



Hoeven Statement for the Record

May 27, 2021

100TH CELEBRATION OF KIWANIS CLUB OF MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Minot, ND, as well as the 100-year birthdays of two Kiwanis members, North Dakota constituents Mr. Lynn Aas and Mr. John Sinn.

Since its founding on May 27, 1921, the Kiwanis Club of Minot has helped make my home town a better place to live. As a former member of this organization, I deeply appreciate their continued dedication and contributions to the community and surrounding area. Some examples of their work include donating books to schools, supporting the arts, and raising money for local service organizations, like the Boy Scouts, and the Juvenile Drug Court and Domestic Violence Crisis Center. In these ways, Minot's local Kiwanis chapter helps realize the mission of this international organization and makes a real difference to families and children in the region.

At the same time, two notable Kiwanis members, Mr. Lynn Aas and Mr. John Sinn, are celebrating their 100th birthdays this year. As part of the Greatest Generation and as World War II veterans, Lynn and John have both been an important part of the Minot community and set a great example for their fellow Kiwanis members.

A native of McLean County, ND, Lynn Aas fought as a rifleman in the historic Battle of the Bulge. He served with the 17th Airborne Division of the 193rd Airborne Infantry and received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the French Legion of Honor medal.

Following the war, he returned to his home State, where he earned his law degree from the University of North Dakota. In addition to his time as a Kiwanis member, Lynn served in our State's legislature for four sessions, was the president of the Minot Chamber of Commerce, served on the board for the United Way and has been a longtime supporter of Minot State University.

As a member of the 386th Infantry Regiment, John Sinn served in the European Theatre, where he earned the Bronze Star. He then returned home to farm with family members in Ryder, ND, eventually coming to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1957.

John retired in 1989, more than thirty years ago. However, rather than taking a well-earned rest, he has been hard at work serving the Minot community. Among his efforts as a volunteer, he is best known for his work to improve and maintain the Scandinavian Heritage Park.

This is an iconic outdoor museum that is central to the community's identity and home to the annual Norsk Høstfest, the largest celebration of Scandinavian culture and history in North America. The best view of the park can be found at John Sinn Outlook, a testament to his many contributions.

It is therefore appropriate to take this time to recognize the hard work, dedication, and service of Lynn Aas, John Sinn, and the entire Kiwanis Club of Minot as they all celebrate their 100th birthdays this year.