



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59, STOUGHTON WI



THE LEGION POST

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2008-2009 OFFICERS

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Comrades:

IT WAS A SUCCESS!! The first annual G.I. Party. We had plenty of excellent food and camaraderie amongst everyone. The entertainment was the highlight, thanks to Dean Silbaugh, Dean Kong, Jim Hodges & Ronny Nelson. They entertained us for 3 hours without a break-THANKS GUYS!

Did you do anything special on Veterans Day? I and

Commanders Report DECEMBER 2008

6 others started the day out by posting the colors at the High School and greeting the students as they started their day. I proceeded to go to the Fox Prairie School where I was able to spend time in Ms. Pelletier's class, along with my grandson. I was able to spend about 20 minutes in his classroom answering their questions. Ms. Pelletier even had them write a note to put in the care packages. I hope you were able to do something special today.

Remember, next month is our prime rib holiday meal. You must RSVP me at 877-9918 or email me at

berede@peoplepc.com, we are estimating we can seat around 160 so get your reservation in, if you haven't already. I had a suggestion given to me by another member that the local Food Pantry is very low. If you wish, please bring along an item or two along to the dinner.

I can't close without mentioning membership, ladies & gentlemen, we only have about 25 members that have not renewed their membership. Post 59 has been 100% for many, many years. Please, if you have not sent in your membership, please do so.

Commander Bill

A Special Holiday Season

Veterans Day has come and gone, and the holiday season is upon us. The holidays are for being thankful for what we have been blessed with and spending time with our loved ones. Recently, almost 4,000 members of Wisconsin's National Guard were activated for duty and are now preparing to head for Iraq. This will be a special holiday season for them, because it will be the last time they will have with their families for quite a while. As they get ready to deploy, the Wisconsin American Legion is already stepping forward with a helping hand. We have assisted by sponsoring several important military briefings, where soldiers learn what they need to prepare for and their families learn what to expect while they are gone. They also receive information about all the different agencies and organizations that are here to support them, including the American Legion.

Since our military first began engaging our enemies in this "War on Terror", the American Legion has stood by their side with our Troop and Support programs. We began sending satellite phones over with the units so they could stay in touch with their loved ones back home. Shortly thereafter, we formed "Project Cares" to assist us in giving aid to those families left behind and "Hospital Cares" to help send packages to our wounded. While we celebrate their service with Blue Star Banners, we also honor them upon their return with our "Welcome Home" and "Wounded Soldiers" programs. At our last Mid-Winter conference, the Department Executive Committee voted to consolidate all these programs, and their funds, into one general "Troop and Family Support Fund" to be administered by the National Security committee.

The "Goal" of the TFSF is to offer temporary assistance to our active duty military, their families and returning OEF/IEF veterans, and to assist with National's "Operation Outreach" program. An application for gathering the necessary information can be accessed through your District Commanders or the Department's website. The National Security committee will confirm the need for assistance and review all requests on a case by case basis. Past history has shown us that by the time we do receive a request, it is generally an emergency situation. The objective of the committee is to take action within 48 hours, or if at least three of the committee members can not be reached for a decision, the matter will be deferred to the State Commander for action. So far, we have been doing a great job of helping with everything from car repairs to replacing a furnace before the cold winter sets in, from helping replace children's school books lost in a fire to buying safety boots so a soldier could return to work. I know that many posts are also doing what they can and there are a lot more stories out there. Let us all do what we can to make this a special holiday for all our troops and their families.



Auxiliary

NO REPORT THIS MONTH.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

PRESIDENT ELLEN



CHAPLAINS CORNER

My car was covered with a thick, opaque frost this morning. When I went out early to drive to work, it looked as inviting as a block of ice on wheels. I turned it on, cranked up the defroster, and went back inside for another cup of coffee. When I came back out, the frost had melted, I could hear the murmur of early morning radio, and it seemed as if the car was purring happily. What a difference five minutes makes. I think prayer works like this. There are times when we are shut down, frozen over with grief, with

shock, with anger. From the outside, it feels as if we may never be ourselves again. Prayer is like turning on the defroster. Little by little, if we can stay with it and not lose heart, we will thaw from the inside out. C.S. Lewis said that prayer might not change anything else, but he knew it changed him. Our prayer may not alter the circumstances that froze us solid, but it will start to melt our hearts, and that warmth will spread until we are supple enough to find a

way forward. Let us pray for all those whose hearts may have become frozen, may we all begin to melt in our hearts and may our feelings for others be of love and compassion. Let us keep in mind all those that are sick or in need, as well as all veterans, especially those serving us today so that we may live in peace.

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need please contact Monte at 873-4020.

GOD'S BUSY

A soldier from the 82nd Airborne was attending college courses in between assignments. He had completed missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist and a member of the ACLU.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in, he looked at the ceiling and flatly said, "God, If you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you fifteen minutes." The lecture room fell silent. You could here a pin drop.

Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am Good, I'm still waiting." It got down to the last couple of minutes when the paratrooper got out of his chair, went up to the professor and cold-cocked, knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold.

The paratrooper went back to his seat and sat silently. The other students shocked, stunned sat their looking on in silence. The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the paratrooper and asked, "What the hell is the matter with you? Why did you do that?" The paratrooper calmly replied, "God was to busy today protecting American Soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid shit and act like a jackass. So, he sent me!"

And all of God's people said —Amen

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 G.I. Party @ VFW 5PM- ?
9	10 Post Meeting at 7PM	11 Post dinner VETERANS DAY	12	13	14 Fish Fry at Waunakee 5-8	15
16 Post breakfast 7—noon	17	18	19	20	21 Fish Fry at Post 481	22
23	24	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29
30						

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 County meeting Post 501 Madison	5	6
7	8 Post Meeting at 7PM	9 Post dinner	10	11	12 Fish Fry at Waunakee 5-8	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Fish Fry at Post 481	20
21 Post breakfast 7—noon	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27
28	29	30	31			

As of 11/7/2008 we have received renewals from 273 members. Our goal for 2009 membership is 293. This put us at 93%. The 2nd mailing of dues reminders was sent out the first of October. If you haven't already done so, please do it as soon as possible... If you have any questions about whether you dues were paid, the expiration date is on the mailing label of your newsletter. If you are a PUFL there is no date show.

We have recruited 17 new members for 2009, thanks in part to the Legion Riders.

We have been recognized as a very active post and have received a certificate for many years as a 100% post. This is something to be proud of. Let's keep this record in place.

Thanks for your help.

Archie Christensen
Adjutant, Membership Chairman

LEGION HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTALS

Are you having a birthday, wedding or anniversary soon? Do you have a family reunion or class reunion coming up? Or do you just want to have a private party. The Legion Hall is now for rent.

Contact Linda Swangstu

Help Wanted:

We are in need of volunteer bartenders. As we try to extend the hours the bar is open we will be needing bartenders that have a bartender's license. You can go on-line and take a course in bartending, get a certificate, and go to the city hall and get your license. The post will pay for the course and your license.

This is a volunteer position, but you get to keep all your tips.

WASHINGTON (Oct. 30, 2008) -- Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision

also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and

out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.



The Sack Lunches

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation.

'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me.

'Chicago - to Great Lakes Base. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Iraq.'

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached Chicago, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time.

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard the soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to Chicago.'

His friend agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?'

'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. 'This is your thanks.'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said, 'I want to shake your hand.'

Quickly unfastening my seatbelt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.'

I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed in Chicago I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.'

Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals.

It seemed so little...

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.



American Legion Veterans Bar

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Christmas**