

North Dakota National Security Report

North Dakota is proud to have participated in a number of National Security activities. The Rolla and McVille Units each have a member who is an active duty member of the National Guard. The member from Rolla made Easter bags for deployed personnel.

DONATIONS – Scranton in District 8, and Minto in District 2 donated \$200 and \$100 respectively to the National Guard Foundation. Minto donated \$150 to the AEF to help with natural disasters. In its way, this is part of the CERT emergency preparedness program by providing funds before they are needed. Richardton in District 8 donated \$360 to Wounded Warrior, \$132 to Tunnel to Towers, \$315.24 to Troopathon, \$126 to Shadow Warriors, and \$70 to Semper K9. Wounded Warriors is an organization that treats and cares for wounded servicemembers. Tunnel to Towers pays off mortgages and builds homes for catastrophically injured or killed in action servicemembers and police officers. Troopathon is an organization that sends Care Packages out to deployed servicemembers all year long, not just on holidays as some organizations do. Shadow Warriors is a Veteran organization that flies in to very dangerous areas like Afghanistan and rescues families, and other people who have been left behind and cannot get out of these dangerous areas. Semper K9 is an organization for Service Dogs for the military, and for Veterans.

FLAG EVENTS – Our North Dakota members were involved in a number of flag-related activities.

- A. District 5 participated in and provided food for a Flag Retirement Ceremony.
- B. District 6 members hung flags on Main Street for Flag Day. They put articles in the paper encouraging the community to participate in celebrating Flag day. They provided cookies for Flag Day at the Senior Center.
- C. District 6 hung flags on Main Street for the 4th of July. They leave the flags in place for 5 days to honor and celebrate our Independence Day.
- D. District 6 - A Legion family flies the flags of all the Services in their yard for the whole week, spotlighting them so they can be flown at night.
- E. District 6 – Two families held a picnic and did fireworks on the 4th for local Veterans.

- F. District 2 – Minto had 8 members who helped with a Flag Ceremony at their Mini Museum.
- G. District 2 – The Minto Unit had members who rode in the Park River Parade. The Department Vice President rode with some of the dignitaries in the Parade. Some of the members had a float and threw candy, frozen treats, and rubber ducks to the children along the route.
- H. District 3 – the Rolla Unit President participated in and carried the Unit flag in their July 4th Parade.
- I. Many of the members in North Dakota fly the American Flag on all Patriotic holidays. And a great many of our members and Veterans fly our American Flag all year round.

CARE PACKAGES – District 2 – The Minto Unit sent a large Care Package to Germany for deployed servicemembers. The Package contained 189 pairs of socks, candy, flavored drink mixes, Wet Ones, and Christmas cards.

A General contacted a member asking for Care Packages for his troops. That member sent out the request, and a number of North Dakota Units stepped up and sent quite a good number of Care Packages to delight those deployed servicemembers, and bringing joy to the grateful General.

The Richardton Unit in District 8 donated \$315.24 to Troopathon to send Care Packages to the troops.

The McVillage Unit in District 2 heard about a National Guard Detachment deployed to the Southern Border in Laredo, TX. There were many sports opportunities they could access in their off hours, but they had no equipment to use. The Unit went to the Post which donated \$500. The Unit then purchased baseballs, footballs, volleyballs, soccer balls, and other sporting equipment, using up most of the \$500. They then shipped all the boxes of equipment to the National Guard Detachment in Laredo. The gift was received with great excitement and appreciation.

The City of Dickinson in District 8 held a Ceremony to Name a Bridge near the town to memorialize Jon P Fettig, a North Dakota National Guardsman who was deployed to Iraq and was killed in 2003. The Gold Star Fettig family was honored by District 8 Posts and Units, the community, and was represented by a large contingent of the Dickinson National Guard. The event was attended by the North Dakota Governor, Kelly Armstrong, who spoke, several State Representatives, and a number of National Guard

dignitaries, some of whom spoke as well. The Fettigs were also presented with a Quilt of Valor bringing many to tears. It was a memorable and moving Ceremony.

North Dakota participated with other organizations in a variety of ways. Many Blue Star banners, and Gold Star banners were bought and given to the Blue Star and Gold Star families. Many of the Units held Quilt of Valor Ceremonies working with the Quilt of Valor organizations in North Dakota. Many of the Units participated in Wreaths Across America either in laying wreaths or in donations. There were several Honor Flights that went from North Dakota. Many of our Veterans went on the Flights. The Units close by the airports welcomed the Veterans home. A number of our Units donated to the Honor Flight programs as well. Some of these are VA&R programs, but they are Auxiliary programs in which we participate.

Many of our Units place the POW/MIA Flags at their meetings. We did not do CERT TRAINING this year. But we did donate to AEF which helps with disasters.

I sent articles about Salute to Servicemember out in the Unit mailings. I spoke about it at District Meetings. However, I have received no nominations to date. I supplied the Wednesday Warrior link to 2 families, but I don't know if they got through.

As last year's Department President I chose Troopathon as my President's Project. Through my pin sales, I was able to raise \$5,028 to send Care Packages to deployed servicemembers. It was a thrill to be able to send out so many Care Packages to so many deployed men and women to let them know how much we love, appreciate, and care about them.

This is my report of what activities and events were accomplished this year in the Department of North Dakota.

LoAnn Dick, Department National Security Chairman