

NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

April 22, 2022

The North Shore's best source for local news & information 10,200 copies printed & delivered along the north shore

Christine Mallory, Editor

FREE Copies available at the following locations: • **Two Harbors:** Super One, Lake County Courthouse, Bay Breeze Laundry, Moosecellaneous Gifts, • **Silver Bay:** Zup's Grocery Store, Bri-Esa's Convenience Store, Julie's True Value Hardware, AmericInn • **Beaver Bay:** Holiday Gas Station, Mobil Mart • **Finland:** Finland Co-op • **Ely:** Ely Public Library. **Viewable** at Silver Bay Public Library

Ernest Acquitted of all Charges in Cook County Court

Grand Marais, MN, April 15, 2022-The Cook County Attorney's Office this week completed a week-long trial in pursuit of convictions against Rodney Arlen Ernest, 37 of Isabella, on a criminal complaint which included charges of Criminal Vehicular Homicide related to alcohol impairment, grossly negligent driving, and failing to properly report the accident and identify himself as the driver. The case originated with events occurring after 1 a.m. on November 7, 2020, when Ernest's passenger William Evans died after being thrown from Ernest's truck on the 600 Road near its intersection with the Temperance River Road North of Schroeder, Minnesota.

The State of Minnesota, represented by Assistant Cook County Attorney Jeanne Monson with the County Attorney assisting, brought forward testimony of 16 witnesses and entered over 70 exhibits into the record over the course of five days of trial. Testifying were lay witnesses with information about the events of that winter night, along with witnesses from the Minnesota State Patrol, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Midwest Medical Examiner. The trial was interrupted Wednesday by a late winter storm which kept jurors home; they were travelling to the trial from as far as Grand Portage and the end of the Gunflint Trail.

The defendant testified that he ran

from law enforcement to avoid consequences to his commercial driver's license because he suspected he was over .04 blood alcohol concentration, but that he was sober and driving at a leisurely pace at about 3:30 a.m. when he lost control of the vehicle and Mr. Evans was ejected. Medical Examiner Quinn Strobl testified that Evans died of a head injury due to blunt force trauma. The jury came to a unanimous verdict on the evening of Tuesday, April 12, acquitting the defendant of all charges.

"Excessive speed can lead to disaster due to poor braking distance caused by reduced tire friction," said Cook County Sheriff Pat Eliason. "Losing control of a vehicle is also easy to do when going around corners too fast. Keep your attention not only on the road directly in front of you, but also as far as you can see in the distance due to the presence of animals and road obstructions."

"While we sought a different result in the interests of justice and on behalf of the victim's memory," Cook County Attorney Molly Hicken said, "the State of Minnesota made a thorough presentation of the evidence and performed a professional level of advocacy." "This defendant received a fair trial. Every criminal case, if unresolved, winds up in the hands of a jury to decide. Our justice system asks that we trust their verdict as the final outcome."

Event to Commemorate Vietnam Veterans, April 23rd

By: Katee Rose

A national organization called the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration has determined March 29th to be a day of national recognition for veterans and their families that served during the Vietnam War era.

This event is an opportunity for the local community to come together and pay tribute to all entities and individuals that served during this time. If someone was serving in the military between 1955 and 1975 they would be considered serving in the Vietnam era and this event would like to recognize them for their service.

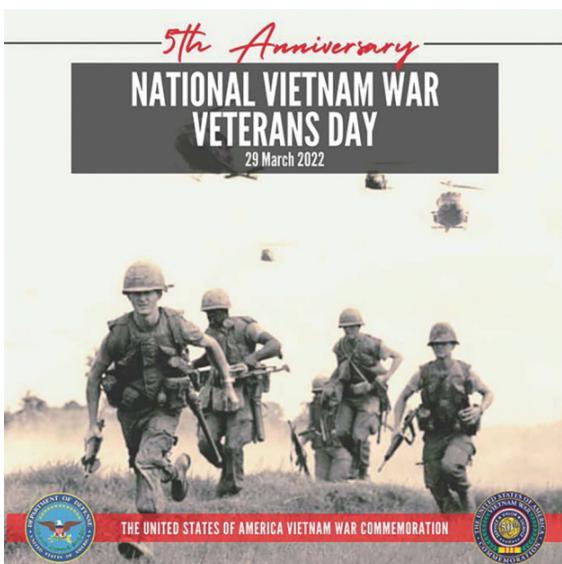


photo: www.vietnamwar50th.com

It is important to also acknowledge the many supporting roles during this time. There were non governmental agencies overseas helping, such as the American Red Cross and so many others. The event would like to pay tribute to the contributions made on the homefront by the people here in the

