.” Fleas biting a person are not good. By saying “thank you,” we accept the circumstances that are present as the reality from which to act and live

with love and integrity. Thanksgiving is not an emotion, it is a decision.

Furthermore, it is a decision that opens us up to finding what good can come from our set of circumstances. Being thankful is being open to the idea that there is something more, something “good,” before us, and committing to find it and acknowledging it when we do.

In the midst of all the turkey, stuffing, football and afternoon naps, let us remember that real thanksgiving means also staring the fleas of life in the face and committing to finding the good in our circumstances. ■



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp, 119th Wing

Chaplain (Capt.) Dellas Herbel offers a prayer Oct. 7 during a retiree breakfast at the North Dakota Air National Guard Dining Facility in Fargo, North Dakota.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp, 119th Wing

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Quam, formerly of the North Dakota Air National Guard, stands near a B-25 aircraft at his 99th birthday celebration Oct. 27 at the Fargo Air Museum in Fargo, North Dakota. Quam enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces (known as the Army Air Corp until June 20, 1941) in December, 1941, and served as a B-25 aircraft mechanic during WWII. He joined the N.D. Air National Guard, for which he is a charter member, January 16, 1947, and served with the organization for 29 more years. The U.S. Air Force became a separate branch from the Army September 18, 1947, eight months after Quam joined the N.D. Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Squadron.