Attention Seniors! Medicare isn't free

By Sally C. Pipes

About 10,000 Americans turn 65 each day. Many may soon leave the workforce and claim the Medicare benefits they believe they're entitled to after paying Medicare taxes for decades in the workforce.

But they may be in for a rude awakening. Even after paying tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in Medicare taxes over their working careers, beneficiaries spend thousands of dollars more each year for coverage during retirement.

That coverage doesn't always guarantee them timely access to the doctors or specialists they might like to see. It's no wonder seniors are increasingly opting for privately administered Medicare Advantage plans, which often offer more value than the conventional government-administered Medicare program.

People start paying for Medicare long before they're elderly. To fund certain parts of the program, the government levies a 2.9% payroll tax.

That money adds up. According to the Urban Institute, an individual currently in his mid-twenties earning less than \$23,400 annually will pay \$60,000 in Medicare taxes by the time he turns 65. If that same individual made \$83,000 each year over his lifetime, he'd pay \$220,000 in total Medicare taxes.

In a new survey, nearly 60% of respondents reported not knowing that Medicare premiums vary by plan and income. Roughly the same share didn't know there were different deductibles for the parts of Medicare that cover hospital care, outpatient care, and prescription drugs.

The deductible for Part A, which covers hospital and inpatient services, is \$1,556 this year. The deductible for Part B, which covers outpatient visits, is \$233. And the

maximum deductible for Part D, Medicare's prescription drug benefit, is \$480 this year.

That means seniors could pay more than \$2,000 out of pocket -- in addition to the thousands they may already be spending on premiums, depending on their income -- before Medicare even begins paying for their care.

Altogether, the average couple with Medicare will need \$300,000 to cover their healthcare costs after they retire, according to a report from Fidelity Investments. But that estimate only accounts for the out-of-pocket costs of Medicare Parts A, B, and D -- not the cost of other health-related services the government won't cover.

To help seniors cover the out-of-pocket costs the government recommends purchasing a Medigap plan. But these supplemental insurance plans can cost an additional \$300 each month.

Most seniors don't have nearly enough savings to cover these expenses. The Fidelity report revealed that half of workers who have spent time thinking about retirement expenses believe they'll need \$50,000 or less to pay for medical care. Unsurprisingly, more than one in ten Medicare beneficiaries have delayed care because they can't afford it.

Medicare isn't free. Those approaching -- or in -- retirement need to prepare for that reality.

Sally C. Pipes is president, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is False Promise, False Promise: The Disastrous Reality of Medicare for All (Encounter 2020). Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes. This piece originally ran in InsideSources.

United States. Many served from the US or were stationed in other places around the world. This event is also a day to recognize the sacrifices that were made not only by veterans and their families, but by the United States allies during that time.

The community of Two Harbors will hold this event annually, although it was pushed back this year due to some logistics, it will be held April 23rd at the American Legion Post 109, located at 614 1st Avenue in Two Harbors. This event will be open to the community and to anyone who would like to join in. There will be displays, information tables, and food available for purchase to

the public (free for veterans and their families). The event will start at 10am and go until 4pm.

Lovin' Lake County has generously sponsored this event and helped with funding for the cost of having entertainment present, as well as advertising and other additional costs. A DJ will be playing tunes during the day, dating from the 1950s until the 1970s. If you are a Vietnam Veteran, family member, or just want to learn more and support the veteran community from this era, please come out on April 23rd and enjoy some music and food with the community.

Thank you to all that served!